

CONGRATULATING J.J. SPAUN

(Mr. CISNEROS of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate John Michael Spaun, Jr., or J.J. Spaun, on his U.S. Open victory.

J.J. is a proud product of California's 31st Congressional District, a graduate of San Dimas High School, where he played on the golf team and was a CIF Southern Section finalist 2 years in a row. He went on to play for San Diego State University, and after graduation he went professional.

On the morning of Sunday, June 15, Father's Day, J.J. woke up early to tend to his daughter who wasn't feeling well. Just a few hours later, he was on his way to the U.S. Open.

On the 18th hole, J.J. sunk a 64-foot putt to clinch his first major championship. The 31st Congressional District wants to congratulate him on his incredible victory, and we wish him the best of luck at The Open Championship in Northern Ireland.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CAPTAIN DANIEL REGAN

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the retirement of Captain Daniel Regan of the Covina Police Department.

He was promoted to captain in 2022 and managed the Investigations, K9, Firearms, and Records units. As a well-distinguished and awarded police officer, Captain Regan's 35-year-long career exemplifies true service and sacrifice. He has defined what it means to protect and serve our community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for all he has done to keep our families and our communities safe. I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement and we wish him all the best.

COMMENDING GLENDORA AND SAN DIMAS HIGH SCHOOL'S VARSITY BASEBALL TEAMS

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Glendora and San Dimas High School's baseball teams for reaching the CIF Southern Section Division 3 championship game.

After a hard-fought pitchers' duel, Glendora was victorious with a 2-0 shutout victory. This was Glendora High's first baseball CIF championship in 15 years. It was a remarkable season, capped by a historic victory.

Mr. Speaker, both teams are to be commended for their hard work and dedication, and I wish them both good luck for next season. Go Tartans.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION RED WINGS

(Mr. LUTTRELL of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 20th anniversary of Operation Red Wings, a mission carried out by United States Navy SEALs and the Army 160th SOAR in June 2005 in the mountains of Afghanistan.

Operation Red Wings was intended to disrupt anticoalition militia activity in the Pech District of the Kunar Province. The primary target was a high-ranking Taliban leader named Ahmad Shah.

To carry out the operations, a four-man reconnaissance team was inserted into the rugged terrain under the cover of darkness. The team consisted of Lieutenant Michael Murphy, Petty Officer Matthew Axelson, Petty Officer Danny Dietz, and Petty Officer Marcus Luttrell. Their mission was to observe and confirm the presence of Ahmad Shah.

Unfortunately, the team's position was compromised by local goat herders. Faced with a difficult ethical decision, the SEALs let the herders go. Within hours, they were surrounded and ambushed by a large force of Taliban fighters.

Despite being heavily outnumbered and outgunned, the SEALs fought valiantly. Michael Murphy, despite being shot, moved into the open to get clear to make a call for backup. That call would cost him his life. Matthew Axelson and Danny Dietz perished shortly after.

A Quick Reaction Force from the 160th SOAR dispatched a Chinook helicopter to rescue the SEALs, but tragically the helicopter was shot down by a rocket-propelled grenade, killing all 16 men on board. In total, 19 Americans died in Operation Red Wings. It was one of the deadliest days in special warfare history.

The mission is not just a story of loss; it is a powerful testament to courage, brotherhood, and sacrifice.

The names of the men who lost their lives during Operation Red Wings are: Petty Officer Matthew G. Axelson, Petty Officer Danny Dietz, Chief Petty Officer Jacques Fontan, Staff Sergeant Shamus O. Goare, Chief Warrant Officer Corey Goodnature, Senior Chief Petty Officer Dan Healy, Sergeant Kip Jacoby, Lieutenant Commander Erik Kristensen, Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffrey Lucas, Lieutenant Michael McGreevy, Sergeant First Class Michael Muralles, Lieutenant Michael Murphy, Petty Officer Shane Patton, Master Sergeant James Ponder, Major Stephen Reich, Sergeant First Class Michael Russell, Chief Warrant Officer Chris Scherkenbach, Petty Officer James Suh, and Petty Officer Jeffrey Taylor.

