

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize June as LGBT Pride Month, a time in which we celebrate the progress our country has made toward equality and honor the contributions of LGBT Americans to the diverse fabric that is our Nation.

I would like to thank the many organizations in my congressional district, SAVE, Unity Coalition-Coalicion Unida, the National LGBTQ Task Force, just to name a few, and recognize their invaluable work to promote acceptance and fight harassment, bullying, and discrimination wherever it takes place.

This month we also celebrate 2 years of marriage equality. The union of two people in marriage should not be based on gender, but on love, and those legally married couples deserve equal respect and treatment under the law.

Mr. Speaker, this month of celebration is also, sadly, a stark reminder that we have a lot more work to do to end LGBT violence. We also commemorate the 1-year anniversary of the Pulse Nightclub terrorist shooting. As we honor the memories of those we have lost, we must also make a commitment to stand together to disarm hate and demand the equality, dignity, and respect for all individuals at home and abroad.

LGBT PRIDE MONTH

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, after 18 years of a loving partnership, my friends, Tim and Mike, were finally allowed to do what billions of men and women have been doing for many centuries, enter a legal commitment called marriage.

Yesterday, I had the joy of celebrating LGBT Pride Month on the National Mall with Tim and Mike and hundreds of thousands of people of all genders and sexual orientations. We rejoiced our common humanity and the right for each person to be their true self. Miley Cyrus, the festival headliner, said it best: It was a party in the USA.

And, yes, our country has come a long way from the Stonewall riots of June 1969. The thing is, there is more work to be done.

Today, we remember the horrific Orlando Pulse Nightclub shooting 1 year ago. We must keep striving for a world where all people can live away from violence and free to love who they want to love without recrimination.

LITTLE ROCK'S CHI ST. VINCENT INFIRMARY

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Little Rock's CHI St.

Vincent for being named to the 2017 list of 100 Great Hospitals in America by Becker's Hospital Review.

CHI St. Vincent Infirmary's history of excellence in patient care dates back to 1888, when it began as a 10-bed charity hospital and the first hospital in Little Rock.

Over the years, to meet increasing demand for patient care, in addition to expansion for construction, the hospital has made four moves to larger facilities. In 1906, the hospital opened Arkansas' first nursing school, the St. Vincent's Infirmary School of Nursing.

I am proud to have come into this world at St. Vincent, as did our two children.

I would like to thank CHI St. Vincent for continuing its 129-year legacy of leadership in patient care centered on service and quality care in central Arkansas.

AHCA TO REPEAL AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, last month, House Republicans passed the AHCA, which would repeal the Affordable Care Act, and now Republican Senators are working on their own version.

So far, we know the plan they are developing will be a disaster for our economy and for countless Americans who will either pay more for their healthcare or struggle to afford coverage at all. The Senate plan would force working families to pay higher premiums, end Medicaid as we know it, and could make health insurance nearly unaffordable for people with pre-existing conditions and older Americans.

At this point, we don't know more details of the Senate plan because the Republican leadership is attempting to deny the American people a voice in their own healthcare system.

We need a healthcare reform that lowers cost, expands coverage, and strengthens our economy. We need legislation written in the light of day that can survive public debate. We do not need this.

HONORING PENN STATE'S OLDEST ALUMNUS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, Penn State community lost a legend. Mr. Ray Walker passed away Friday at his home. He was 105 and Penn State's oldest living alumnus.

Ray told our local newspaper that he saw the university grow a lot over the years from "just a cow college" to becoming one of the largest universities in the Nation.

Penn State truly shaped Ray Walker's life. Back in 1931, he thought he wanted to be a doctor, but there was a requirement that he needed to take German. After failing twice, he re-evaluated his major and decided to pursue business.

Around that time, his father told him that he would have to leave Penn State because the family money was lost in the bank crash. But Ray went to work: He started selling potatoes and coal to fraternity houses, and by the time he graduated in 1935, he was sending money home to help his family.

He founded Bradford Coal and was the driving force in surface mining all over the world.

Penn State and I will miss Ray Walker. He was a friend. He was a distinguished alumnus and loved by all who knew him.

May he rest in peace.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S MUSLIM BAN

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free are still welcome in America, no thanks to President Trump. Today, for the second time, President Trump lost a ruling on his Muslim ban in the Federal courts of appeal.

The purpose of the President's ban is clear. The then Presidential candidate Trump explicitly called for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States. Just last week, President Trump criticized his revised ban as politically correct and called for a much tougher version.

The President's executive order is a Muslim ban, plain and simple. Any argument to the contrary is undercut by the President's own tweets.

President Trump, by his own words and by his own actions, is abdicating America's moral leadership. The greatness of America is not built on isolation and discrimination. It is built on the rule of law and the ideals of equality and inclusion and on the rich history of immigration.

SUPPORT THE STAPLE ACT

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, brilliant minds from around the world come to the United States to pursue advanced degrees. Unfortunately, for many of these individuals, after we train them, after we educate them, we force them to return to their home countries due to our outdated immigration policy. And then guess what? They compete with us. They compete with the American economy, and this makes no sense.

