

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, last night, Florida's First Congressional District lost an American hero who endured the tragedy of Pearl Harbor—Chief Warrant Officer Frank Emond.

In 1938, Frank enlisted in the Navy as a French horn player where he went on to become band director. On December 7, 1941, Frank was preparing to play "Morning Colors" on the USS *Pennsylvania* when at 7:55 a.m., a line of Japanese planes came from the east with a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

Frank boldly walked to the conductor stand, picked up his baton, and proceeded to direct the band in "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

Frank Emond was a true patriot who deeply impacted the lives that he touched doing what he loved to do: music.

Frank led the Pensacola Civic Band, the U.S. Air Force Band's Airmen of Note, and currently holds the Guinness World RECORD as the world's oldest conductor.

My greatest condolences to Frank Emond's family.

Thank you, Frank, for being an American hero. Your legacy is woven into the history of this country and this Congress.

WEAKENED GOVERNMENTAL OVERSIGHT

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the Republican decision to weaken the Office of Congressional Ethics.

It is an independent, nonpartisan office that reviews allegations of ethics violations by congressional Members.

It is a watchdog that makes sure that this Chamber operates in the best interests of the American people.

The Republicans voted to take control of it so they can limit investigations of Republican Members.

Republicans claim to represent Americans, yet the first acts were not to help the working American families.

Instead, they weakened the governmental oversight of their actions, all done to make sure that they can abuse their power and push an unpopular agenda on the American people.

It is a disgraceful action that reveals the anti-American nature of the Republican Party today.

CONGRATULATING RICK DEASY

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rick Deasy, the FLETC Associate Director for Training, who plans to retire this coming February.

Rick has had a long and impressive career working for the Federal Government. He served honorably for 22 years in the Armed Forces with active and reserve special operations forces.

Before working at FLETC, Rick served as Chief of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Homeland Security Investigations Training Academy.

During his tenure as the associate director, Rick was charged with developing and executing FLETC's COVID-19 response, which he did impeccably.

He also championed the need for a FLETC medical liaison officer to serve medical professionals and trainees.

While Rick may be retiring, his impact on FLETC, our district, and our Nation will be felt for generations to come.

Congratulations, Rick, on a wonderful and successful career. We hope you enjoy your retirement.

HONORING DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY FOUNDERS' DAY 110TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 110th Founders' Day of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, founded in 1913 by 22 collegiate women from Howard University who refused to be denied the right to march in the women's suffrage march.

I am so proud today as we push forward with fortitude to join the seven female Members of Congress standing strong here in the Halls of Congress, working together just as our Founders did, to advance the fight for voting rights, for women's reproductive rights, for criminal justice, housing, HBCUs, and education.

Most importantly, I am proud to join my Delta sisters: Congresswomen CLARKE, MCBATH, PLASKETT, CROCKETT, LEE, and FOUSHEE.

To my sisters and Deltas and all members of Panhellenic, we say thank you for your service. But most importantly, today I say Happy Founders' Day.

UNITING IN PRAYER

(Mr. LANGWORTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, on January 2, what started out as an exciting game for our beloved Buffalo Bills turned into a tragedy that captured the attention of the Nation.

It became instantly clear that Damar Hamlin's collapse on the field would be seared into our memories as a moment where you remember exactly where you were and who you were with.

But for millions of Americans across every political spectrum, every background, every race and ethnicity, it was a moment of unity that reminded our Nation of the power of prayer.

It reminded us that our faith matters above all else. In our dire moment of need, our Nation turned to God, just as Damar Hamlin would have wanted.

He is a man of unwavering faith who has spent his gift of life honoring God and spreading love. I am happy to report today that Damar Hamlin was released from the hospital. His recovery is a miracle.

May Damar's adversity serve as an inspiration to remind us all that despite any differences we may have, we are one Nation under God and indivisible.

Go Bills.

THANKING FIRST RESPONDERS

(Mr. CARBAJAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the Representative for the central coast of California, which has endured some of the worst storms and flooding in recent memory, to say thank you.

Thank you to our firefighters, our emergency crews, our search and rescue teams, our law enforcement officers, and all of our first responders and local leaders who have stepped up to save lives and protect property in our communities.

I share one story of this effort. On Monday, members of the Lompoc Fire Department reacted quickly to save a couple from rising flood waters.

As they carried out the rescue, they discovered that moments before, the woman had given birth. Thanks to the quick work of the Lompoc Fire Department, all three were rescued and are resting safely.

Mr. Speaker, our first responders have stepped up to avert further disaster this week, and I am proud today to take a moment to recognize their service in the permanent RECORD of this body.

HONORING JAMES HOLMES

(Ms. SPANBERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor the lifetime of achievement of Mr. James Holmes.

Following decades of service to the Culpepper community and 35 years of service to the Culpepper County Electoral Board, Mr. Holmes is stepping down as the current chair of the board at the end of this year.

Growing up in Culpepper, Mr. Holmes attended George Washington Carver School and was among the first integrated classes at Culpepper High School.

Mr. Holmes' determination to improve our Commonwealth for future generations of Virginians brought him back to Culpepper after he graduated cum laude from Virginia Union University and earned his J.D. from Howard Law School.

