

family and the American people deserve the truth. We must have accountability and justice for the family of Mr. Shah Alam. May he rest in peace.

CELEBRATING CAROLINA RISING

(Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the completion of the Carolina Rising project in Gaffney, South Carolina, along with those dedicated individuals who have worked tirelessly to bring this project to fruition and to preserve, promote, and shape the deep-rooted history of Cherokee County. We thank them for their dedication to this cause.

The Carolina Rising initiative is a historic undertaking for South Carolina. It came about through the efforts of Gaffney's tourism administrator, LeighAnn Moon. For nearly three decades, LeighAnn has worked tirelessly to strengthen the community identity and to expand rural tourism in Gaffney, South Carolina.

From conversations with visitors, LeighAnn quickly discovered many were drawn to Cherokee County because of its historic background, its Revolutionary War landmarks, and its extensive resources.

This reality helped her shape Carolina Rising, a strategic effort to research, document, and interpret the county's contributions to America's independence in a way that is accessible to the public. It is now an innovative museum in the heart of Gaffney, South Carolina.

This region was the site of numerous historic battles, including both the Battle of Kings Mountain and the Battle of Cowpens. Monumental American victories here weakened British control in the backcountry and strengthened the patriot position at a decisive moment in the war.

The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail also passes through the area where the museum now sits, marking the route taken by the United States militia forces. These historic efforts proved critical to the outcome of the revolution in South Carolina.

The museum's construction came about through the restoration and reuse of the historic Carnegie Free Library in downtown Gaffney. Constructed in 1913, the Carnegie Free Library is one of only 14 libraries built in South Carolina. For generations, it was the center of literacy, research, and civic engagement.

This project successfully transformed the landmark into a modern museum experience dedicated to the Revolutionary War in the region. It incorporates interactive exhibits, curated artifacts, digital interpretation, and educational programming. The facility has space for lectures, student tours, and historic research.

Carolina Rising simultaneously pays tribute to Gaffney's past while serving

as a resource for future South Carolinians.

Its launch is a tremendous success. It has been over a decade in the making. Yet, Carolina Rising represents more than 14 years of planning and investment. It reflects constant collaboration among local leaders, State officials, preservation advocates, historians, and private supporters who all share that commitment to honoring our Nation's past while strengthening our local economy.

By expanding heritage tourism, supporting small businesses, and increasing downtown visitations, Carolina Rising will contribute to sustained economic development in Gaffney and, overall, Cherokee County.

I am very proud to say that Carolina Rising demonstrates the planning, deep respect for history, and stalwart confidence in the future of all South Carolinians, but particularly those in Gaffney.

Mr. Speaker, I commend those who have brought this initiative forward and thank them for their continued service to the people of South Carolina. Their efforts have successfully seen this project come together for our children, grandchildren, and generations to come.

CHOOSING WAR IS NOT PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, as Baghdad was first bombed 23 years ago, Americans were bombarded with lies. When that giant statue of Saddam Hussein was pulled down, the lies were paired with attacks on all of us who opposed what was ultimately recognized by almost all as a colossal American blunder.

Though later President Bush announced "mission accomplished," the killing continued. Ultimately, over 4,400 American lives were lost and \$2 trillion spent on this unwarranted invasion that, unfortunately, only benefited Iran.

Now, as Tehran is bombed, we are once again being bombarded with lies. Our trigger-happy President issued his personal declaration of war without approval of Congress, without exhausting nonviolent alternatives, and without any real plan after the bombs stopped falling.

Just months ago, Trump told the Nation that he had obliterated the Iranian nuclear capability. With no imminent threat to our country, he declared war just because he likes issuing decrees.

He loves issuing imperial decrees, whether it is imposing new tariff taxes, obstructing our voting rights, or declaring himself the acting President of Venezuela. It is the American people who will pay the price in blood and treasure for his military adventurism.

Trump callously has responded already "that's the way it is" to the

deaths of American servicemembers and so many innocent civilians. With his war spreading across the Middle East, Trump is not ruling out ground troops, since airpower alone will not be sufficient to accomplish the regime change that he is obviously seeking.

While certainly not mourning the death of Iranian tyrants, despicable people, rarely has assassination of such foreign leaders produced a peaceful result. Two decades of experience in Afghanistan and Iraq tell us that even boots on the ground are insufficient to accomplish a peaceful democratic society. Only the Iranian people can do that.

Of course, Trump is also sending a message to fellow authoritarians Xi and Putin that might makes right. Use war if it is helpful.

Ironically, we learned that President Trump's action does not demonstrate strength, but rather weakness. Secretary Rubio has confirmed that Trump was just yielding to Netanyahu's planned attack by saying, essentially, "me, too." He was too weak to tell Netanyahu no, as President Bush had wisely done. Trump talks tough and brandishes a very powerful military, but he cannot stand up to powerful leaders like Netanyahu and Putin.

Choosing war is not "peace through strength." It is a means of diverting attention from multiple Trump failures here at home. Coming just after revelations from the Justice Department of hiding documents accusing Trump of sexually abusing a minor, this war of choice may even be useful as a distraction from the Epstein files that have not been fully disclosed.

In Trump's own words, this is a war that could go on "as long as it takes," perhaps as long as it takes for him to interfere in the November elections and secure a Congress that will continue to be little more than a doormat for him.

With war so much easier to get into than to get out of, it is imperative that this Congress act swiftly this week to approve the War Powers Resolution to save American lives and stop another destabilizing, bloody conflict that will have repercussions for generations to come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NORMAN). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING MARCEY PHILLIPS

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

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary American. I am proud to recognize Ms. Marcey Phillips, a fourth-generation U.S. Army veteran, for her courageous service to our Nation and her continued dedication to the men and women who have worn the uniform.

