

of SNAP, including areas to enhance program integrity, streamline delivery of services, improve the customer experience, and ease administrative burdens.

In just 2004, EBT, or electronic benefit transfer, was completed. This is the electronic system that allows a recipient to authorize transfer of their supplemental benefits to a retailer to pay for products. This was a tremendous step forward toward improving the program.

As chairman of the Nutrition Subcommittee, I look forward to continuing to improve the efficiency of SNAP.

□ 1645

DARK DAYS OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, in the wake of the financial crisis, 7.8 million American consumers lost their homes through foreclosure. The failure to have a responsible regulatory environment also resulted in taxpayers paying \$7 trillion to bail out financial institutions through loans and, according to some reports, an additional \$22 trillion through the Federal Government's purchase of assets.

My home State of New Jersey was severely impacted by this crisis and still feeling the effects. So this is personal.

The Financial CHOICE Act is the wrong choice for Americans. This bill guts many of the commonsense protections that are outlined in Dodd-Frank and severely restricts the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau from doing its job.

The "Wrong" CHOICE Act gives Wall Street a hand while ignoring the needs of hardworking Americans. It will allow predatory lending practices to go unchecked and profiteers on Wall Street to skirt consequences.

Wall Street reform and other Democratic policies have given our country the strongest consumer protections in history.

I will continue to stand up for hardworking Americans and reject the "Wrong" CHOICE Act before Republicans pave the way back to the dark days of the financial crisis.

HONORING JOHN DEEDER ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of John Deeder, a valued member of the community in southwest Washington. John spent 48 years in education and announced his retirement earlier this year.

Throughout his life, John has been a coach, counselor, teacher, principal,

superintendent, and more. More recently, he served as superintendent of the Evergreen Public Schools, the fifth largest in Washington State, for 11 years. His career in teaching exhibits how much he values educating students and setting them up to succeed. Those who have worked with John know that he has been dedicated to improving the learning experiences for kids in southwest Washington for just shy of 5 decades.

Under his innovative leadership, an incredible bioscience high school called the Henrietta Lacks Health and Bioscience High School was built. HeLa High School places an emphasis on workforce development in health sciences and biotechnology that is an investment in our future leaders. It took a decade to research, plan, and build this transformational school, but John remained committed to the vision of this school. Though John's formal career has ended, the legacy of his persistent leadership can be seen throughout HeLa High School and its students.

While John has extensive involvement in education, his community engagement also spans well beyond his career as superintendent. He has taken every opportunity to serve, and is a shining example of what makes this expansive and populated region feel like a tight-knit and caring community. He is an inspiration to all in southwest Washington, and I am confident he will continue working to improve education here and beyond.

I congratulate John on his retirement and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CALVARY CHRISTIAN WARRIORS BOYS BASEBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Clearwater, Florida's Calvary Christian High School Warriors boys baseball team on their impressive State championship win. Coach Greg Olsen and the Warriors clinched an 11-1 victory against Pensacola Catholic High School to lead them to the Class 4A title, clinching the school's first State championship and capping off a perfect season of 30 wins and no losses.

Such an achievement takes more than skill and talent. It takes steely determination, unwavering focus, and perhaps, most importantly, the ability to work together. These skills are invaluable both on and off the field. What they have learned as teammates will enable their success not just as athletes, but as good citizens. Our entire community is proud of their outstanding sportsmanship and achievements.

On behalf of Pinellas County, congratulations Warriors.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, or the "Big Red One."

From their heroic start, the 1st Infantry Division has played a vital role in our Nation's history, serving in almost every American war since 1917. Today, the Big Red One has over 5,000 soldiers deployed worldwide, with an additional 10,000 in my district at Fort Riley. They are preparing to deploy in support of ongoing operations.

Since 1917, more than 13,000 soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division have paid the ultimate sacrifice. We honor those who have worn the patch of the Big Red One and those that do so today. I cannot be more proud of our troops at Fort Riley. I am honored to represent them. I thank them all for their service.

CONGRATULATING THE WEST SIDE HIGH SCHOOL TRACK TEAMS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the girls and boys track teams at West Side High School in Newark, New Jersey, for winning gold in their respective 4x400 meter relay heats at the Penn Relays this year.

The oldest and largest track and field competition in the world, the Penn Relays is also one of the most prestigious, drawing nearly 20,000 athletes from across the globe. There is some really tough competition at the Penn Relays, but both West Side teams stood out.

The boys relay team, made up of James Bell, Jarrett Gentle, Jakai Coker, and Shaquan Williams, won their heat in an impressive 3 minutes 28 seconds, more than a second faster than the second place team.

The girls relay team, made up of Aminah Muhammad, Fatima Sannor, Tiyauna Evans, and Jahne Slocum, won their heat in an impressive 4 minutes and 7 seconds, more than 3 seconds faster than the second place finishers.

Madam Speaker, again, I congratulate the West Side High School track team and their coaches, Rickey Meekins and Eddie Greene, for bringing home the gold—a testament to their skill, dedication, and teamwork.

Go, Roughriders.

TROUP COUNTY DRUG TREATMENT COURT

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

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of the

Troup County Drug Court in LaGrange, Georgia. I had the opportunity to speak at their commencement ceremony last week while I was back in the district.

This program holds offenders with substance abuse and mental health disorders accountable through strict supervision and treatment, and allows them to get their lives back on track.

