

a winning football coach, not even because he didn't have good service—because everyone agreed he had exemplary service for the last 8 years—but the reason was simply because he dared to offer a personal, private prayer at the conclusion of a football game thanking God for protecting his players and the players on the other football team.

Now, the Bremerton School District is very noble because they say Coach Kennedy can exercise his faith even while on duty as long as no one else can see it.

Mr. Speaker, as the Bremerton School District cites cases, they do like so many anti-faith groups do. They cite the cases, but it is just that those cases don't apply to the facts in this particular situation at all.

This coach is not asking to pray with students at a mandatory pregame meeting. He is asking for his freedom to quietly and personally offer prayer and thanks for his team and the safety of his players after the game is over and the players are heading to greet their families and friends in the stands.

As a Member of Congress, my faith is not some kind of coat that I take off when I walk into the Capitol Building to perform my legislative duties. And as a coach, Coach Kennedy's faith is not something he sheds when he walks onto the field.

The Constitution doesn't require you to be sequestered to a private room out of sight and earshot to offer a prayer. It protects the right of an individual to visibly express his or her faith, just like it protects the right of a Muslim teacher to wear her head scarf or a Jewish teacher to wear his yarmulke.

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, that is why I rise today, because I hope all across this country Americans will stand with Coach Kennedy, as we do today, and, in so doing, send a message to the Bremerton School District in the State of Washington that when they trample on even one young football coach's religious liberties and religious freedom, they trample on the religious freedom and the religious liberty of all of us.

#### HONORING JOHN CUSHING ESTY, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and reflect on the life of a great man, John Cushing Esty, Jr., an education leader, a reformer, a man of intellect, wit, and joy, a devoted family man, and my beloved father-in-law of 31 years.

John Cushing Esty was the oldest of four boys. He was a ham radio operator and built radios. He learned languages, was a gifted student, a lover of education and words, and he lived a life devoted to excellence in education. He was committed to educational oppor-

tunity, although he attended some of the most elite private schools in the country. But as a leader of those schools, he pushed them into the modern era.

In the Air Force, during the Korean War era, he taught flight nurses—hundreds at a time—not, as he said, exactly tough duty.

As a young dean at Amherst College, I learned about his commitment to equal opportunity for all students from none other than my physician in the 1990s, a man named Marshall Holley, an African American scholarship student in the 1950s, one of three students in his class at Amherst College. He got in trouble for having told off a professor, a professor who he believed to be racist. He risked losing his scholarship when he received a failing grade.

He was sent to see my father-in-law. My father-in-law, as a young dean, said: You know, Marshall, you weren't wrong to tell him off. He was wrong to treat you that way, but you were unwise to tell him off before you got your final grade. I will fix your grade, but you have to be wiser in the future.

As headmaster of the Taft School in my district, Watertown, Connecticut, in the 1960s—a tumultuous time—John Esty led as an education leader, but he also led in the cause of what at the time was quaintly called coeducation. Much over the objection of many alumni, some of the present students and faculty, he pushed for coeducation, and successfully so. He did it because he knew that educational opportunity and excellence could only happen when opportunities were provided for young women as well as young men.

As a trustee of Amherst College, his alma mater, he successfully fought for that institution to become coeducational over the objection of, among others, his own father.

As a reformer, as the head of the National Association of Independent Schools, he helped create a program called A Better Chance. That took his commitment to equal opportunity for young men and women of disadvantaged backgrounds to lead to a national effort in scholarship programs around this country.

One of those examples of A Better Chance scholar is Governor Deval Patrick of Massachusetts, who credits his time as A Better Chance scholar at Milton Academy having transformed his life from the south side of Chicago to become one of this country's leaders. Similar scholarships also were adopted in other schools around the country, including one Punahou School in Hawaii, whose scholarship student Barack Obama graduated in 1979.

My father-in-law devoted his life to excellence in education, but he lived the life as well. Not only did he care about excellent education in private schools, but he fought for it in public schools. He served on the elected board of education in his town of Concord, Massachusetts, and all four of his sons went to public schools.