Marcey comes from a family with a strong tradition of military service. In

2002, she answered the call by enlisting in the Texas Army National Guard, where she served until 2010 in Missouri, Georgia, and Fort Hood, Texas. In 2005, she deployed to Iraq and was stationed near Tikrit, one of the most dangerous areas of operation during that conflict.

Like many who have served in combat, Marcey returned carrying invisible wounds. The experiences of war took their toll. In 2019, Marcey found a trusted companion and a source of healing in Beignet, a beautiful black Labrador retriever who has been with her ever since.

That hasn't stopped Marcey. She stepped forward time after time. She continues to serve. She continues to be a steadfast advocate for fellow veterans through the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Today, she proudly serves as the post commander for VFW Post 4709 in Conroe, Texas, and as the District 17 commander at the State level.

She leads with integrity, purpose, and commitment to every veteran post, district, and community she serves. Marcey Phillips exemplifies what it means to serve in uniform and in life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation, we thank Marcey. We thank her for her service. We thank her for her sacrifice. We thank her for continuing to lead. We are honored to call her an American hero.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in observance of the 61st anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the annual Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage through Alabama, which will take place this weekend in Birmingham, Montgomery, and my hometown of Selma, Alabama.

Beginning this Friday, March 6, we in Alabama will once again welcome Members of Congress and dignitaries from across the Nation to lay eyes on the faces and places of the civil rights and voting rights movement.

Hosted by the Faith and Politics Institute, we will retrace the footsteps of civil rights giants and pay homage to the sacrifices made in the name of equality and justice for all.

Our pilgrimage will begin in Birmingham, where we will pay tribute to the four little girls killed in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church. Together, we will reflect on the legacy of visionary Birmingham leaders like Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, who led the fight against segregation alongside Dr. King.

We will then travel to Montgomery, Alabama—home to Rosa Parks, the Freedom Rides Museum, and the Equal Justice Initiative—where ordinary citizens took a bold stand against injustice.

We will conclude our pilgrimage by crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in

my hometown of Selma. We will commemorate the events of Bloody Sunday. Together, we will walk in the footsteps of our former colleague, the late, great Congressman John Lewis, who was beaten and bloodied by Alabama State troopers while peacefully demonstrating for the rights of all Americans to vote.

This year's pilgrimage could not come at a more critical time in our Nation's history. As we speak, officials at the highest levels of government are waging a concerted and coordinated effort to attack the rights and freedoms secured by our foremothers and our forefathers. They are attempting to erase our history, to roll back our progress, to silence our voices, and to dilute our power.

Meanwhile, the fate of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the crown jewel of the civil rights movement, hangs in the balance as the Supreme Court considers a case that could gut its remaining protections.

□ 1030

It is my hope that this year's pilgrimage will serve not only as a reminder of our past but a roadmap for our future.

Mr. Speaker, the foot soldiers of the civil rights movement were tacticians and strategists. In these troubled times, we should take a page from their playbook, because "good trouble, necessary trouble" is needed now more than ever.

Mr. Speaker, this year's pilgrimage is also bittersweet. It will be the last time that we will be joined in our official capacity by Congressman and former majority leader, STENY HOYER.

Congressman HOYER is retiring from the House of Representatives this year, and I pay special tribute to him and his dedication for coming annually to the pilgrimage. No one in this body has been a more steadfast supporter of our annual pilgrimage than Leader HOYER. He made the trip to Alabama 18 times, and this will be his 19th time commemorating Bloody Sunday.

I will always cherish the memories we made alongside John Lewis and our colleagues during the pilgrimage. While he will be sorely missed in the Halls of Congress, I know that Leader HOYER's service to our Nation will not end with his retirement, and neither will his dedication to protecting and advancing our civil rights.

On behalf of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in observing the 61st anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the upcoming annual Civil Rights Pilgrimage.

May we leave this weekend renewed, refreshed, and ready to get into some "good trouble."

HONORING THE HONORABLE TIM ARMSTEAD

(Mr. MOORE of West Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MOORE of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable West Virginian, devoted public servant, and a faithful Christian, my friend, the Honorable Justice Tim Armstead.

Justice Armstead dedicated his life to serving the people of West Virginia with unwavering integrity, conviction, and grace. Born in Charleston on February 26, 1965, Tim graduated from the University of Charleston and went on to earn his juris doctorate from the West Virginia University College of Law.

After beginning his public service career as a press intern for my grandfather, Governor Arch Moore, Justice Armstead went on to achieve a distinguished legacy defined by his strong leadership, built on the back of his Christian faith.

In 1998, Justice Armstead became a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates and served there for the next two decades. During that time, Tim became the first Republican speaker of the house in more than 80 years. Every step of the way, Tim led from a firm commitment to conservative principles and an unparalleled witness to his Christian faith.

In 2018, he was appointed to the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia. While there, his fidelity to the rule of law and people of our State truly shined, so much so that he served twice as chief justice. He stewarded the court through a challenging time and worked tirelessly to restore public trust in our judiciary.

Tim's time as chief justice earned him the distinction of being the first West Virginian to ever ascend to the top of both the legislature and the judiciary, a truly amazing accomplishment.

Tim joined his Lord in Heaven on August 26, 2025, and he is survived by his beloved wife, Anna; his daughter, Katie; and his two cherished grandchildren.

With his passing, West Virginia has lost a principled leader, a dedicated jurist, a devoted family man, a committed Christian, and a dear friend. My family and a grateful State will miss him dearly.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him.

SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR OUR VETERANS

(Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our veterans. They protect us in conflict. They wear the uniform. They stand watch in places that most of us will never see, and then they come home to stand in line.

In my district, the wait time for new mental health appointments is 31 days. It is 31 days. When you are battling an