

confusion, I am proud to take a moment to celebrate something positive.

On July 24, 1847, Brigham Young led a determined group of pioneers, wagons, and handcarts into the Salt Lake Valley where he uttered those now famous words, "This is the place."

Over 40,000 pioneers traveled west to Utah. In doing so, they suffered incredibly, hunger, cold, disease, exhaustion, the death of loved ones. My own ancestors were among the many who did suffer.

Once they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley, they worked tirelessly to take the desert and to make it bloom into the thriving communities we have today. My, how things have changed.

Utah is considered the best managed State. They are considered some of the finest and highest quality-of-life communities. They are one of the best States to do business. We have the greatest snow on Earth, and our National Parks are truly magnificent.

We celebrate Pioneer Day to honor those who demonstrate their courage during their journey west and for all those who continue to enrich our great State of Utah.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in 2010, the southern segment of the Keystone pipeline system began operating, carrying crude oil from Oklahoma to Illinois and Texas. According to multiple news outlets, this existing southern segment of the Keystone system just pumped its one billionth barrel of oil.

The Federal approval process only took 2 years to complete, and there have been no incidents as a result of this infrastructure. Yet, here we are 5 years later and the Keystone XL pipeline, which would connect Canada and the United States, still remains unapproved after 7 long years of repetitive reviews.

Approval of the Keystone XL pipeline will provide American families with new job opportunities and a reliable source of North American energy in the safest, most efficient way possible.

As a member of the Natural Resources Committee, I rise today to once again urge the President to approve the Keystone XL.

This southern portion of the Keystone pipeline has proven to be a safe and effective way to transport oil, and the northern segment into Canada will provide the same benefits.

CONGRATULATIONS ZACH JOHNSON

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

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Zach Johnson, a native

of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and the First District I represent, on his win in yesterday's British Open, held at St. Andrews in Scotland, the birthplace of golf.

Zach is well known in Iowa for his incredible work ethic and perseverance. Zach was not the best player on his Cedar Rapids Regis High School golf team, and he wasn't the number one golfer on the Drake University golf team.

Few gave him a chance of someday being a professional golfer, but he refused to give up on his dream of making the PGA tour, and his hard work over the years has definitely paid off.

Zach has 12 PGA wins, including the 2007 Masters and now the British Open, and has represented the United States in the Ryder Cup four times.

Zach has lived the American Dream through hard work and perseverance. Yet, he describes himself as "just a guy from Iowa who has been given some talent." Zach's humility, as well as his talent and work ethic, are examples to all of us.

Today we tip our hat to Zach Johnson and his entire family. The entire First District of Iowa is incredibly proud of his success.

HONORING GRANITE STATE HERO JEREMY GRACZYK

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of New Hampshire's own Major Jeremy Graczyk, a decorated Marine, combat veteran, and American hero.

A native of Atkinson, New Hampshire, Major Graczyk graduated as valedictorian from Timberlane Regional High School, attended college at the U.S. Naval Academy, and went on to be commissioned in the United States Marine Corps, where he served as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was deployed over seven times to Afghanistan and Africa.

Due to his bravery and dedication to our Nation, he has been awarded over 20 decorations. To say Major Graczyk embodied the meaning of our State's motto "Live free or die" is an understatement.

As we honor the anniversary of his death, we continue to remember and celebrate his life. It is because of soldiers like him that our Nation remains the land of the free and the home of the brave. And for that, we are forever grateful.

IN MEMORY OF LAVERNE GRELL

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to note the passing of a true gem, a jewel to northern California, LaVerne Grell of Yuba City.

Now, my family has the unique experience of having my grandmother, Marjorie, and LaVerne born on the same day in the very same small town amidst the rice fields of northern California.

My grandmother, Marjorie, and LaVerne spent many years together celebrating birthdays, music, life, and friends. We were blessed with my grandmother for 77 years. But LaVerne, in northern California, we were blessed with for 100 years.

So LaVerne's loss indeed makes a big ripple. She made a big ripple in her life with all the people she touched and her love of music.

Indeed, she was a talented musician and freely gave her time and her talent for decades through teaching music at Yuba College, participating in Handel's Messiah for almost 75 years and playing the organ at Marysville's First Presbyterian Church for 20 years.

Indeed, when we lose somebody, we have what we call a celebration of life. Her celebration of life was last November when she reached her 100th birthday, and she had the best party I have ever seen with an orchestra, cellos, and everything. She got on the keyboard herself and showed us what 100 years of life and vigor in northern California looks like.

We will miss her, but we will always smile when we think of LaVerne Grell.

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PLANNED PARENTHOOD PRACTICES

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, like my colleagues, I was deeply disturbed by the video that surfaced last week and the allegations regarding Planned Parenthood's selling the body parts of unborn children. Just today, another video was released showing a senior Planned Parenthood official make flippanant comments about receiving money for the organs of aborted babies.

The practices brought to light in these videos and reports are shocking and sickening. When such reports come forward, it is our moral responsibility to act. We must take action on behalf of the most vulnerable and precious lives among us.

Madam Speaker, I commend the House Energy and Commerce and House Judiciary Committees that have begun efforts to investigate these heinous practices, and I am committed to working with my colleagues to ensure we get to the bottom of these allegations.

Planned Parenthood and all those involved must be held accountable. I stand with all who are dedicated to fight to protect innocent life.