

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

away. In my district, more than 6,700 heroes will rely on the Zadroga Act for medical care not for the next 5 years, as is being proposed, but for the rest of their lives.

Time doesn't erase our moral imperative to cover their medical expenses. It is an extension of the costs of the attack. America's heroes deserve a permanent reauthorization of the Zadroga Act, and nothing less.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this House permanently reauthorize this program, which is essential to our deserving heroes.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, it has been 34 days since the murder of nine men and women at Umpqua Community College in Oregon. It has been 140 days since the murder of nine parishioners at Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina. It has been 1,055 days since the murder of 20 children and 6 adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

In the time since then, Congress has done nothing to close loopholes in our background check system and make it easier to identify a dangerous individual before they are able to buy a gun.

There are more mass shootings in the United States each year than in any other country, and six of the deadliest shootings in American history have taken place in just the past 8 years.

It shouldn't be this way. It doesn't have to be this way. Congress has the responsibility to stand up to the powerful special interests and say, "No more." There is no reason lawmakers in this body should continue to cower before the National Rifle Association. We are the people's Representatives, and it is time to get to work on commonsense reforms that will save the lives of thousands of Americans and put an end to the epidemic of gun violence in our country.

HONORING SENATOR FRED THOMPSON

(Mrs. BLACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a Tennessee giant: Senator Fred Thompson.

Whether Fred Thompson was speaking on the Senate floor, canvassing the State in his red pickup truck, or entertaining us on the big screen, he always did the Volunteer State proud.

In his lifetime, Fred saw many accomplishments, but he remained the same: a proud product of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, the son of a car salesman, and the first person in his family to earn a college degree.

Fred was a statesman who led with conviction. He was a visionary who helped bring Tennessee from a Democratic stronghold to the conservative success story that it is today. He was a loving husband and father. He was a man of faith, who I know has found ultimate healing today from the cancer that gripped his earthly body.

Tennessee shines brighter because of Fred Thompson's service. We will miss him deeply, but we know that his legacy lives on.

MANATEE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, did you know it is Manatee Awareness Month?

Every November, we celebrate these beautiful, gentle creatures. How lucky we are that Florida is one of the few places in the world where you can see them.

To raise awareness, I would like to recognize the Save the Manatee Club, an international nonprofit which has been working to save endangered manatees since 1981, when it was co-sponsored by Jimmy Buffett and my father, Governor Bob Graham. Their commitment to these unique animals has made great strides in protecting them around the world.

Human activity presents the greatest threat to manatees, but we are also their greatest hope. Only our compassion and action can protect them.

FAR-REACHING ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY MANDATE

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, President Obama issued an executive memorandum that could turn into one of the most far-reaching and devastating environmental regulations in history. This document, which holds the same weight as an executive order, aims to expand a 26-year-old policy that requires agencies to set a no net loss of wetlands to all natural resources. The economic impact of this regulation would be devastating to the West.

Why do I live in Utah? I live there because I love it. I love to rock climb. I love to ski. I love the beauty of the place I live.

All of us want to protect our natural resources, but we can't put human interests at the bottom of the priority pile. This is more than a huge power grab. It is going to devastate the trust that is essential between the President and the American people.

If the President wants more regulations and further protections on natural resources, such a thing must be done in the people's Congress by those who are closest to the people. For that reason, I will use every tool at my disposal in order to ensure that this out-

rageous Presidential decree is not implemented.

□ 1230

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN HOWARD COBLE

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Congressman Howard Coble, who passed away last night.

Howard Coble was the epitome of a public servant. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard, the North Carolina State House, and as the Congressman for North Carolina's Sixth Congressional District for more than 30 years.

Howard Coble dedicated his life to serving, and it was exemplified in the way he ran his office. As a freshman Member of Congress, I looked to him in serving my constituents. He was steadfast, attentive, and always put his constituents first. Some say he offered the best constituent services of any Member.

I will never forget the night Howard Coble welcomed me to Congress the day I was sworn in. He later wished me well on my new journey as a Member.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, his friends, and his former colleagues during this difficult time.

He will be missed but never forgotten. Howard Coble's legacy will remain in the Greensboro community and throughout North Carolina as a man who served selflessly.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND SEMPER FI

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, today, in honor of the 240th birthday of the United States Marine Corps, I would like to offer the official Marine Corps Hymn in tribute to the brave men and women who serve as Marines at home and abroad.

"From the halls of Montezuma
To the Shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title
Of United States Marine.
"Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in every clime and place
Where we could take a gun;
In the snow of far-off Northern lands
And in sunny tropic scenes;
You will find us always on the job—
The United States Marines.
"Here's health to you and to our Corps
Which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we've fought for life
And never lost our nerve;