

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a world-class athlete and Olympian from the 22nd Congressional District, Erin Hamlin.

Four-time Olympian and two-time world champion luger, Erin Hamlin carried the Team USA flag during the 2018 Winter Olympic opening ceremony in Pyeongchang, South Korea, last Friday. Following a vote from her fellow athletes, Erin was selected from eight other athletes to enter her last Olympic Games as the flagbearer.

Erin made history in 2014 as the first U.S. athlete to win a singles luge medal after taking home the Olympic Bronze Medal at the Sochi Games. She made history again as the fourth luger to serve as the United States flagbearer and the first since 2010.

During Friday's Parade of Nations, Erin led 244 athletes, the largest team ever from the United States. Yesterday, she competed in the last race of her outstanding career.

Erin will be remembered as someone who shattered barriers for both men and women in the sport of luge. Please join me in congratulating Oneida County's and Remsen, New York's own rock star, Erin Hamlin, on these incredible achievements.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHICAGO POLICE COMMANDER PAUL BAUER

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of Chicago Police Commander Paul Bauer, who was shot and killed in the line of duty yesterday. This is a terrible tragedy for the Chicago Police Department, our city, and, most of all, Paul's wife and young daughter.

Paul Bauer graduated 2 years ahead of me at Saint Ignatius and joined the police department soon after, when he was just 21 years old. He rose through the ranks over 32 years to lead the mounted horse unit and, later, became commander of the Near North District.

A member of Nativity Parish in Bridgeport, Paul is being remembered as a loving father and husband, someone who knew the value of community policing and giving back, and for leading efforts to raise funds for the Chicago Police Memorial Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the passing of Commander Paul Bauer. Please pray for him, his family, and for our city.

Please remember to take a moment to thank the police and other first responders that you encounter every day. We owe them so much.

PROTECTING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Health and

Human Services' new Conscience and Religious Freedom Division within the Office of Civil Rights.

Recently, they announced a proposed rule to protect workers in HHS-funded programs from being coerced into practicing activities that violate their conscience, including abortion, sterilization, assisted suicide, and more.

Under the previous administration, doctors and nurses were not protected from being forced to participate in procedures that may violate their religious beliefs or moral convictions. This is clearly wrong. Those who are discriminated against for their religious beliefs should be afforded the same protections as those facing any other types of discrimination.

OCR has now opened a 60-day public comment period on the rule. I encourage everyone across the country to participate in that comment period.

I thank the Division once again for taking this important action to protect religious liberty in our healthcare system.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AUSTIN DAVIS

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Austin Davis, who visited Las Vegas to attend the Route 91 concert on October 1.

Austin was an only child who was very close to his parents. He lived in Riverside, California, and worked as a pipefitter. During his free time, Austin loved to play softball. All of those who knew him remember Austin for his contagious smile and hardworking nature.

I extend my condolences to Austin Davis' family and his friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

□ 1730

HONORING SAM JOHNSON

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our colleague and my fellow Texan, SAM JOHNSON. This week marks 45 years since he returned to freedom after enduring nearly 7 years as a prisoner of war in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Each February, we are reminded of the heroism, perseverance, and leadership that SAM JOHNSON displayed during his time as a prisoner of war. We are also reminded of the persistence of SAM's family and their joy and the joy of our north Texas community and the American people when SAM returned home to Texas in 1973.

SAM JOHNSON has served our country selflessly—first through his distin-

guished Air Force career, and then here in the House of Representatives. Since he was elected to the House in 1991, he has been an advocate for our Armed Forces, our veterans, and American freedom.

Mr. Speaker, 15 years ago, I gave my first floor speech, marking 30 years since Mr. JOHNSON returned home. Today it is a distinct privilege to honor my friend and mentor on his 45th "returniversary."

SAM JOHNSON, welcome home.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN WILLIAM JOHN TOMKA

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor World War II veteran William John Tomka, with whom I had the recent pleasure of joining to celebrate his 100th birthday on January 27, 2018.

Born in Dover, New Jersey, to immigrant parents, William spent his formative years in New Jersey developing a love of music. This resulted in him becoming a music teacher until he was drafted into the United States Army on July 11, 1941.

He left a successful job teaching in New Jersey to defend our great Nation. After completing his radio operations training at Fort Dix and Fort Bragg, he was deployed to Iceland as part of the 50th Signal Battalion in which he served as a technical sergeant leading a group of eight men who were also trained radio operators.

His team was responsible for code, receiving and transmitting from the field, as well as in command vehicles. This group was part of the first American Army personnel to be sent in the European Theater of Operations.

After 22 months in Iceland, he was sent to England to be a part of the invasion force of France on D-day. He was dropped onto Utah Beach on June 6, 1944, and bravely fought through the entire campaign of Europe, including the American bombardment of the German forces at Saint-Lo. He and his fellow soldiers later proceeded to serve at the Battle of the Bulge.

When recounting his most memorable times in the Army, Mr. Tomka will tell you about his time in Europe after D-day. He told me about his time in France, where he witnessed American fighter pilots bomb the German forces, and of his time served in joint force with the Russians at the river of Elbe.

Mr. Tomka was discharged after 3½ years of foreign duty on June 22, 1945. After his years of service, Mr. Tomka went back to his passion of teaching music. He started an instrumental music program in the Ridgefield school system of New Jersey. During his years of music education, Mr. Tomka obtained his master's degree from NYU in supervision and administration.

While he was at NYU, he also played violin in the orchestra. Even at 100 years old, his talents are still impressive. At his recent birthday celebration, Mr. Tomka expertly played the clarinet, violin, piano, and sang for all of his family and friends.