As a dentist, I have had the opportunity to work with those suffering from substance abuse problems through my work with Hope Harbor, a Christian recovery center in my district. I have seen firsthand that, for every addiction, there is a real human being behind the statistic. These men and women have the potential to live long, productive lives serving their families and communities, and programs like this help them do just that.

The success rate of these programs speaks volumes about their value to the community and those that graduate from the program. Seventy-five percent of drug court graduates never reoffend. This is almost 2½ times higher than the 30 percent success rate of those who serve a prison sentence and receive no treatment.

I commend the hard work of the men and women of the Troup County Drug Court.

TWO IMPORTANT ISSUES

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss two issues and to speak on their impact to the American people.

The first one is the Financial CHOICE Act, which we just debated. I oppose it for the very reason that we passed Dodd-Frank. We passed it to respond to the greatest recession in 80 years, which saw a financial crisis that caused working men and women to lose the greatest amount of wealth they have ever lost. Yet, our colleagues here believe that it is important to choose large corporate interests over working men and women.

At the same time, today we heard the testimony of Director Comey under oath. He gave a list of very troublesome acts and words offered by the President of the United States. Shortly thereafter, the President's lawyer, who was not under oath, came forward to deny, disparage, and suggest that Director Comey was not telling the truth.

That is clearly an indication that the Judiciary Committee should begin an inquiry. That is our jurisdictional duty: to begin an inquiry to discern who is telling the truth. The FBI is under our jurisdiction.

It is time for the House to hold hearings now. The truth must be known by the American people.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF PAUL W. PAINTER, JR.

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of the respected Savannah lawyer and gentleman, Paul W. Painter, Jr., who passed away on Saturday, May 27, 2017, at the age of 71.

Mr. Painter comes from a family that has worked tirelessly to serve our country both in the Armed Forces as well as our judiciary system. His father, Paul Painter, Sr., served during World War II, and then created a successful law practice.

Paul Painter, Jr., followed in his father's footsteps, graduating from Georgia Tech, and then serving in the Navy for 4 years. After that, Mr. Painter attended law school at the University of Georgia, beginning a career that would benefit and serve many Savannahians for years to come.

Mr. Painter started his own firm in Savannah, now known as the Ellis, Painter, Ratterree, & Adams Law Firm, with which he practiced for nearly 30 years. By the end of his law career, he was known as one of the best lawyers in the entire State of Georgia and was named to the list of Georgia's Top 10 lawyers in 2014.

The Paul W. Painter, Jr., Civility and Professional Award was also created in his honor to remember his fantastic work and to reward other outstanding lawyers in Georgia.

Mr. Painter was an honorable person who did everything possible to improve our judicial system, and he gained respect from lawyers all over. He will certainly be missed as an asset to our community and the entire legal field.

OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

(Mr. TED LIEU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, as a former prosecutor, I rise to state the obvious: President Trump committed obstruction of justice.

We have direct evidence that the President asked the FBI Director for loyalty. He demanded it. He asked the FBI Director to drop an investigation into Michael Flynn.

The President fired the FBI Director. Then, on national TV, he said he did it because of the Russian probe. Then he told the Russians in the Oval Office that he did it to relieve great pressure because of the FBI investigation. That is classic obstruction of justice.

The Washington Post today has a quote from one of the prosecutors of Watergate. He says: "I helped prosecute Watergate. Comey's statement is sufficient evidence for an obstruction of justice case."

I call on Special Counsel Mueller to investigate the President of the United States for violating the obstruction of justice statute, which is a felony.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CHENEY). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

PUTTING THE AMERICAN DREAM BACK INTO REACH

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, my generation has known two very profound events: war and recession.

To some folks, a decade seems like forever ago, but for most Virginians, most Americans, the events of the financial collapse 10 years ago still haunt their memories today. Financial devastation hit the poor and middle class in this country unlike anything we have witnessed in our lifetimes: businesses shuttered, retirement plans halted, families losing many homes.

In response, Congress passed Dodd-Frank, a bill with more regulations than all other bills passed during the Obama administration.

Dodd-Frank regulations have pushed many community banks out of business. We lose one of them or a credit union every single day. Small-business lending, the driver of jobs in this country, has declined; everyday banking services have been reduced; and homeownership is increasingly out of reach.

The Financial CHOICE Act provides more accountability over unelected bodies, unlocks small-business lending, allows community banks to survive, stops big-bank bailouts with our tax dollars, will increase homeownership, and it imposes the toughest penalties ever for financial fraud. This bill puts the American Dream into reach for millions of Americans.

□ 1700

HECTOR BARAJAS-VARELA

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, veterans shouldn't have to come home in a body bag to be recognized as Americans.

Last weekend, I went, along with some of my colleagues, to Tijuana, Mexico, where we visited veterans who have served this country, who have picked up a weapon to go and fight in war to protect our freedoms. They survived, came home, and some of them were deported.

Do you know that if you go and you fight overseas and you are not a citizen and you die, you get automatic citizenship?

One of those people we saw this weekend is my constituent, Hector Barajas, from Compton. This is a photo of him. He was proudly still wearing his uniform. He was deported to Mexico after serving 5½ years in the U.S. Army, receiving two commendations.

I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 1405, which would allow noncitizen veterans who have been deported to come home and come back to the United States. I hope that he gets to come back, too.