

It celebrates our values enshrined in the United States Constitution and other founding documents from equal protection under the law to limited government, and it commemorates important events like the passage of the United States Constitution in 1787.

Patriot Week begins September 11 by honoring the brave men and women who died in the September 11 attack, and it ends September 17, our Constitution Day, by honoring those who risked everything to create our great Republic.

Mr. Speaker, we must take time to reflect. President Reagan once said: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." We must do our part to preserve what makes this Nation great before it is too late.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Patriot Week resolution.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING SERGEANT STEVE PEREZ

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mourn Sergeant Steve Perez of the Houston Police Department who died on August 29, 2017, in the midst of Hurricane Harvey as he was in the line of duty.

He served in the United States Army, and he joined the Houston Police Department in 1982. He leaves behind his precious and beloved wife, Lupe Cheryl Perez, and a host of police officers and law enforcement across the Nation.

He became a sergeant in 1992. He worked in emergency ops and special ops and juvenile. He worked across the county. When he died, he was coming to work in the midst of the storm, because as the words were said often by his colleagues and heard from his family members, he had work to do.

Today in Houston, he was funeralized. My deepest sympathy is to his family and how dismayed I was not to be able to be present with them, but I want them to understand that we were there in spirit and that we love the first responders who put the people of Harris County and the people of Texas before anyone else. That is what Sergeant Steve Perez did.

Today we say to him farewell and thank him for his good and faithful service. He will never be forgotten for his kindness and service to his community. My prayers are with the family, and I ask now for a moment of silence.

RECOGNIZING FORT HOOD'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize and honor Fort Hood on its 75th anniversary on Monday, September 18, 2017.

Representing Fort Hood—one of the largest military bases in the world—is

the greatest honor I have as the Representative of Texas' 25th Congressional District. Known as The Great Place, it is the gold standard for the U.S. Army. It is composed of some of the bravest and most selfless people we have in this country. Located near Killeen, this 340-square-mile installation is invaluable to the local community.

Home to approximately 140,000 people, this post provides economic relief by fostering over 12,000 civilian jobs. In a time where our country is finally recovering from financial turmoil, job opportunities are essential for the growth of this Nation.

As a true treasure of Texas, this small but powerful area affects the entire State by contributing \$35.4 billion to the Texas economy. Fort Hood is committed to those of us who are lucky enough to call it the Lone Star State, by providing the most employees on a single site in the State of Texas.

When it comes to our Nation's national security, Fort Hood does not shy away. Since 2003, this post deployed and redeployed more than 852,000 soldiers overseas. Fort Hood is made up of some of the finest soldiers I have ever had the opportunity to meet, and I would like to congratulate The Great Place on reaching its diamond anniversary—75 years.

Three-quarters of a century of being a fully operational, active military post is something we can and should be proud of. As I said before, Fort Hood is a special part of the 25th District, and I am humbled to have the opportunity to fight on behalf of these brave men and women each and every day in Washington.

In God we trust.

THE UNSINKABLE TEXAS SPIRIT

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, this last Sunday, I had the opportunity to go to Port Arthur and the El Vista neighborhood. Pictured here is the Channel family flanked by the amazing Jefferson County Sheriff Zena Stephens and County Commissioner Sinegal. You have Tomeka, McKenzie, and their father, Quincy, who are trying to find something to save out of a house that was all but destroyed. Ms. Tomeka showed me these pictures of McKenzie who is now a college student at TSU. His first grade picture and his kindergarten picture were just about all that they could save from their house.

But I will tell you, the Channel family, like Texas, was undefeated and promised me that they were going to build their house back bigger and better than ever. That is the spirit of our State. It is the spirit of the people in southeast Texas in communities like Port Arthur, Orange, Beaumont, Houston, Port Lavaca, Victoria, Rockport, and so many others.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you and the other Members of this body for voting to support our State and other areas hit by recent storms to the tune of \$15 billion. It is going to help us build back bigger and better than ever.

FREEZING OUT DRIVE-BY LAWSUITS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Arctic Circle in Eureka, California, used to be a place where you could get a great burger and a cold milkshake. But not anymore thanks to a lawsuit. A serial plaintiff alleged that their counters were too high and their doors were not quite wide enough. So without a chance to fix the alleged infractions, the drive-by lawsuit shuttered the doors of Arctic Circle.

The Americans with Disabilities Act has made tremendous progress in increasing accessibility. But small businesses across America are being targeted by serial plaintiffs who troll for minor, correctable ADA infractions. If the business had notice, they could cure the problem rather than pay the shakedown by the lawyers.

My bill, the ADA Reform Act, requires businesses to be notified of an alleged violation and be given time to fix the issue before a lawsuit can commence. If businesses fail to correct the infractions, the plaintiff can and should sue.

It is time to stop attorneys from lining their pocketbooks off the backs of disabled Americans and small businesses in our country.

And that is just the way it is.

URBAN AGRICULTURE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my colleagues to please join the Urban Agriculture Production Act of 2017, a bipartisan measure that bolsters local farming and inspires communities to create food production systems that stimulate development and healthy eating.

There are more than 23 million people in food-desert neighborhoods across our country where there are no stores within 1 mile to buy healthy food. Without healthy options, people are relegated to eating unhealthy, processed, junk food because that is all that is available and affordable.

Communities that lack access to fresh, nutritious, affordable foods are also facing growing epidemics of obesity-related diseases such as hypertension, high blood pressure, and diabetes. This bill is a step to correct this unacceptable trend.

Community gardens, greenhouses, farmers' markets, hoop houses, and other local food initiatives tend to be the best outlets to purchase local fresh