

praised LCpl Ose for his service. "Josh was fighting to keep terrorism away from American soil," Rev. Hatcher said. "Some may question the philosophy of war, but do not question this young man's desire to put an end to terrorism. He did not shirk his duty to fight for America."

Lee Caldwell, a family friend, said LCpl Ose set a great example for others to follow. "He was an exemplary young man," Mrs. Caldwell said. "He paid the ultimate sacrifice. We will never forget him and all those who have fought for our country as he did."

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Colonel (Col) John Caldwell was asked by the family to escort LCpl Ose's body from Dover Air Force Base to the First Presbyterian Church of Hernando where a visitation was held. Col Caldwell said LCpl Ose was a true hero. "He epitomized what it was to be a Marine," Col Caldwell said. "He wanted to represent his country and fight. He and Marines like him are true heroes. We need to remember them every day. We need to remember them for paying the ultimate price."

In 2011, the Mississippi State Legislature passed House Concurrent Resolution No. 49. The resolution commended LCpl Ose for his service. It further stated that LCpl Ose is counted among Mississippi and America heroes who committed to our nation's safety and security.

LCpl Ose is survived by his parents, Ross and Sissy Fernandez Ose, grandparents, Earl and Darlene Ose; aunts and uncles, Brenda and John Conrad, Sherry and Scott Fernandez, Dr. Dennis and Dr. Wendy Ose, and Paul and Sarah Ose.

LCpl Ose will always be remembered for his sacrifice to protect America.

125TH ANNIVERSARY ALLEGHENY COUNTY ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, DIVISION 17

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2017*

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Allegheny County Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 17, which is currently celebrating its 125th anniversary as a pillar of Irish-American heritage and charitable service in the Pittsburgh region.

The AOH has its roots in the efforts by the Tudor Kings and Queens of England to impose greater control over the Irish. These efforts affected most aspects of life, from language and religion to law and politics to land ownership—and even clothing. Secret societies formed to protect Irish Catholics from government excesses and extrajudicial violence

Faced with centuries of English oppression, as well as a series of crop failures, many Irish emigrated in search of better opportunities. A great many came to America, but found they were forced to confront the same anti-Catholic prejudice that they had faced back home. In response to this discrimination, Irish Americans began forming fraternal organizations to combat anti-Irish prejudice, support each other, and keep their culture and religion alive. In May 1836, the first and largest of these groups, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, was

founded simultaneously in New York City and Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

Through the rest of the nineteenth century, the AOH grew significantly, opening its first division in Allegheny County in 1859. Allegheny County Division 17 was established in 1892. During this time, in addition to working to preserve Irish culture, AOH members did their best to embody the Hibernian motto of "Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity." The Hibernians taught civics and English classes to help new Irish immigrants become citizens, and they provided much needed social programs to care for the sick and needy in their communities. At the same time, they worked to confront and eradicate harmful anti-Irish stereotypes.

Since then, the AOH's ranks have included notable actors, generals, and even a President of the United States—John F. Kennedy. All the while, the organization has continued its mission to preserve Irish Americans' connection with their ancestral homeland and to care for the needy in their communities. For 125 years, Allegheny County Division 17 has been actively involved in this mission. Division 17 Hibernians donate time and money to three local parishes each Christmas, as well as food banks in Braddock, and a number of other charitable organizations, including Rosaries for the Troops, St. Vincent de Paul, and the Sisters of Charity. They have also endeavored to preserve their Irish heritage and lobbied the Pennsylvania state government to support Irish independence.

Today, the AOH stands as a testament to the tenacity of the Irish people, a celebration of our culture, and a monument to a people who helped build this country. I'm proud to be of Irish ancestry—and to be a member of Allegheny County Division 17 of the AOH. As we commemorate the AOH's legacy of faith and perseverance in the face of adversity, let us also take inspiration from its story and recognize the responsibility each of us shares to help make our nation as welcoming a land as our ancestors dreamed it would be.

I would like to congratulate Allegheny County Division 17 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians on the occasion of their 125th anniversary, I commend them for their service to the community, and I wish them the best in the years to come. Ireland Forever (Erin go Bragh).

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. TRICIA DERGES

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2017*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Tricia Derges of Springfield, Missouri, on her recent winning of two prestigious awards.

