

wellness programs, preventive care, and regular checkups.

Headquartered in the city of Central Falls, this organization continues to play a critical role today in meeting the needs of Rhode Island's Latino families and ensuring they have an opportunity to get ahead.

I am delighted to congratulate Progreso Latino and the dedicated men and women of this extraordinary organization as they celebrate 39 years of service this Saturday.

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the death toll due to mental illness continues to climb. Yesterday we lost another 118 lives to suicide, and this brings the total lives lost since passage of H.R. 2646 to 7,670.

We lost another 959 lives to mental illness, bringing the total of lives lost to 62,355 since House passage of my bill in July. If nothing is done today, then tomorrow we will lose more. By Monday, another 2,800.

I hope my colleagues in the Senate are moved to action by this continued loss of lives, which is preventable. But if it's popularity, approval ratings, or upcoming elections that our friends are worried about, my friends should know that most Americans believe the country is losing ground in dealing with mental health. In fact, 83 percent of the country thinks so, according to a national mental health survey.

Mr. Speaker, how high does the death toll need to climb before the Senate decides to act? We only have a few legislative days left in September. We can either spend that time reading more obituaries or news clips of tragedies or passage of H.R. 2646. It is absolutely clear that America wants us to act now. The question is: Will the Senate finally act and bring treatment before tragedy?

CALIFORNIA'S WATER CRISIS

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention today to the ongoing water crisis facing California. The drought is not over, nor has Congress addressed the underlying reasons for the disproportional impact on the San Joaquin Valley communities and the conditions that we face.

It has been reported that California could be facing a La Niña condition this upcoming winter. That means that we will have dry conditions and further loss of available water for people, farms, and the environment.

We must pass legislation that will be signed into law which will create a rational, balanced water policy, both in

the short and long term, that benefits California's farm communities and the environment.

I will submit later for the RECORD a thoughtful op-ed piece written by a constituent and friend of mine, Cannon Michael. He is a farmer in the valley. We share a lot of the same frustration over how Congress has failed to pass legislation to solve California's water problems. This op-ed piece describes exactly how the people of the valley feel, and I urge my colleagues to come together to enact legislation that California desperately needs this year.

RECOGNIZING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Jewish Community Services of South Florida, an organization that is committed in lending a hand to those members of our society who need it the most.

Through its many programs, such as mental health counseling, homelessness prevention, and assistance to those with developmental disabilities, JCS is dedicated to bringing aid and smiles and providing the necessary care for those in need.

Since its founding in 1920, this organization has not strayed from its clear goals to improve the quality of life for families in our south Florida community.

The Jewish Community Services of South Florida will be delivering its 10,000th Rosh Hashanah holiday basket to homebound seniors, many living at or below the poverty level.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to recognize this organization's mission, and to JCS I say mazel tov on a job well done.

THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday marks the 15th anniversary of 9/11, a day when we suffered from the savagery of mankind at its worst and witnessed the courage of humanity at its best.

In our collective sorrow, I have never seen this body so united and determined to protect our people, to protect America. We found strength from one another. I am proud of the way my city, my country, and my colleagues responded.

I am grateful for the privilege of working with our first responders, survivors, and families, and my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to pass the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act, so that anyone suffering from the wounds of 9/11 will never have to worry about the

health care and assistance they deserve.

It is in this way we remember and honor those who carry the wounds of that very dark day and who deserve the thanks of a grateful nation. It is in this way that we show we will never forget.

MESQUITE, NEVADA, A PURPLE HEART CITY

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

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, the Purple Heart is our Nation's oldest military decoration. It is a unifying symbol that binds together men and women who have bled for freedom.

When these brave warriors return to our communities, we cannot forget them and their sacrifice. That is why I am proud to recognize my hometown of Mesquite, Nevada, for its decision to become a Purple Heart City.

The decision, which will be formally announced next week, will signal to all veterans throughout southern Nevada and around the country that Mesquite welcomes them and is proud to honor their service. I would like to thank Chapter 711 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart for working with the city of Mesquite to make this day possible.

It is my hope that more communities take this step to honor the sacrifices of these heroes by becoming Purple Heart communities.

I can't wait to see that Purple Heart flag proudly flying over Mesquite.

HONORING MAJOR TRAVIS BRUNELLE

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who spent his entire adult life serving our country, a man who served with great distinction, and a man who truly was an American patriot. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Army Major Travis Brunelle of Tampa, Florida.

Major Brunelle enlisted in the Army in 1991. In 2002, he graduated from Florida State University with a bachelor's degree in information studies and was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the infantry, gaining his commission through ROTC at Florida State. He attended the Infantry Officer's Basic Course, where he served as a platoon leader and would go on to attend the Special Forces Officers Qualification Course. In October 2004, Brunelle earned the coveted Green Beret.

Then-Captain Brunelle served as a detachment commander for Company C, 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group. He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

For his service to our Nation, Brunelle was decorated with two