

completely unrelated to crime victims. For example, about \$800,000 is spent out of the fund, which has \$12 billion in money, and over the years, it continues to have more and more money because less of it is being spent. In my opinion, these bureaucrats are literally stealing money from the Victims Fund and throwing it into the abyss of the Federal Treasury. That money does not belong to the Federal Government; it belongs to crime victims.

Victims do not have, Mr. Speaker, high-dollar lobbyists up here in Washington, D.C., advocating on their behalf. They expect us, Members of Congress, to be their lobbyists, to be their voice. As a former prosecutor and a former judge in Texas, I take that duty very seriously.

It is the first responsibility of government to actually protect the people. We must stop the robber bureaucrats from stealing money out of the Crime Victims Fund and make sure that victims have access to the resources they need to become survivors.

To achieve this goal, my friend, Representative JIM COSTA from California, my cochair in the Victims' Rights Caucus, and I have introduced the Crime Victims Fund Preservation Act. The bill is very simple. It creates a lockbox to make sure that the money in the fund cannot be used for anything other than victims' programs under the Victims of Crime Act.

The Crime Victims Fund becomes an especially attractive target for offsets at this time when our government faces any sort of a deficit. That is why Congress must safeguard the fund to make sure the money is protected.

The bill uses the money paid by criminals to help rescue and restore victims and ensure that it is safe from the sticky, pilfering hands of bureaucrats—and does so forever. So let the victims of crime keep the money and not send it to other programs in the Federal departments throughout the Nation.

And that is just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF NBA ALL-STAR JOE JOHNSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the work of NBA all-star and Arkansas native Joe Johnson of the Sacramento Kings with a local youth basketball program, the Arkansas H.A.W.K.S.

The Arkansas H.A.W.K.S., an acronym meaning Hard At Work Kids, is a member of the Amateur Athletic Union organization dedicated to the development of athletic ability in American youth. Under the leadership of Coach Bill Ingram, the team's goal extends beyond the court and into the communities of central Arkansas, building a dynasty of basketball players who seek to make a lasting impact on their neighborhoods, city, State, and our country.

Before he was a seven-time NBA all-star, Joe Johnson was a student at the historic Little Rock Central High School and a star player on the Arkansas H.A.W.K.S. roster. In this partnership, the teams and players connected with the H.A.W.K.S. will be given unique opportunities, including, mentorship, player development, and academic assistance.

I would like to extend a hearty debt of gratitude and congratulations to Joe Johnson and the Arkansas H.A.W.K.S. program for their selfless and worthwhile investment in central Arkansas youth.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALBERT YARNELL

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of one of Arkansas' great innovators and leaders, my friend Albert Yarnell of Searcy, Arkansas, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 94.

Albert worked for over 75 years with his family to make Yarnell's Ice Cream one of the most successful regional ice cream companies in the United States. Yarnell's Ice Cream created many unique flavors, such as the Razorbacks' ice cream, Woo Pig Chewy; and my personal favorite, peppermint.

Yarnell was an icon of Arkansas business and anchor of the Searcy and White County business community for decades. He is a past president of the Searcy Chamber of Commerce and served as mayor of Searcy. He was inducted into the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame in 2007 and is a member of the Arkansas Dairy Products Hall of Fame. He was a role model and friend to many across our State.

I extend my respect, affection, and prayers to his many dear friends, family, and loved ones.

RECOGNIZING NORTH LITTLE ROCK MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER DAWN McLAIN

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize North Little Rock Middle School teacher Dawn McLain. Dawn, a sixth grade science and math teacher, recently was named a 2017–2018 recipient of the national Milken Educator Award, one of only 44 across our country. This prestigious honor is given to teachers with exceptional educational talent who impact students both in and out of the classroom.

Dawn has not only increased her students' test scores, but she has engaged her students through robotics, design modeling, and rocketry. She is a strong proponent of project-based learning, technology integration, and data deployment. Dawn is also focused on helping her students build life skills that will help them succeed into adulthood and works to build strong relationships with both parents and her students.

Teachers like Dawn prove that education is one of the best investments America can make. I am proud to represent her and all the teachers of central Arkansas who are making a difference in the lives of our kids.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 JOHN HEFFERNAN

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of Arkansas' finest, Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Heffernan, who passed away late last month at the age of 77. His leadership and dedication to our State and Nation as a soldier, a veteran, and a volunteer is an example to all Arkansans and all Americans.

Heffernan enlisted in the Army in 1962, and after more than 27 years of military service, John retired from the Arkansas Army National Guard. For the next 23 years, John provided his services at Camp Robinson and the Little Rock Air Force Base. He was one of many of the strongest advocates in central Arkansas for all matters related to our military veterans and their families.

For the better part of half a century, John was a selfless servant to others, giving more of himself than he had to give. He had a passion for volunteering, rivaled only by his passion of service to his country.

I extend my respect, affection, and prayers to his family and their loved ones.

HONORING JROTC CADET PETER WANG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, the shooting in Parkland, Florida, on 14 February represented a catastrophic failure of local authorities as well as the FBI. The students needed a hero that day, and while the sheriff's department failed the students, I think it is important to recognize and commemorate the fact that a 15-year-old JROTC cadet named Peter Wang answered the call.

