

county's toughest cases, which meant putting himself in harm's way.

Those who knew Steven knew that he was a dedicated family man and a committed parent, not missing a single one of his daughter's basketball games.

He was also a shining light for his entire community. He was a former three-sport athlete at Aitkin High School. He served as a volunteer firefighter for 17 years, and he taught Sunday school at the local Methodist church.

Mr. Speaker, Steven Sandberg dedicated his life to serving others and keeping people safe. We honor his sacrifice. My thoughts are with his wife, Kristi, and with his daughter, Cassie, as well as with the entire community in Aitkin County.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

(Mr. CÁRDENAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I come here to remind us how diverse our country is and how beautiful it is that we have been celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month for the last 30 days.

I just wanted to take the opportunity to remind everybody that when we do things like that, it is not to talk about how we are different or separate. No, it is to talk about how alike we are and to talk about how wonderful and great our country is.

The tapestry of people that come from all over the world come here to start a new life, come here to create opportunities, perhaps not for them, but for the next generation. Together, we have created the greatest country that this world has ever known and has ever seen.

From Europe, from the Americas, from Africa, from Australia, from all parts of the planet, people come to this country for a better life and a second chance.

I hope and pray that in these Chambers we can live up to the responsibility of holding true to the values of America and holding true to our responsibilities as a legislative body of this country to create and pass laws to make sure that everybody can continue to have those opportunities for generations to come.

HONORING JUNE SORG

(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, I rise today to recognize Elk County, Pennsylvania, Commissioner June Sorg. June was honored recently with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania's Outstanding Commissioner of the Year Award and with the Special Presidential Award. This award recognizes a commissioner who has contributed to the advancement of county government.

June has a long career of public service, serving for six terms as county commissioner, totaling 24 years. In that time, she has been a leader in Elk County on issues ranging from human services, workforce investment, prison issues, infrastructure improvement, recycling, and environmental issues.

Specific accomplishments during June's tenure include consolidation of county offices to a centralized location, improvements to the county's jail, and the construction of Elk County's new emergency management center.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, county commissioners across the country dedicate countless hours toward the improvement of counties and communities that they serve. I know that June's Sorg's work proves this is true in Elk County.

HEROIN TASK FORCE AND STOP ABUSE ACT

(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 thank the new members of the bipartisan task force to combat the heroin epidemic. We introduced our first piece of legislation, the Stop Abuse Act, this month.

Heroin abuse in the United States has reached unprecedented levels, increasing 63 percent over the last decade. This addictive and dangerous drug has torn a path through every community, destroying families and ruining lives.

In my home State of New Hampshire, the number of patients admitted to the State-funded treatment programs reached over 1,500 in 2013, doubling the number from 2004.

Nationwide, in 2014, heroin abuse was responsible for nearly 8,200 deaths. In just 10 years, the number of addicts has doubled to over 500,000.

To address this health crisis, we must expand coordination between local, State, and Federal governments, law enforcement agencies, and medical professionals. We must assemble the best ideas from experts around the country, which is why Congresswoman ANN KUSTER and I formed the bipartisan task force. We are doing everything possible to raise awareness, increase education, and hear from families and individuals affected by the spread of heroin.

I urge my colleagues to join our effort so we can stop this epidemic.

MINNESOTA LYNX BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, allow me to congratulate the Minnesota Lynx Basketball Team. This wonderful basketball team has won three titles in 5

years. This is the great sports story of our time.

I would like to just let the Minnesota Lynx, their coach, and all their fans know that we are incredibly proud of them. We celebrated, and we had a victory parade.

We had all those things happen, but the truth is that this is women's basketball. It is high quality, and it is excellent. It shows girls that women are excellent athletes, and it shows boys the same thing. This is great for our whole country and great for our community in Minnesota.

We are proud of the Minnesota Lynx.

Do you know what? I want to know if they can win another one next year. I wouldn't put it past them.

Go Minnesota Lynx.

FEDERAL DEFICIT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Treasury Department confirmed what we already knew: we have cut the Federal deficit to the lowest level since this President took office. At \$439 billion, the deficit is about 10 percent lower than in 2014 and is less than one third of what it was in 2009.

Yet, earlier this week, the administration was quick to boast about announcing the deficit being down that low when we asked in the past, "What is the plan, Mr. President, for balancing the budget ever?" Not telling me how to do it, but when. We haven't gotten any answer.

This has been the result of discipline started by House Republicans with the Budget Control Act and other measures to keep spending in line so that we will have a chance some day to have a truly balanced budget.

If we had the economy responding and things to help spur the economy, we could reach that goal even faster, perhaps even by 2019. With the right discipline, we could balance the budget. Then no longer will we have to have a debate about whether we should be extending the debt limit, which I think is appalling for all of us here, especially for the next generation who are going to have to pay the price on that.

So this is indeed good news. We want to get that budget deficit number to zero as soon as we can and maintain the business of this country.

CONGRATULATING BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND RICE UNIVERSITY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am very excited today to congratulate the researchers from the Baylor College of Medicine and Rice University in my hometown of Houston.

On Monday, they announced an important discovery about the structure