I salute Mr. William John Tomka on his years of faithful service to our country and to the public school system. He exemplified qualities of a true American hero. I, on behalf of a grateful nation, admire his service and sacrifice.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAVID A. STEIN
JEWISH COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the hard-working men and women of the David A. Stein Jewish Community Alliance on the celebration of their 30th anniversary of enriching the lives of those with a variety of needs.

The JCA is a pillar in our Jacksonville community. The Jewish Community Alliance is a nonprofit community center affiliated with the Jacksonville Jewish Federation, the United Way of Northeast Florida, and the Jewish Community Centers of North America. Its focus is to enhance the quality of life for families and individuals of all ages, religions, races, financial means, and physical and mental abilities.

To this end, the JCA has impacted tens of thousands of citizens in our community. Situated on the Ed Parker Jewish Community Campus, the JCA welcomes preschool-aged children to get a good start in life and embraces teens and adults to join classes on health, heritage, and a variety of subjects.

The JCA is a spirit of intergenerational sharing of values and ideas. The afterschool and school-closed day programs give peace of mind to working parents, both married and single. Seniors and adults with special needs are offered opportunities to reach their potential with dignity and tradition.

The JCA facility offers swimming, theater, and camp programs, fitness and exercise classes, sports teams, art, and academic classes to all members and welcomes all for membership. The JCA offers an array of creative and innovative classes, programs, and events to inspire and benefit its participants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Members of the House to join me in acknowledging the 30th anniversary of the Jewish Community Alliance and its commitment to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ECONOMIC REGENERATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, you may remember this around the holidays. It was a television commer-

cial that played quite frequently. It may still be on. But it shows a shelter for the poor and homeless around Christmastime, and men and women are entering from the cold wintry streets, and they are gathering under bright lights and sharing good cheer, and they are clearly benefitting from the holiday outpouring of charity and compassion and fellowship.

But then the commercial shifts and the environment changes. It is a dreary downtrodden affair at this point. The new year has begun and the shelter is left darker and less full than its former ambient light, and laughter has dimmed into somber tones. All the while, a man is sitting at the piano in this emptying place singing, "Don't You Forget About Me." The scene concludes with the adage: "The season of giving ends, but the need remains."

Mr. Speaker, as our economy begins to recharge, giving more and more hope with more and more Americans gaining jobs, it is important, though, to continue to reflect on this still early stage of the new year. After some important budget battles here and a major tax reform piece of legislation, it is important to reflect on the proper balance between responsibility and charity, as well as those who continue to be left behind or forgotten.

Americans are the most generous people in the world, and they also deeply value responsibility, and they know that a fulfilled life requires rewarding work. Unfortunately, unemployment and underemployment continue to hinder a faster economic recovery, causing much anxiety for persons and their families.

According to a new survey from CareerBuilder, nearly eight out of ten Americans say they are living paycheck to paycheck, and our improving economic indices should not obscure this difficult reality.

So to better help persons support themselves and one another in the full dignity of work, our next phase of economic regeneration must be an attempt to find the proper balance between right-sized government, responsibility to one another, and reasonable expectations that everyone can contribute something according to their means and their capacity. Everyone has something to give.

As this recognition and economic regeneration kindles a new policy discussion, several guideposts should be kept in mind, such as ensuring enhanced opportunity and the erasure of what I call entrepreneurial impediments, along with efforts to address and mend a deep societal sense of brokenness.

When persons are unemployed or underemployed, they can enter a downward spiral in their lives. Mr. Speaker, as we well know, Washington alone cannot create a humane economy that works for the many. Americans living together in community form the cornerstone of a vibrant market.

A fuller answer to unemployment, underemployment, and this widespread

lack of financial assets, along with the resulting loss of social capital, might be found in the idea that government and society should join in a movement for national solidarity, seeing work as a common endeavor for us all. After all, economics, in its essence, is not just a transaction; it is profoundly relational.

A rightful discussion about the profound meaning of work also requires the right words. The overreliance in this body, particularly, on depersonalizing economic language, I think, is one reason that Washington can seem so disconnected and aloof from real communities and real people.

At the end of the month, if a person can't pay their gas or a grocery bill, they are unlikely to care about GDP growth or arguments for the efficiency of globalized trade. In a similar way, recent news cycles are tracking the skyrocketing stock market valuations with some ups and downs of late. And this is all exceeding most expectations, particularly from the beginning of the year, but glowing green numbers and signals provide little reassurance to millions of Americans who are priced out of owning stock.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, a lack of work, as well as a lack of assurance in the security of government guardrails and earned benefits, can take a life-diminishing toll.

Mr. Speaker, I have many seniors who write to me and suggest to us in pretty clear terms that they aren't entitled to their own money. We throw the language around of entitlements, referring to programs where people set aside money into government savings programs or were given guarantee of healthcare. That is not an entitlement. That is something people worked for.

Many persons with difficult jobs deserving of both dignity and earned benefits sometimes are those who are forgotten. I approached my door recently, Mr. Speaker, here in D.C. at my office, and there was a large crowd of men who had gathered, and they were all in camouflaged T-shirts waiting outside.

□ 1745

All of us here experience a number of visitors from our home States. Sometimes, in my office, people have to stack up outside in the hallway, as we are trying to accommodate people.

But as I got closer, I noticed that the front of these T-shirts that these men had on read, "United Mine Workers." I thought, that is unusual to see Nebraskans wearing United Mine Workers T-shirts. But it turns out they were actually waiting for my neighbor, who is from the State of Kentucky. Nevertheless, I greeted these men, and we began a meaningful conversation about work and security and fairness.

These men had spent their lives in hard jobs. I am sure they toiled, very proudly, to make a reasonable living for their families, but they all now showed real signs of physical fatigue. They were in Washington making a