Mr. Speaker, may blessings go out to the Gold Star families and friends on this day.

DO NOT FORGET THE CRISIS IN CUBA

(Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the United States' policy toward Cuba.

There are many crises in the world, like Iran. One crisis that does not get enough attention is the humanitarian

one in Cuba today, with its hunger and deprivation.

To many, the word "Cuba" invokes politics. Oftentimes, a topic that politicians use to demagogue in U.S. elections for political advantage. However, Cuba is an island of 10 million human beings. They are people like you and me with families and with hopes for a better future.

There is no doubt that the aspirations of the people of Cuba are stymied by their own government. It denies them fundamental human rights. It does not meet their basic needs. It must do better, much better, to listen to what people are asking for and address their concerns in a real way, and our government in the United States isn't helping. In fact, we make the lives of the Cuban people worse, a lot worse.

I have visited Cuba many times as a Member of Congress. I have met with Cubans in their homes and have talked to them in their own communities. I can tell you firsthand that the U.S. embargo is harmful to the people of Cuba. It denies them food, medicine, and basic goods. It contributes to hunger and human misery. It is a driver of migration from the island.

□ 1030

U.S. policy toward Cuba fails to see the Cuban people as human beings. Too often, politicians here treat Cubans as commodities, as props in their political arguments. This is dehumanizing.

It has gotten worse under President Trump. Cubans were once welcomed with open arms into the United States, even given preferential treatment not available to others fleeing dire conditions. No more. Cuban immigrants are equally at risk under the Trump administration's cruelty-first policies.

A half million Cuban immigrants are currently in the United States under parole. An additional 110,000 Cubans entered the U.S. legally under the CHNV humanitarian parole program, but the Trump administration eliminated CHNV. Most Cubans are not eligible to adjust their status and are at risk of being sent back to Cuba. The Trump administration is adding to the humanitarian crisis.

I am disappointed in many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. They continue to defend the U.S. embargo and the status quo. They claim that they want to force the Cuban Government to treat its own people better, yet now when they have a chance to speak out against the Trump administration's callous indifference to the welfare of the Cuban people or even advance policies that will improve the lives of Cubans on the island, these same people are silent. I find that shameful.

In the past, whether our policy was more relaxed or tightened, our government maintained consultations with Cuban officials to manage migration, but the Trump administration has closed even that door, turning off a basic level of dialogue.

None of this makes sense. Tightening sanctions increases suffering, which drives people to our shores and to the border, but the administration won't even talk to Cubans about migration. How do they plan to return those they want to deport? Do they think they can hold Cubans in detention indefinitely?

Conditions in Cuba are far more desperate than during Trump's first term. To be frank, President Biden disappointed me. He didn't do enough to help. Food and medicine shortages and power blackouts are causing more suffering. Mr. Speaker, 1 million people, one-tenth of the population, have left the island. If the Trump administration wants to stop migration, it should not be contributing to its root cause.

The Cuban people are caught in a vise. They don't have a government that adequately responds to their needs, and they can't look to America to help them, either. A better approach to Cuba starts with seeing each other on a human level. We should promote exchange between artists, musicians, writers, filmmakers, scientists, and students. We can nurture understanding, build relationships, foster trust, and diplomacy will follow.

President Obama understood this. He knew that insanity was doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results, so he loosened restrictions, relieved tensions, and advanced cooperation. We were on the road to helping create a new future for Cuba.

However, Trump takes us backward. He unjustifiably added Cuba to the state sponsor of terrorism list, purely for political reasons. They ought to be removed from that list. He banned travel and blocked remittances. He has cut off our ability to negotiate for the release of political prisoners. He continues to insist on sanctions to economically starve the country. We should instead lift the embargo. By closing off American engagement, he has opened the door for greater Russian and Chinese influence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to consider a human-focused approach to Cuba. Our policy should not add to their suffering. We should hear their aspirations and never doubt the power of the people to create change.

Our Cuba policy is on the wrong track. It is a throwback to the Cold War. It is ineffective, and it makes us look petty and vindictive in the eyes of the world community. We need to do much better.