In the face of a deranged gunman descending on his school, Cadet Wang helped his fellow students flee to safety, exposing himself to fire in the process. He could have simply saved himself, but like a true hero, Peter Wang chose to protect the lives of others. Going above and beyond the call of duty, he sacrificed his life on that fateful day.

Scripture teaches that there is no greater love than that a man should lay down his life for his friends, and his fellow students will be indebted to Peter Wang for his actions on that day.

Now, Peter Wang had a desire to attend West Point, and his actions on 14 February more than lived up to the U.S. Military Academy's motto of duty, honor, and country. His posthumous admittance to West Point represented a rare but well-deserved honor.

In Peter Wang, the country lost someone who no doubt would have enriched the Army's officer corps and provided honorable service in uniform. Yet it is also true that, with the lives he saved that day, he accomplished more on his final day on this Earth

than most of us who serve in the military accomplish over the course of an entire career.

□ 1215

You can train for moments like those faced by Peter Wang, but you don't know if you can pass the test until you are actually put to the test. Peter Wang passed his test with flying colors. His steadfast devotion to duty reflected great credit upon himself and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army.

Rest in peace, soldier. Job well done.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF GRANT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT BATTALION CHIEF DAN DISHON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Grant County Fire District Battalion Chief Dan Dishon from Moses Lake, Washington. Dan passed away on January 8, 2018.

Dan was a husband, a father, a friend, and a highly respected fire service member. His love of firefighting and his dedication to his community were evident in his 15 years of volunteer service at both the Grant County Fire District 13 as well as District 5, where he eventually secured his dream job of shift captain.

Local firefighters, members of his team, and the community will remember him for his leadership, humility, and commitment to keeping the citizens of Grant County safe. My prayers and sincere condolences go out to his family and his friends and all those affected by his passing during this difficult time.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in thanking Dan Dishon for his inspirational life of service to Washington State in the Fourth District.

ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF GLOBAL HUNGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of global hunger. Tonight, this very evening, 800 million people across the world will go to bed hungry. Throughout 2017, this very past year, this number has only grown, making this the first year in a decade that global hunger has increased.

This increase arises from violent conflicts and natural disasters that have worsened the situation for many living in extreme poverty. These crises demonstrate the need for lifesaving United States humanitarian relief around the world.

For 63 years, our Nation's signature food donation program, Food for Peace,

has fed more than 3 billion hungry people. This program has benefitted people facing some of the worst humanitarian disasters of the century, averting famine, and providing medical care for those who need it most.

Today, USAID remains committed to providing for people in dire situations with emergency help. In countries like Yemen and Nigeria, where more than 70 percent of the population is facing severe starvation, USAID continues to step in to prevent famine and fight disease.

The USAID mission is to provide emergency food assistance, is vital to many countries around the world, and is a key pillar of President Trump's National Security Strategy. Its purpose is to end the need for its own existence by responding to the disasters and helping our partners achieve self-reliance.

A world without hunger is in America's very best interest. Hunger breeds instability and conflict. These programs represent a small investment to prevent future conflicts.

I am proud that wheat is the most used commodity in U.S. hunger programs. Kansas is known as the breadbasket of the world and is the Nation's leading wheat producer. But today, while our growers have full grain elevators in my State, we still have four ongoing declared famines around the world. There is no reason that we cannot connect the starving with our ample supplies of food.

I look forward to working with the House Agriculture Committee as we reauthorize the Food for Peace and other critical antihunger programs in the 2018 farm bill so that USAID and the United States Department of Agriculture can continue to help provide for the hungry and strengthen our national security across the world.

Need for Broadband Deployment in Rural Communities

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the need for broadband development in rural communities. More and more, we see a transition from "brick and mortar" to "click and mortar" establishments, with the world quickly moving from paper to digital.

In rural America, the digital divide is becoming increasingly present. From limited connection speeds to locations entirely without service, these communities are lacking the same basic abilities as their urban counterparts. I am encouraged to see so many conversations happening in and around the Hill related to removing the barriers to connecting Americans, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

I applaud the efforts of President Trump, Chairman Pai, and Agriculture Secretary Perdue in making rural broadband deployment a national priority as we head into 2018. I hope that my colleagues here in Congress will remember that all Americans deserve reasonable and comparable service, no matter where in the country they live.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Reverend Vincent DeRosa, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

O God, who are the hope of sinners and the joy of the holy, grant this House a spirit of compunction for failures, perseverance for growth, and humility in success.

For the good of our country, we ask You to enflame the Members of this Chamber with wisdom, hope, courage, and all the other virtues necessary to secure prosperity throughout our land and equal justice under the law.

Above all, help us to be a people of loving encounter with each other and with our neighbors around the world, that establishing an ever more perfect society on Earth, we may one day know the joys of paradise with You.

We ask this in Your most holy name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MCCOLLUM led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNIZING WAKULLA COUNTY TEACHER KATRINA RODDENBERRY

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding teacher from Wakulla County, Florida's Second Congressional District.