

Agriculture, J. Robert Miller. Robert passed away last night at the age of 97.

J. Robert Miller was a legend in agriculture, agriculture education, and Kentucky politics. He served as Kentucky's Commissioner of Agriculture from 1957 to 1971 during the Louie Nunn administration. Before that, J. Robert was an agriculture teacher at Tompkinsville High School and always an active, lifelong farmer.

Growing up in 4-H and FFA, my earliest memories include Robert Miller. He was a mainstay at Monroe County area livestock shows and FFA banquets, always helping out and offering advice to present and future farmers.

J. Robert Miller was a great man who had a positive influence on countless Kentuckians.

STOP THE BLOCKADE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I always applaud when the United States steps in and takes a leadership role to prevent war. I have traveled to the Mideast for many years as a Member of the United States Congress representing my constituents.

I want to express my appreciation to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson for the energy that he is putting into engaging Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Jordan, Egypt, and Qatar to be able to stop the blockade and the conflict that may continue to grow against Qatar.

This is a region that many of these countries have been allies of the United States, the Southern Command is in Qatar, and, frankly, I think they need to be united against those terrorists that plague them all.

I would also say that the UAE, as has been reported in the Nation's newspapers, hacked into the emails of Qatar and put words in the mouths of their government officials that were untrue. This is not the way to proceed with peace and diplomacy.

So I believe we should energetically and aggressively engage these countries to stop this blockade and begin to repair the collaborative efforts to ensure that we fight the war on terror together and not against.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Tillerson. I look forward to working with him as a Member of the United States Congress to bring peace to that region.

RECOGNIZING PENN STATE CREAMERY IN HONOR OF NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY

(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, yesterday Americans observed National Ice Cream Day, which is celebrated annually on the third Sunday in July.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan made the designation and also named July National Ice Cream Month.

Our very own Penn State University is a world leader in dairy production and food science. Over the last 150 years, its Berkey Creamery has been an important Penn State landmark.

Penn State has a herd of more than 200 Holsteins that are milked twice daily, which is the start of the university's delicious ice cream. The methods developed by Penn State's food and dairy scientists have made the creamery a world authority on ice cream and dairy manufacturing.

Penn State's legendary short course, which takes participants from "Cow to Cone," has attracted some of the biggest names in ice cream, from Baskin-Robbins to Ben & Jerry's, from Hershey's to Haagen-Dazs.

For 6 days a year, industry professionals head to Happy Valley for the best-known program dealing with science and the technology of ice cream.

Congratulations to Penn State for being the industry leader, and happy National Ice Cream Month.

ENHANCING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor and the privilege of being a United States Congressman, and with that comes tremendous responsibility. We have a country of over 320 million people—men, women, and children. And right now, we may be days away or even a couple of weeks away from watching the United States Senate possibly change healthcare for America like we have never seen before.

I hope and pray that my colleagues in both Houses and the President of the United States try their best to make sure that we enhance healthcare access rather than divert more than 20 million people away from being able to see a doctor.

Just last week I was visited by some young folks and I was given this red band called "Will Power" for a little boy named Will, who has gone through many operations. If these bills see the light of day and the President's desk and gets into law, people like Will just might not be around very much longer.

Mr. Speaker, let's hope and pray that we do the right thing.

CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF THE 2ND MARINE RAIDER BATTALION

(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 express my condolences to the families of the 15 marines and one

Navy corpsman who tragically lost their lives last week.

These servicemembers were among the most elite in our armed services, with six marines and the sailor from the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion located at Camp Lejeune. The other nine were based out of Stewart Air National Guard Base located in Newburgh, New York.

Many of them had been deployed and served in conflicts in the Middle East. These American heroes valiantly served and placed the needs of our Nation first.

As the parent of a marine now deployed in the Middle East, it is with a heavy heart that I offer my condolences to the friends and families of these exceptional Americans. The greatest worry of family and friends is the tragic loss of a loved one who is serving; thus, it is important to honor and remember these brave men and the sacrifices they made to preserve our way of life.

We thank them and remember them for their service and sacrifice. Semper fi.

CELEBRATING VERA POWELL'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Ms. Vera Powell, who lives in Pooler, Georgia.

Ms. Powell was born on July 16, 1927, in Tattnall County, Georgia, about 60 miles due west of Savannah. After graduating from Tattnall County High School, Ms. Powell dedicated her life to her family and raising her three children: Bruce, Linda, and Crystal.

In 1994, Ms. Powell moved from Tattnall County to Pooler, Georgia, and became a member of the First Baptist Church of Pooler. Her love of God and fellowship with others turned into a meaningful role with the church's weekly Sunday school class.

Now she has been an active weekly participant, greatly contributing to the fellowship and scholarship with the class for the past 23 years, and is a staple of the church.

The members of the congregation look forward to seeing Ms. Powell as she greets them at the church doors every Sunday morning.

Ms. Powell's family and friends celebrated her 90th birthday with a reception on July 16, 2017. Please join me in wishing this remarkable woman a very happy birthday.

VOTER SUPPRESSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.