HONORING DINO DOMINIC FALASCHETTI

(Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a former colleague and, more importantly, a friend. Dino Dominic Falaschetti, or Dr. Dino as he was known to many of us, was born in Chicago Heights, Illinois.

In high school, Dino was a standout golfer, and then in college he became a standout cyclist. That became a lifelong passion. To his friends, he was always the smartest and best dressed guy we knew.

To say the least, Dino's academic achievements were impressive. He received a bachelor of science in accounting from Indiana University, then an MBA in finance and economics from the University of Chicago. He then went on to earn his Ph.D. in economics from Washington University in St. Louis.

Dr. Dino went on to work for a Fortune 100 company. He also served as a senior economist on the Council of Economic Advisers under George W. Bush and taught economics and finance at not just one, but three distinguished universities. He accomplished all of this before our paths first crossed in the summer of 2015.

Dr. Dino, with his impeccable resume, had just been hired by former Chairman Jeb Hensarling to serve as the newly created position of chief economist to the House Committee on Financial Services.

The chairman and myself had many discussions about the economic impacts of what was going on, and at one point Chairman Hensarling said: I need an economist to help us do this.

Dino was the man that he hired. I was in my third term and had just been named chairman of the Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee. It turned out to be a match made in heaven.

Although we took very different paths to get to the Financial Services Committee, we found ourselves together thinking and developing and debating the economic impact of legislation and the regulators in that space, and then going toe to toe with then-Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen.

Throughout all of it, Dino was a consummate professional, intense and focused, but always taking time to explain complicated monetary policy to anyone—and I mean anyone—who would listen, whether it be a Member of Congress or a junior staffer, but it was always done with a smile.

Dino was often known to say: "Economics is easy, but politics is hard." Boy, is he right.

Following his stint in the people's House, Dr. Dino's career path would make one final stop—this time at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. In 2019, Dino was nominated by President Trump to serve as the director of the Office of Financial Research. To no one's surprise, Dr. Dino was unanimously confirmed and served in that position until 2022.

Through it all, Dr. Dino never forgot where he came from. He was devoted to his wife of 30 years, Suzanne; his dogs; his adopted hometown of Belgrade, Montana; and to others, along with serving his country.

I will never forget and am deeply grateful for his work on my sub-

committee, highlighting much-needed reforms to our financial system that brought about real change and some things that we are still debating yet today.

His contributions to the Financial Services Committee and the House of Representatives will never be forgotten, not to mention the students and colleagues with whom he taught and worked who will always fondly remember Dr. Dino.

Suzanne should know that she has been in our prayers and thoughts. May she experience blessings and peace as she moves forward.

On behalf of his friends here in the U.S. House, we celebrate Dr. Dino's legacy and look forward to the day when we will meet him again.

Rest in peace, my friend. Rest in peace.

CANCELLATION OF IRAN CLASSIFIED BRIEFING

(Mr. SCHNEIDER of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, what are you and the President afraid of? What are you hiding? You and the administration are shirking your duty to provide Members of Congress a timely and complete classified briefing about Saturday's U.S. strike on Iran, on the intelligence that justified it, on the legal justification, on the objectives, and on the consequences.

Mr. Speaker, we should not have to remind you that the Constitution gives only Congress, not the President, the exclusive power to declare war. The War Powers Resolution of 1973 requires the President, after taking military action, to provide to Congress the information it needs "in the fulfillment of its constitutional responsibilities with respect to committing the Nation to war and to the use of United States Armed Forces abroad."

Yesterday, all Members of this House, Republicans and Democrats, were to receive an already overdue classified briefing from administration officials. However, moments before the briefing was scheduled to begin, you and the administration abruptly, without explanation, canceled it, leaving Members of Congress and the American people in the dark.

There are now reports of a leaked classified battle damage assessment from the Defense Intelligence Agency that disputes what the President and the Secretary of Defense have been telling us. The American people are left wondering: Are the President and the Secretary telling the truth?

Again, I ask you, Mr. Speaker, what are you and the President afraid of? What are you trying to hide?

We are proud of the extraordinary servicemembers who put their lives on the line and perfectly executed a complex battle plan, expertly hitting their intended targets at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan.