

responsibility to his community as an adjective, something that was hard or tedious. However, he saw it as a verb. It was something that he had to do.

He was never concerned about the spotlight or awards, but his dutiful nature and bravery made it almost impossible to deny him recognition.

Mr. Speaker, Director Parker's service to south Florida and our Nation had an underlying theme that permeated everything he did: his love for his community.

He understood that the best police officers are not the police who wore the badges, but the best police officers were the people who paid their mortgages, who sent their kids to school, and who worked hard to build their community.

Residents were always quick to ignore the false notion of no snitching and gave Director Parker information that solved crimes.

His sense of community and respect eventually led to his promotion to director of the Miami-Dade Police Department in 2004. His appointment was historic by his being the very first African American to hold that post, and he opened the door for many others to follow.

Dade County has the largest police force in the southeast United States, leading over 4,700 sworn and civilian employees.

As director, he worked to create a more diverse agency and create opportunities for minorities and women. He was an exemplary leader and even earned the respect of the police union.

He retired in 2009 after 33 years. Our mentors look up to him. His absence will create a huge void.

Mr. Speaker, America has lost an iconic law enforcement officer. His legacy will live in the hearts of all of us forever. My remarks will be entered into the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and they will then be permanently placed in the Library of Congress.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 64. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the Monuments Men.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills and a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 242. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide leave to any new Federal employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability, and for other purposes.

S. 614. An act to provide access to and use of information by Federal agencies in order

to reduce improper payments, and for other purposes.

S. 764. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 20. Concurrent resolution recognizing and honoring the 25th anniversary of the date of enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

THE IMPROVING COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS REGULATION ACT OF 2015

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, responsible use and recycle of coal ash has the ability to reduce waste, provide construction materials, and keep utility costs low.

This past April the EPA released yet another rule aimed at coal by mandating new standards for the disposal and storage of coal combustion residuals.

As a result of this proposal, the House considered and passed H.R. 1734, the Improving Coal Combustion Residuals Regulation Act of 2015. This legislation codifies the base standards of EPA's final proposed rule, while also giving flexibility to the States to implement.

Specifically, H.R. 1734 will allow States to create and enforce their own coal ash recycling permit programs. It also sets up enforceable State permit programs while utilizing the EPA's minimum requirements and will protect 316,000 jobs.

Mr. Speaker, States also have the option to make their requirements more stringent than the EPA's final rule if they choose. I strongly support and was happy to vote for H.R. 1734 and the responsible use of coal and coal ash.

PENNSYLVANIA HEMLOCKS AND THE WOOLLY ADELGID

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, recently I visited the Tionesta Research Natural Area of the Allegheny National Forest. This old-growth area is home to many 600-year-old hemlock trees.

During this visit, Mr. Speaker, I spoke to forestry officials about efforts to fight the woolly adelgid. I even applied a treatment designed to combat the invasive insect to one of these massive trees.

Mr. Speaker, many States are involved in the effort to fight the adelgid, which originated in Japan and was first found in the United States in the early 1950s. It can kill a hemlock tree within a few years after it becomes infested.

In 2012, I teamed with Federal researchers and those from my alma mater, Penn State University, at a forum I hosted to discuss efforts to save our State tree, the Eastern Hemlock.

As the chairman of the Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee, I am proud Pennsylvanians are among those

leading the way in fighting this disease and protecting our forests and the economic stimulus that these forests provide both through timber and through tourism, making sure that these magnificent trees which have stood for centuries will stand tall for future generations.

SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, July 26, we marked the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The passage of this landmark legislation signified a commitment to eliminating barriers faced by millions of individuals with differing levels of disability.

It required businesses, buildings, transportation, and other services to accommodate those living with disabilities and guaranteed equal opportunities for workers with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, 25 years later it is apparent that we have made tremendous strides in upholding the intent of this vastly important civil rights law.

Today countless Americans are empowered to shape their own lives and plan their own futures as they experience their daily obstacles decreasing over time. While we have so much to celebrate, there is always more progress to be made.

This Congress I introduced the Special Needs Trust Fairness Act with the goal of eliminating a current prohibition on a person with a disability to create his or her own special needs trust.

This long overdue legislative fix was recently passed by the Senate Finance Committee, and I am committed to working with my colleagues to guide this and similar measures through the legislative processes here in the House.

THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, we are on a dangerous path. First, my Republican colleagues pulled two critical appropriation bills from the floor simply because their party cannot come to an agreement on a flag that represents a very dark time in our Nation's history.

Second, my colleagues across the aisle, rather than focusing their energy on passing comprehensive immigration reform, passed a poisonous anti-immigrant bill in response to an isolated incident in the city of San Francisco, pulling money away from our law enforcement funding for public safety.

Then they refuse to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, which helps ensure that Americans' businesses can compete with their global competitors.

And now the House Republicans refuse to come to the table yet again to provide a robust, long-term funding bill for our decaying infrastructure system in America.