He was a man of merriment and wit and joy. He loved learning. We first met in 1978 and bonded over an argument over the correct pronunciation of a word. In classic John Esty style, he went to the dictionary that was in the dining room, and we looked up the word. I happened to be right. I don't remember the word. He doesn't, either. But I pronounced it correctly, and he knew that we had bonded for life.

He loved children, especially his grandchildren. He told them amazing stories often, getting them so worked up they wouldn't go to bed, but they loved his story, especially Jimmy Bond, the young James Bond stories, which would have them in delights.

John, you will be loved and missed by Katherine Esty, your wife of 60 years, and all four of your sons: my husband, Dan; my brother-in-law, Paul, and his wife, Vanda; my brother-in-law, Ben, and his wife, Raquel; my brother-in-law, Jed, and his wife, Andrea; the many grandchildren: Sarah, Thomas, Jonathan, Marc, Julie, Victor, Jonah, Maya, Aliya, and Asher.

You shared your love of life, of music, of stories, of education, and of making a difference with all of us. You lived a full 87 years, a committed servant of this great country, a believer in educational opportunity, and a gift for joy. You will be greatly missed. Thank you, and Godspeed, John Esty.

#### PEACE OFFICERS ARE A CUT ABOVE THE REST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently a Hollywood filmmaker joined protesters and marched in an antipolice rally in New York City.

He referred to peace officers as murderers. His hateful rhetoric called for violence against law enforcement, saying: "I have to call a murderer a murderer, and I have to call a murder a murder," adding that he is on the side of the ones who confront and are confronted by police. His comments encourage mischief and crimes against peace officers.

For the haters to justify lawlessness in response to perceived lawless acts by the police is idiotic. Bad cops, like bad citizens, should face a judge in a court of law. However, communities cannot be burned, looted, or destroyed by cop haters because some police officer allegedly committed a crime. Nor can crimes against police be encouraged, tolerated, or justified because some other officer is accused of doing something improper. Otherwise, there is mob rule.

The filmmaker, whose occupation is dedicated to the fake, the false, and to fiction, made comments 1 week after New York City lost one of its finest. Officer Randolph Holder was gunned down—really, he was assassinated by a ruthless outlaw—and he was recently buried. The filmmaker's self-righteous

indignation toward law enforcement only fuels the fire and the war on police. It promotes anarchy, chaos, and lawlessness.

The war on police has resulted in the death of 31 police officers killed in the line of duty this year, 31 officers who gave their life and their blood to protect and serve the rest of us. Cop haters ought to be ashamed.

The New York police union has called for a boycott of the Hollywood filmmaker's films which, interestingly enough, are riddled with extreme violence, racist remarks, and more hate toward police.

It is ironic, Mr. Speaker, that society expects police officers to protect them, but they will be the first to criticize officers for doing their job.

Officers defend the thin blue line between law and the lawless. Their job is dangerous. Every day peace officers run toward chaos that everyone else is running away from.

Mr. Speaker, in my past life I was a criminal court judge and a prosecutor in Houston, Texas. For 30 years I met peace officers from all over the country. Some of those officers I met were later killed. I know peace officers from New York City, and after we get through the communication barrier—as Churchill said, we are separated by a common language—I have found them generally to be remarkable people who do society's dirty work.

Those peace officers in New York are constantly on the job, rooting out the evil in New York City, while protecting and serving New Yorkers. They go into the dark dens where crime dwells and arrest those who would do harm to others. They have a thankless job that most people in America would never do.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't Hollywood. This is real life, where situations can turn violent in an instant. There is no fake blood, makeup, or actors. These lives are real.

Antipolice comments, like these from Hollywood, should be looked at for really what they are. It is a commercial by the Hollywood film crowd to make money off of films that preach hate and violence by pandering to police haters.

Mr. Speaker, peace officers wear the badge or shield or star over their heart. It is symbolic by where it is placed. As a protector from the evils that are committed in our society by protecting the rest of us, they stand between us and those who would do us harm.

