Florida Atlantic University (FAU) awards the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters degree on a very selective basis to recognize achievements in the arts or high distinction in public service. With his golden retriever Cash by his side, Irwin addressed a group of 2,400 graduates and their families explaining his experience as a Prisoner of War after being captured by a Nazi soldier.

After returning home, Irwin did what so many from the Greatest Generation did. He married, started a family, and went on to a successful business career. After retiring at age 75, he continued to serve his community and volunteered at our local Veteran's Administration Hospital in Riviera Beach. During his time at the VA Hospital, he spoke to many veterans and realized that they needed additional emotional support, so he founded "Vets Helping Heroes". His organization has raised over $4.5 million dollars to provide service dogs to wounded service members.

In honor of his continued service to our country during World War II and still now, I am pleased to recognize Mr. Irwin Stovroff and congratulate him on the receipt of an honorary doctorate degree from Florida Atlantic University. I am proud to represent him in our great district.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep sympathy and sorrow for the countless deaths and injuries caused by the derailment of Amtrak Northeast Regional Train 188 in Philadelphia. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. Due to this tragedy, the scale of which is unprecedented over the last decade, last night I decided to be with the grieving families, law enforcement officers, emergency responders, health care professionals, and all those working in my district to preserve life, help the injured, and otherwise recover from the derailment in Philadelphia. For this reason, unfortunately, I missed some important votes on the floor of the House of Representatives. I hope my colleagues understand the imperative nature of my travelling to Philadelphia to be there for my constituents working to recover in the aftermath of this horrific disaster.

I did not make this decision lightly. Serving my constituents is my highest honor and responsibility as a Member of Congress. Of course, my voting decisions are also of highest importance. Yet, after careful deliberation and with a heavy heart, I felt compelled to be on the scene of the Amtrak tragedy as we work as a community—local, state and federal governmental entities working hand-in-hand—to bring peace to impacted families and a sense of order to the scene.

In light of these circumstances, and my sincere opposition to one particular bill on the House floor last night, I submit some of the many reasons why I so strongly oppose H.R. 36, the so-called Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, and state that I would have in fact voted against this misguided, unconstitutional legislation. This dangerous legislation is another alarming attempt by the Republican Party to deny women their constitutional right to family planning. The Supreme Court has spoken on the issue. This is settled law.

This legislation is out of touch with the rights and health care needs of women. The bill's inadequate rape exception and overly burdensome reporting requirements continue to shame victims of rape and are particularly offensive. It is irresponsible for Members of Congress to continue to undermine and play politics with the rights of women and families throughout America. Moreover, this bill has no meaningful exceptions to protect women's health, and criminalizes physicians for providing necessary and constitutionally-protected care.

For these reasons, I continue to strongly oppose and, had I been present, would in no uncertain terms have voted "no" on rollcall 223, H.R. 36 final passage, and "yes" on rollcall 222, the Motion to Recommit H.R. 36. However, again, in light of the tragic events in Philadelphia, I felt compelled to be there with the health care providers, first responders, and volunteers working to restore peace and safety to the scene. Once again, I'd like to express my condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims of Amtrak Train 188's derailment. I hope my colleagues and constituents will understand my absence despite the importance of this vote.

HONORING THE EBONETTE SOCIAL & CIVICS CLUB

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of ladies who have shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve their community, the Ebonette Social & Civics Club. The Ebonette Social & Civics Club has served as an informational vehicle to citizens of Sharkey & Issaquena Counties.

The Ebonette Social and Civics Club was established in 1968 with local ladies from Sharkey and Issaquena Counties. The mission and vision of the organization is for civic improvement and social entertainment. The Ebonette Social & Civics Club also provides and supports activities, services, programs and opportunities for the benefit of youth excellence and moral character; and to promote community and economic development.

The Ebonettes give yearly scholarships to students from both South Delta High School and Sharkey Issaquena Academy. To date over $25,000 has been given. The scholarships given are not discriminated based on race or any ethnic background.

The ladies also provide Christmas gifts to needy families, support Breast Cancer Organizations, provided support for burned out victims, provide meals for senior citizens and worked with the Hwy 14 clean-up and numerous of other community activities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Ebonette Social & Civics Club for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 36, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. This legislation is yet another attempt by conservative lawmakers to dictate a woman's reproductive rights. This bill calls for a nationwide ban on abortion care after 20 weeks of pregnancy. There are 14 similar bans in states.

The bill also makes it much more difficult for sexual assault survivors to obtain abortion care by requiring that she obtain counseling or medical treatment from a list of specific locations. This counseling may not be from a health center that provides abortion care. The bill also requires incest survivors who are minors to provide written proof that the crime was reported to law enforcement or the government. This is extremely limiting and an unreasonable burden to place upon a sexual assault survivor.

The legislation also forces abortion providers to divulge private health information regarding which patients have received abortion care after 20 weeks to the government. This essentially creates a "hit list" of providers around the country for anti-choice supporters to target when they are merely providing legal and necessary care.

While the right to choose is of the utmost importance, this bill would also add unnecessary pain and suffering to women who experience fatal fetal anomalies late in pregnancy. It is callous and uncompassionate to deny an abortion to a pregnant woman who knows that her child has no chance of survival.

Banning abortion care based on arbitrary gestational limits decided by federal lawmakers is unconstitutional and unjust. This legislation is extreme and blocks a woman's access to safe health care options such as the freedom to make personal reproductive decisions.

HONORING NEW MEXICO CIVIL WAR SITES

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the landmark locations in New Mexico where thousands of Spanish speaking New Mexico Hispanos fought valiantly during the Civil War.

When the U.S. Territorial Governor issued a call for service in 1861, 4,000 men aged 18 to 45 from Las Vegas, Santa Fe, Taos, Mora, Chaperito and other surrounding villages answered the call and were organized into five regiments known as the New Mexico Volunteers.

Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley led Confederate troops into New Mexico in an attempt to capture Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Fort Union and the Santa Fe Trail so his army