A licensed and ordained Baptist minister who has pastored in Culpepper for decades, Mr. Holmes has held many positions with the Wayland Blue Ridge Baptist Association.

From his service on the electoral board to casting an electoral vote in 2008 for our first Black President, Mr. Holmes has demonstrated a commitment to civic engagement and elevating the voices of Virginians within our communities.

Mr. Holmes has touched many lives throughout his career as president of Culpepper Housing and Shelter Services, president of the Culpepper County United Way, president of the Culpepper County Equalization Board, and as a caring member of his community.

Today I stand on the floor of the United States House of Representatives to thank James Holmes for his commitment to progress, equality, and community empowerment.

HONORING ED HANNON

(Mr. MOONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the incredible volunteer work of my constituent, Ed Hannon, of Charles Town, West Virginia.

Ed began volunteering for fire and rescue services in 1978 at the age of 16. Ed took a job as a paid first responder in Arlington, Virginia, in 1983 but continued to give his time volunteering.

When he moved to Jefferson County in 1993, he joined the Citizens Fire Company. Jefferson County has no paid fire and EMS personnel, so they rely on dedicated volunteers like Ed to provide these critical services.

Ed ran his final calls on December 31, completing 44 years of dedicated volunteer service. I wish Ed well in retirement and thank him for his service to the citizens of Jefferson County.

STANDING UP FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

(Ms. BROWNLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week, House Republicans sadly displayed their incoherent and chaotic approach toward governing in this country.

But when it comes to ripping away the reproductive rights and freedoms of women across the country, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have never been more united.

Despite the many immediate challenges facing our country, their priority was to criminalize abortion care and to put the health of women at risk.

The party that claims they want government out of our lives could not move more quickly to put the government and politicians in charge of one

of the most personal decisions a woman can ever make.

Listening to my colleagues pontificate about the sanctity of life while attempting to take away life-saving healthcare for millions of women is appalling.

I am proud to stand with House Democrats to continue to fight for reproductive freedom and reproductive justice and the right to abortion across the United States.

□ 1700

REPUBLICANS HAVE GUTTED THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

(Mr. AUCHINLOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUCHINLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the changes the House rules package made to the Office of Congressional Ethics. OCE is a critical independent ethics watchdog, and it is a poor indication of the GOP's commitment to integrity that House Republicans have gutted the OCE as their first act in the majority.

The Republican rules package term limits the members of the OCE board, and in doing so removes the three Democratic members of the bipartisan board, giving Republicans a majority of seats instead of maintaining an even partisan divide. These rules also require the OCE to hire staff within a month, which requires a vote of four board members, guaranteeing a partisan lean amongst most staff.

With these rules changes, my Republican colleagues are deviously turning the Office of Congressional Ethics into a zombie, alive in name but unable to execute its vital mission of investigating misconduct and ridding Congress of corruption.

After 14 failed Speaker votes and the undermining of independent ethics reviews, House Republicans have demonstrated their commitment to dysfunction and poor governance.

RECOGNIZING DR. CHRIS FARNITANO

(Mr. DESAULNIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Dr. Chris Farnitano.

Dr. Farnitano has dedicated his career and his life to improving the lives of others and advancing wellness and compassionate care in the district that I represent in Contra Costa County and the San Francisco Bay area. Over the course of his 30 years, Chris has served in an important leadership role at the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and its clinics and ultimately ended up as the Contra Costa County health officer in 2018.

Chris' commitment to promoting public health and well-being in our

community is apparent in all of the work he has done. In 1997, he assisted in the development of the Pittsburg Health Center's HIV Medical Clinic, which was the first of its kind in the Nation. Chris was also instrumental in minimizing the spread of the coronavirus in our county and in the region.

Chris' work has had significant impact on our community, and our county admires his compassion and his dedication and wishes him well in his retirement.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

(Mr. NEAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, we are now on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the historic Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, historic in large measure because of the American dimension through a negotiated settlement which helped to bring about the longest-standing political dispute in the history of the western world.

It was the people of goodwill and both parts of the island that voted referendum questions to help bring about this remarkable achievement.

In this House, the question of Ireland has always been bipartisan, and it has been celebrated by both political parties here with great enthusiasm and so recognized.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and I, as chairpersons of the Friends of Ireland, will be asking Members to sign the proclamation that we are offering through this resolution that will celebrate this historic achievement as we prepare across America, the UK, the Republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland for this celebration. These have been "it will never happen" moments that we have all had a chance to participate in, and I hope that Members will all sign this historic resolution celebrating and acknowledging this achievement.

RECOGNIZING PAUL BANDY, AIMEE JOHNS, AND HEATH BRADDOCK

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the heroism of Paul Bandy; his wife, Aimee Johns; and Heath Braddock.

On a clear summer day last year, Steve Breummer, a triathlete, was doing his routine swim about 150 yards off the coast in Monterey Bay when he was attacked by a great white shark. Pulled under water, bitten across his thigh and abdomen, and bleeding profusely, Steve saw the cold black eye of that predator, fought him off, and yelled for help.