When I was a kid back in Texas, my dad and I went to a parade in a small town called Temple. As the parade was going by, my dad noticed that I was looking at a person who was standing on the corner. He wasn't in the parade. He was just watching what was taking place. It was a local Temple police officer. Back in those days they didn't really have uniforms. They wore a white shirt, a star, and a cowboy hat, and jeans.

My dad commented at that time, he said: "If you are ever in trouble, if you

ever need help, go to the man or woman who wears the badge because they are a cut above the rest of us."

That statement was true then, and it is still true today. Mr. Speaker, peace officers are a cut above the rest of us.

And that is just the way it is.

#### WE MUST SERVE OUR VETERANS AS THEY HAVE SERVED US

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all the men and women who have courageously served this country and who continue to sacrifice in order to preserve the values and the freedoms of our great Nation.

In 1919, President Wilson spoke the following words as he commemorated Armistice Day, better known to us all as Veterans Day, for the very first time:

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory."

Now, of course, that was 1919, and it was a day when Americans reflected on the lives which were lost during World War I, "the war to end all wars." However, then came World War II and America's engagement in Korea. Congress voted to redesignate November 11 as Veterans Day in honor of all our veterans from all our wars.

Today, of course, there are over 1.4 million men and women in Active Duty, many of whom have completed multiple deployments in areas of the world where there is mass chaos, which is foreign to many of our young servicemembers. Unfortunately, these servicemembers bring this chaos home, both physically and mentally.

Here are some staggering numbers from a recent report by the University of Southern California:

Over two-thirds of today's veterans report difficulties adjusting to civilian life.

Nearly 8 in 10 servicemembers leave the military without a job lined up.

In the area I represent, in Orange County, nearly a quarter of the veterans with jobs are earning at or below the poverty level.

These numbers, quite frankly, are very unacceptable.

In 2014, an estimate of almost 50,000 veterans were living in shelters, on the streets, or in other places not meant for human population. This is 11 percent of the adult homeless population. According to a number of studies, both male and female veterans are more likely to be homeless than their non-veteran counterparts.

How does that make sense? These men and women are brave. They are skilled. They are critical thinkers. They are dedicated. They are loyal. They love their country.

So what has gone wrong? We must not only commit to figuring out how we are failing these young men and women, but once we do, we have to be held responsible for providing the necessary resources to help them succeed outside of the military.

I understand this is a significant commitment at a time of tight budgets and the changing nature of war, and that there is no one-size-fits-all solution. In California, for example, there are 1.8 million veterans. We make up 8 percent of the total U.S. veteran population.

According to the State of California, California anticipates receiving an additional 30,000 discharged members of the armed services each year for the next several years. We have to be ready. We have to be ready for those 30,000 veterans coming along and also with the 1.8 million who already exist in California.

As these members have served their country, so must we serve them. According to the Veterans Administration, there are 22 suicides a day of our veterans.

□ 1030

We must once again look at the causes of that staggering number. We have identified post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury as main triggers for suicide, et cetera, but we have got to do better.

Twenty percent of new recruits will also be women. Fifteen percent of the 14 million Active Duty forces are currently women. And over 280,000 women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have to do different things for women veterans because it is not the same as the needs of male veterans.

As we all know, the VA must be looked at and we must make appropriate changes to deal with the backlog, expedite disability claims, and to ensure that all veterans receive medical assistance in a timely manner.

Lastly, we must protect what we fought hard to achieved for them: education when they return back. We must ensure that military educational benefits do not go to waste.

Next Wednesday, once again, we celebrate Veterans Day, and I urge my colleagues to work with me to ensure that we can be proud in the services and the help that we give our veterans, just as they have been proud to serve all of us.

God bless.

#### IRAN SINCE THE DEAL—CONGRESS MUST STAY ENGAGED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, just a little over 100 days ago, the Obama administration completed an agreement with Iran on their nuclear program. I strongly opposed the joint plan of action throughout its consideration in Congress. And indeed, Congress never approved the deal.