That is why I am authoring the bipartisan Stopping Trained in America

Ph.D.'s from Leaving the Economy Act, the STAPLE Act, along with my colleague Congressman QUIGLEY.

The STAPLE Act exempts individuals born outside the United States from the limits of employment-based green cards and H-1B visas that are awarded annually if that individual has earned a Ph.D. from an American institution in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering, or math.

Mr. Speaker, by retaining the talent that has benefited from our education system, we can unleash even more economic and innovative opportunity here at home. Not only does the STAPLE Act help promote the American Dream for those from overseas, but it also brings the potential for new invention and ideas that benefit American families and jobs here at home.

REMEMBERING 49 AMERICANS GUNNED DOWN AT THE PULSE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, on June 12, 2016, 49 Americans were gunned down at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. Tonight we remember the beautiful lives lost and all those who suffered injury in this horrific attack.

Sadly, LGBT Americans continue to be the target of horrific hatred and violence here and around the world. Don't let anyone tell you that we have full equality in this country. We don't. There is too much hatred in this country.

Anytime an LGBT American is mocked or treated as less than equal, it is an attack on the values that all of us share as Americans. These expressions of bigotry and intolerance only serve to exacerbate hatred and violence. We cannot let them go unanswered.

Over the last few days, so many have joined in showing their support for the LGBT community and remembering the victims in Orlando. We are strongest when we stand united toward a common purpose of equality for all Americans.

It is my sincere hope that we will build greater understanding toward one another and move closer toward ensuring that every American can live free from discrimination and violence of any kind and in a world where everyone is valued and treated with dignity and respect.

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES EN- TERING THE MILITARY

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to express my gratitude to the young men and women who are answering the call to serve in our military upon graduation from high school this year.

Throughout New York's 22nd Congressional District, countless men and women are serving our country. We are thankful to those who will now join them in the armed services. They have taken upon themselves a duty and a responsibility far greater than themselves.

General MacArthur famously said: "Duty, honor, country: those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, and what you will be."

We as a community and as a country are thankful for their dedication and service. We wish them tremendous success in their service to our great Nation.

I also wish to acknowledge specifically the Conklin Kiwanis Club's "First to Say Thank You" program that was held to honor the men and women of the Southern Tier who are joining the military service. From the 22nd District, there are 35 individuals who are being recognized, and their names will be permanently commemorated in the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I congratulate them and thank them.

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RECOGNIZING BEATRICE AND FRED SORKIN

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to rise today to honor two remarkable constituents and their extraordinary achievement that should stand as a model for us all.

Last month, Beatrice and Fred Sorkin of Lincolnshire, Illinois, celebrated their 77th wedding anniversary—77 years of love, family, and commitment.

Bea and Fred met as teenagers in Brooklyn, New York. Fred was a sheet metal worker by trade and in 1950 started his own business that he ran for over 40 years. Bea worked in a bank. She began selling savings bonds and rose to become a bank teller and eventually assistant vice president.

Their family has been blessed with two children, Rae and Herbert; their spouses, Michael and Gloria; four grandchildren: Jeffrey, Andrew, Alyse, and Sharon; and, now, seven great-grandchildren.

According to the data collected by the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Organization, Bea and Fred are the longest married couple in all of Illinois. Bea and Fred Sorkin's enduring life-long connection is an inspiring example for us all.

On behalf of Illinois' 10th District, it is my privilege to congratulate Bea and Fred on their 77th wedding anniversary. I wish them and their family many more years of health and happiness together.

REPUBLICANS NEED TO PRODUCE A BUDGET SO WE CAN SERVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this House needs to get the job done for the American people and make sure that we operate by regular order. That means we want to pass bills here so that we can operate the Government of the United States, whether it is the Department of Defense, the Small Business Administration, or across the range of departments and agencies. But you can't do that well unless you have a budget.

Now, the Republicans control this House, the Republicans control the Senate, and the Republicans control the White House. They should be able to agree among themselves to pass a budget; and then when, as an appropriator, we pass our 12 appropriation bills, we are given a number and we mark up those 12 bills and we don't go over budget.

But guess what. The Republicans can't produce a budget.

Later this week, we are told the Military-Veterans Affairs appropriation bill will be marked up in committee and money will be put in that bill. The problem with that is, if we put the money in that bill, how do we know that we will be able to have money left over for the other 11 bills to fund seniors' Meals on Wheels or the infrastructure bill that people are talking about?

We have a real problem. The Republicans need to do the job and produce a budget so that we can serve the American people as they expect us to do.

TEXAS WOMEN VETERANS DAY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great jubilation and excitement to recognize and congratulate the Catholic Charities as they celebrate this day, June 12, being an historic day in Texas because it has been named as Texas Women Veterans Day.

The Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston wants to ensure that the Texas legislators who supported this are, in fact, congratulated. And we are grateful that it was signed into law.

Texas has the highest number of women veterans of any State in the country—last year, 183,597—and these heroes and heroes could soon have a special day when the State will annually recognize their sacrifices.

June 12 now has historic significance. On June 12, 1948, the Women's Armed Services Integration Act was passed nationally, allowing women to serve as regular members of the military.

"We are delighted that this special population that has bravely served our Nation will be honored in this important way," says Cynthia N. Colbert,