

because that is at the very heart of what I believe is a responsibility of every Member of Congress.

In this role, I believe that trust is earned, and I promise that I have never taken this trust for granted.

Today, I thank those who have also made it possible for me to serve in this role. I thank the love of my life, my husband, Adam, for being my biggest supporter and someone who has made it possible for me to serve the people of Virginia's Seventh District every day. I thank my daughters, Claire, Charlotte, and Catherine, for seeing that every effort I take in the political space is for them, their future, and the future of their peers in Virginia and beyond at the center of all I do.

I thank my parents. I am the daughter of Martin Davis, a retired law enforcement officer, and Eileen Davis, a nurse. They taught me service, and they taught me that a life committed to helping others is one that every person can find value and dignity in.

I thank my sisters, Hilary and Meredith, who are and always have been my best friends, my greatest supporters, and the two who remind me consistently of who I am.

I thank my parents-in-law, my brothers- and sisters-in-law, my nieces, my nephews, my aunts, my uncles, my cousins, and my late grandparents, everyone who had a part in making me who I am.

I also thank every single member of Virginia's Seventh District team. They are extraordinary people who have used their time, talents, and tenacity to deliver results for the people of Virginia. I believe in them. They made people believe in what is possible with good governance. I am grateful for them. I am grateful for their service.

I am so grateful for the privilege to have served the people of Virginia's Seventh District.

CONGRATULATING PENN STATE UNIVERSITY'S FOOTBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Penn State University's football team on reaching the first NCAA 12-team playoff.

With both a shutdown defense and an efficient offense that kept the ball moving all season long, the Nittany Lions have put themselves in a strong position to play for a national championship title next month.

While these students have done an incredible job on the field to reach this position, it is also important to remember their success in the classroom.

Over the past 10 years, Penn State University is one of only eight schools that has won at least 10 NCAA championships while concurrently achieving at least a 90 percent graduation rate for student athletes. Their commit-

ment to excellence both on and off the field are an example for the thousands of students across Pennsylvania who look to our football team as role models.

On behalf of the Nittany Lions nation and across Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate the team on reaching the college football playoffs.

REMEMBERING GARY WASHINGTON

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to remember the life of a friend, Gary Washington. Gary was a member of the Bedford County community who dedicated his life to serving others.

After graduating from Bedford High School in 1965, Gary's education and work took him away from central Pennsylvania until later in life when he returned to Bedford to cofound the Extended Family Program, which supports students who are having difficulty in school. The program, which Gary led for 16 years before his retirement, provides a lifeline to students who are struggling academically or at home.

Today, Gary is remembered by the students that he mentored throughout the Extended Family Program and those that he coached on the Bedford High School football team.

Later in life, Gary was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He and his wonderful wife, Mable, became strong advocates for both patients and patients' caregivers.

Throughout his life, Coach Washington was committed to helping others and ensuring that the students in Bedford County had the tools and the support that they needed in order to succeed.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, we mourn the loss of Coach Gary Washington, and we pray for his family and for his friends and all of those who helped him throughout this journey in life.

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, as we commemorate both the 83rd anniversary of the attack at Pearl Harbor and the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, we are reminded of the incredible bravery and sacrifice made by our servicemembers.

The highest decoration that our Nation can bestow upon those who served in uniform is the Congressional Medal of Honor for acts of bravery at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.

This week, we have the chance to honor the soldiers, the sailors, the airmen, the marines, and the coast guardsmen who have received the Medal of Honor by designating U.S. State Route 20 as the National Medal of Honor Highway.

Stretching from Massachusetts Bay to the Oregon coastline, historic Route 20 is the longest highway in this great country, and it is fitting that this road

be designated to honor the 3,516 Medal of Honor recipients who have fought to keep our Nation safe and our Nation free.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation to honor those servicemembers.

DESIGNATING SINGLE, UNIQUE ZIP CODES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of a bill that the House will be voting on this week, H.R. 8753, which directs the U.S. Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for certain communities.

H.R. 8753 will provide long overdue relief to 45 mostly small towns in 13 States from Connecticut to California by fixing a chaotic situation where the residents' ZIP Codes are hopelessly carved up in a hodgepodge that results in lost mail, delayed mail, and wrong deliveries.

One of the towns included in H.R. 8753's list is the small town of Scotland, Connecticut, located in the heart of eastern Connecticut, which I have the great privilege to represent.

□ 1215

Scotland is the quintessential historic New England small town with a population of 1,576 people. It may be small, but its history is rich.

One of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Samuel Huntington, was born in his family's home located in Scotland, and today it is the significant part of the Rochambeau National History Trail which was the route that the American Continental Army under the leadership of George Washington and John Baptiste Rochambeau marched in 1781 from Newport, Rhode Island, to Yorktown, Virginia, where the Battle of Yorktown took place and the small army of colonists defeated the greatest military power of the British Empire.

Today, in 2024, it is a town that the U.S. Postal Service has assigned five, that is right, five ZIP Codes that caused endless aggravation and harm to the towns' residents. Delivery of Social Security notices, checks, Medicare information, prescription medication, notices from banks, employers, absentee ballots and absentee ballot applications are all disrupted day in and day out.

Town leaders in my office have tried, along with Senator CHRIS MURPHY, to get this ridiculous almost Monty Pythonesque absurdity resolved for many years with the Postal Service, to know avail.

This week's action by the House will mandate that USPS address this problem once and for all by designating a single, unique ZIP Code for these 45 small towns.

