

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mrs. Nell Mahoney for her years of columns in the Chattanooga Times Free Press, my hometown paper.

Nell has written for the paper for 38 years. Her column has covered a wide array of topics but was largely focused on faith and spirituality. Her words touched many in the community, including my wife, Brenda, who eagerly awaited her column every Sunday.

Nell moved to Chattanooga with her late husband, Reverend Ralph Mahoney, in 1965 and immediately ingrained herself not only in First Centenary United Methodist Church, but the entire town.

While her column may be finished, her community involvement is certainly not. Mrs. Mahoney plans to continue teaching at the church, speaking around the community, and is considering writing a book. She has already written and published 13.

Nell, thank you for giving so much of your time and for touching so many people throughout our community.

I will close with a line from her favorite song, a classic from "The Sound of Music": So long, farewell.

And thank you, Nell.

AREAWIDE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2015

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, in my home State of Hawaii, invasive species like the coffee berry borer, fruit flies, macadamia nut felted coccid, and others, have cost our local farmers and agriculture industry millions in lost revenue. Across the country, these pests, along with other invasive insects, diseases, and weeds, cause serious and harmful damage to our farmlands, agriculture production, food supply, environment, and public health.

I have introduced the Areawide Integrated Pest Management Act of 2015 to continue supporting long-term and sustainable solutions to fighting these noxious and invasive species.

In Hawaii, AIPMs have helped increase the number of commercial farms and have helped local farmers increase their crop diversity, decrease the use of harmful pesticides, and manage the pests in a sustainable and cost-effective way.

This legislation will help farmers, ranchers, and land managers all across the country reduce the impact of these harmful invasive species.

STANDING WITH COACH JOE KENNEDY

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with Washington State High School football coach Joe Kennedy.

For 7 years, Coach Kennedy has prayed midfield at the conclusion of his team's games. He didn't require anybody else to be there or listen. He simply knelt and quietly prayed to thank God for the safety of the kids on his team.

Last month, the school district ordered him to stop. When he didn't, Coach Kennedy was placed on administrative leave. Can you believe the school district is trying to argue that you can pray, just as long as nobody sees it? But that is not what the Constitution says. It protects the free exercise of religion. It doesn't say the public square should be a faith-free zone.

Faith must impact life. Mr. Speaker, I hope people of every faith background and no faith at all will stand together in defense of every American's constitutional right to religious freedom.

We stand with you, Coach Kennedy.

INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, for the sake of my constituents and the many communities with crumbling roads and bridges around this Nation, I am happy that we finally have a bipartisan transportation bill to work with.

For the record, I still believe that we need a full, 6-year plan.

Today, I have an amendment that will modify section 3021 of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act. My amendment will examine the ability of seniors and people with disabilities to access public transportation and require the council to report to Congress on their findings with recommendations.

One-half of Americans 65 and older do not have access to public transportation. Those in rural areas and small towns are particularly affected because transportation options are limited. Seniors continue to drive as long as possible because they are unaware or do not believe they have alternative means of transportation. Seniors limit their driving or stop driving altogether because of functional disabilities.

I urge my colleagues to support the Lawrence amendment when it comes to the floor. Seniors and people with disabilities need to maintain their independence.

NATIONAL ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, November is a special time to remember that love makes a family.

During National Adoption Awareness Month, people and organizations from across the Nation come together to bring awareness to a cause that has become very important to my family.

Two years ago, our family grew from five to seven when we adopted our twin girls, Ivy and Lynette. These girls have been such a blessing to our family and have inspired my wife, Christie, and me to get involved with organizations that spread awareness about the importance of adoption. There are no unwanted kids, just unfound families.

Although this month is dedicated to adoption awareness, we need to talk every day about the kids of all ages who need a permanent, loving home. Let's commit to creating a brighter future for our Nation by ensuring every child has a safe home and a loving family. I believe this is an effort we can all support.

PROTECTING VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, with Veterans Day 1 week from today, I rise to call attention to an issue affecting military families across the country.

In 2006, Congress enacted the Military Lending Act to protect servicemembers from predatory lenders, but those same protections are not in place for veterans and their families. As a result, veterans often fall victim to payday lenders who offer unaffordable loans, forcing them even deeper into debt.

In 2013, California payday lenders generated three-quarters of their revenue from borrowers who took out seven or more loans. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau should use its authority to crack down on the worst abuses in the payday loan market.

Veterans and their families have made tremendous sacrifices to keep us safe. The least we can do is protect them from unethical lenders who deliberately trap them in a cycle of debt.

JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act, which permanently reauthorizes the World Trade Center Health Program and the Victim Compensation Fund.

After the attacks against America on September 11, 2001, selfless heroes rushed toward the death and destruction. Many will pay for their heroism for the rest of their lives. Many have already paid with their lives. More than 33,000 Americans have documented illnesses directly related to their work at Ground Zero.

Since 9/11, more than 200 firefighters and police officers have already passed