Dr. Derges has been a resident of the Springfield area for 40 years and during this time she has contributed to the community in many ways. Dr. Derges has recently won both the National Jefferson Award for Southwest Missouri and the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award. Both of these awards recognize individuals for their public service. The Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award is only awarded to five individuals per year across the United

States. This clearly highlights the significant work Dr. Derges has taken over the years to help her community.

Dr. Derges set up the mission clinic named Lift Up in Springfield. This clinic provides a range of medical, dental and mental health services to veterans and the poor across Springfield. Dr. Derges and her clinic have helped thousands of people in the Springfield area.

I am truly honored to recognize the work by Dr. Derges and her dedication to improving the lives of others. On behalf of Missouri's 7th Congressional District, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Derges on her recent awards and wishing her all the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY RENAMING RESIDENCE HALLS IN HONOR OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of Western Michigan University recognizing a lifetime of work by three leaders who bonded in college and remained friends through life, by naming two residence halls within the Western Heights complex Hall-Archer-Pickard West and East. These dormitories are being renamed in celebration of three legendary Western Michigan graduates, and their legacy will inspire generations of university students to come.

Ronald Hall Sr., Dennis Archer, and William Pickard attended Western Michigan University in the 1960s and enjoyed membership in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, America's first intercollegiate African-American fraternity. The three men's undergraduate experience at Western Michigan University instilled a desire to give back to the greater Michigan community and invest in meaningful educational and social change throughout the state. Hall, Archer, and Pickard are remembered for the close, meaningful friendship they cultivated at Western Michigan and their passion to make change after graduating.

After graduating from Western Michigan University, the three men remained in Michigan to influence change to the community they love. Ronald Hall Sr. served as president of the Michigan Minority Business Development Council and founded Bridgewater Interiors, LLC. He passed away in May 2016, and is remembered for turning Michigan's Minority Business Development Council into one of the country's lead minority business organizations. Dennis Archer served as Mayor of Detroit from 1994 to 2001, and has served as president of the American Bar Association and on the Michigan Supreme Court. William Pickard is an executive member of the NAACP Detroit Branch, and is the founder of the Michigan-based Global Automotive Alliance. Their post-graduate work has impacted countless lives and opened doors wider for students of color, and their friendship is a testament to the meaningful bonds forged during college.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Western Michigan University and

their three distinguished alumni, Ronald Hall Sr., Dennis Archer, and William Pickard. Their influence and community engagement will make a difference for decades to come.

URGING CONGRESS TO ADDRESS  
EPIDEMIC OF VETERAN SUICIDE

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2017*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I work to ensure that our service members receive all the resources they need when they volunteer to defend the United States. But it is important that Congress not only provides them with support during their service, but in the years after they faithfully executed their duties as a member of the Armed Services. That is why I rise today to address the epidemic of veteran suicide in our country.

September is recognized as “National Suicide Awareness Month” and currently our veterans are suffering from a substantially higher rate of suicide than the general population. According to a 2014 report by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), 20 veterans take their lives every day, a rate that is 150 percent greater than the general population. Although the VA has dedicated a significant amount of effort and resources to address veteran suicide, the fact remains that of the 20 average veteran suicides that occur on a daily basis, 14 were not utilizing VA services. As the 2016 VA report “Suicide Among Veterans and Other Americans” explains, up to 22 percent of Post-9/11 veterans have depression disorders, and up to 43 percent of all struggle with symptoms of mental health issues, such as drinking excessively, smoking, and/or sleeplessness. In addition, female veterans and those living in rural areas face a higher risk of suicide and we must address the barriers to care for these populations.

It is clear that we must extend more resources to help our veterans and prevent the unnecessary loss of life. The VA’s 2016 study and upgrading crisis hotlines are steps in the right direction, fully addressing veteran suicide remains a complex issue that will require a multi-faceted approach. But their suffering does not have to continue and we must reverse the trend of veteran suicide.

Raising awareness about the issue begins in Congress, but every day citizens can also join in the effort year-round. Moreover, the effort to raise awareness about veteran suicide will have benefits across our society as a whole, contributing to the de-stigmatization of mental health issues. It is no secret that the stigma surrounding mental health prevents many veterans from obtaining care for these issues, forcing our country’s heroes and heroines to suffer in silence. De-stigmatizing mental health care is critical to open up dialogue about a pervasive issue and provides opportunities for treatment and prevention of suicide. In addition, Congress must provide the VA with additional resources so that they better serve the female and rural veteran population with child care services and extensions of specialized care to remote, rural areas. We must continue to support innovation within the VA so that the agency will be more willing to em-

brace new approaches to treatment, such as canine service animals, art and outdoor therapies.

It goes without saying that we owe our veterans a tremendous debt for their service to our nation in defense of the freedoms we all enjoy. In return, we must care for them as a demonstration of our nation’s core values. Raising awareness of the suicide epidemic and de-stigmatizing care throughout society, in addition to embracing innovative modes of therapy and furthering the VA’s outreach will go a long way to honoring the service of veterans’ to our nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring that we address the veteran suicide epidemic immediately.

HONORING HOMETOWN  
NEWSPAPERS

**HON. KRISTI L. NOEM**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2017*

Ms. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Newspaper Week, I rise today to recognize the 126 individual news organizations of South Dakota.

Living in the information age, data is constantly at our fingertips. It is the local newspaper, though, that tells the story of everyday America and documents community history in a way that will forever be available to future generations. The local news reminds us that the world is made of neighborhoods and shared experiences, that love of country still exists, and that diversity of opinion truly makes our country great.

Freedom of speech and freedom of the press must ever be protected, for it is only through a free system that democracy can thrive. As Thomas Jefferson said, “our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking local journalists, particularly those serving South Dakota, for giving a voice to the individual and cultivating the road to free speech for all.

WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY  
ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 25, 2017*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this critical bill that will help ensure that women have a meaningful role in peace and security around the world. From Syria to Myanmar to South Sudan, violent conflicts are becoming more widespread and deadly. Women in conflict zones suffer tremendously, and women and girls make up around half of any refugee population, where they are at risk of unspeakable violence.

But women are not only victims. They also help moderate violent extremism and are key to post-conflict society building. Yet so few are present at the tables of power. In peace processes between 1992 and 2011, women made up only 9 percent of negotiators. When

women have a seat at the table, the prospect that peace negotiations will succeed rise significantly, as does the likelihood that women’s rights and interests will be addressed. A recent study from the International Peace Institute found that a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last for at least 15 years if women participate in its drafting.

This legislation would require a government-wide strategy to promote women’s participation, and institutes training for State Department, USAID, and Pentagon personnel to facilitate women’s engagement in conflict prevention and resolution.

I’d like to commend the progress made under President Obama on this issue, which includes issuing the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. In the last five years alone, the percentage of peace agreements referencing gender equality has increased from 22 to 70 percent.

We have an opportunity to make our voice heard on the issue of women in conflict. The UN Security Council will convene next month to hold its open debate on Women, Peace and Security. The United States should highlight its commitment to ensuring women’s equal participation in peacemaking, and protecting their physical and economic security. That begins with sending a high-level delegation.

I urge adoption of the bill.

INDIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY  
FIGHTS HURRICANE HARVEY

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2017*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, since Hurricane Harvey hit our area last month, stories of Harvey Heroes continue to bring our community together and make us grateful for the incredible people that we call neighbors. There are many uplifting stories of those who grabbed their personal boats and set out in the waters to rescue individuals, many of whom they did not know. Our first responders answered the call time and time again. And so did so many people whose names we may never know. For all of them, we thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

So many people have opened their homes, their hearts, and their wallets to help Houston recover. One such community was the Indian-American community right in the greater Houston area. They have already raised over \$1.6 million dollars. 700 Indian-American volunteers have dedicated more than 24,000 hours to their city, and together, they have distributed over 28,000 meals to our neighbors in need.

One specific story I would like to highlight is that of a group of Indian-Americans, led by Houstonian, Jiten Agrawal, made their way through the unparalleled flooding after the Hurricane to reach a student apartment complex near my alma mater, the University of Houston, that had been flooded and was without power. The president of the Indian graduate students’ organization, Ravi Shankar, reached out to the community to help, and help is what they gave. These volunteer rescuers brought food and water to over 180 students and helped transport them back to their families or a safe location.

We are grateful to these volunteers, some of the many Harvey Heroes, for helping