Mr. Speaker, this vote has been a long time in coming. I recognize the town's first selectman, Mr. Dana Barrow, and his predecessor, Mr. Gary Greenberg, who have diligently raised this issue, along with the town postmasters, with the Postal Service for many years laying out the real-life consequences of fragmenting this small community and essentially disconnecting it to the vital services that the residents require.

This week the House can help Scotland, as well as 44 other similarly situated towns, by passing H.R. 8753. The bill was reported out of the House Oversight and Accountability Committee unanimously and has strong, bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleague to support this measure, send it to the Senate for swift passage and to the President's desk. The hardworking, taxpaying citizens of these towns deserve to get the same level of postal service as every other community.

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special tradition taking place this Saturday, December 14, 2024.

Every year, on the third Saturday of December, thousands of volunteers set out in a coordinated wreath-laying ceremony across the country and around the world. This ceremony is known as National Wreaths Across America Day.

In 1992, Morrill Worcester from Harrington, Maine, noticed he had an abundance of holiday wreaths and decided to take the opportunity to honor our country's fallen soldiers. After contacting his Senator, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in an older section of the cemetery.

This tradition would quietly continue until 2005 when a photo of the tombstones decorated with wreaths and covered with snow went viral. From there, this quiet annual tribute to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice transformed into a mission to remember, honor, and teach.

Since the viral photo, Wreaths Across America continues to grow. This Saturday, volunteers will lay wreaths at more than 2,500 locations in the United States, abroad, and at sea. This simple gesture is a way for all of us to express our appreciation during the holiday season.

Wreaths Across America is built on three guiding principles: remember, honor, and teach. Each of these principles carries profound meaning, reminding us of our responsibility to those who have given everything in defense of our freedoms.

First, we remember our fallen heroes.

Every name engraved on a headstone represents a life, a story of courage, dedication, and love for our great Nation. By laying a wreath at their final resting place, we say their name aloud, ensuring that they are never forgotten. It is a simple, yet powerful, act reminding us that freedom is not free. It is paid for by the men and women who answer the call of duty.

Second, we honor those who wear or have worn the uniform. Honoring our veterans is not limited to one day or one ceremony. It is a commitment we carry out throughout the year. We honor the courage of those who stood watch over our Nation, often in the face of incredible challenges. We also honor their families, who shared in their sacrifices and carried the weight of their absences.

Finally, we teach the next generation.

Wreaths Across America encourages us to pass these lessons on to the next generation. When we bring young people to participate, whether it is laying wreaths or hearing stories of service, we ensure that the values of duty, courage, and sacrifice are instilled in future leaders. These moments of connection are how we keep the memory of our veterans alive and ensure their contributions are not lost to time.

This past Saturday, what has become known as the country's longest veterans' parade, Wreaths Across America's annual Escort to Arlington, kicked off. The official route will travel down the East Coast stopping at schools, memorials, and other locations along the way to spread and to remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach the next generation the value of freedom.

Stops with public events will be held in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Washington, D.C., before arriving at Arlington National Cemetery on the morning of Saturday, December 14, National Wreaths Across America Day.

This pilgrimage to Arlington National Cemetery represents the very best of our Nation. More than 250,000 wreaths will be hauled by tractor-trailers to their destination.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans remind us that our freedom is not guaranteed, but it is paid for by our dedicated servicemembers. This small gesture is one of the many ways we can thank them for their service.

I also recognize the organizers, volunteers, and participants who make Wreaths Across America possible. Their dedication ensures that hundreds of thousands of veterans are remembered with dignity and respect.

Mr. Speaker, if you are interested in volunteering, please visit wreathscrossamerica.org.

SUDAN: WORST HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Sudan, where people are suffering the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, yet Sudan is all but invisible.

In 2004, I stood with my colleagues in the House and Senate, NGOs and movements, and President George W. Bush in denouncing genocide in Darfur and calling for an end to the killing and repression by Sudanese dictator Omar al-Bashir.

In April of 2019, I celebrated the courage of the Sudanese people who overthrew Bashir in a nonviolent mass movement. I supported their aspirations to create a new democratic, civilian government. Their hopes were frustrated in October 2021 when two generals carried out a military coup against the transitional government.

Then in April 2023, those two generals, one in charge of the Sudanese Armed Forces, the SAF, and the other in charge of the Rapid Support Forces, the RSF, turned on one another in a power struggle that has laid waste to Sudan. Both sides have been accused of carrying out war crimes, and the RSF has been accused of atrocities that might rise to the level of genocide in Darfur.

The U.S. must use all of its leverage and every tool and mechanism available to ostracize these warlords and those who provide them with funds, military aid, and supplies. Yet, after 19 months of carnage, we have failed to do so.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese people are being killed, tortured, raped, and starved. They believe that the world has forgotten them. Some 26 million people need food assistance. Close to 10 million people have been classified as on the cusp of famine or are already in its grip. The number of deaths by malnutrition is rising.

Let me salute the brave Sudanese and international groups working day and night inside Sudan to provide life-saving food, medicine, and services to the Sudanese people.

In northern Darfur, the Zamzam camp for internally displaced, where more than one-half million people seek shelter, has received support from humanitarian networks in my home State of Massachusetts for decades. In August, Zamzam was officially classified as "in famine." In late November, the World Food Programme finally reached camp Zamzam with critical food supplies. Then, during the first week in December, the RSF attacked Zamzam. Shelling resulted in deaths, injuries, and disrupted deliveries of emergency supplies.

The SAF is also carrying out military operations in the area around Zamzam.

What is happening in Zamzam is happening throughout Sudan. Civilians are targeted by both sides. Sudanese and international humanitarian workers are targeted along with their lifesaving work.