

women and children. This comes exactly 1 year after the chemical weapons attack that resulted in President Donald Trump's launching of Tomahawk cruise missiles at the air base that launched the chemical weapons attack.

Assad's actions are a clear violation of international law and human rights, and the world must stand against this indiscriminate massacre.

I am grateful for the leadership of President Donald Trump, United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, and National Security Advisor John Bolton to address this threat to protect American families.

I stand with Ambassador Haley in calling for the United Nations to adopt a resolution that would condemn the continuing use of chemical weapons in Syria in the strongest terms and to establish a new body to determine responsibility for chemical attacks anywhere in the world.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

DON'T MESS WITH BALLARD HOUSE

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, "Don't mess with Texas" is a phrase we Texans use when challenged.

The folks in Katy, Texas, tweaked that phrase a little bit after Hurricane Harvey. They tweaked it to, "Don't mess with Ballard House."

In 2008, Cinco Charities opened temporary lodging for families coming to Katy for treatment of life-threatening conditions, a home away from home. Five years and 500 guests later, it became clear that Cinco Charities needed to have a permanent home.

Angels on Earth, Monty and Erin Ballard, raised the funds for 24 family suites. Before Harvey, it was clear we needed more rooms. Monty and Erin's foundation gave a \$2 million grant to double the size of Ballard House. Groundbreaking is tomorrow.

Harvey gave us a big hit, but we turned that 24 suites now into 48 suites for families. The message is clear: Don't mess with Ballard House.

RECOGNIZING MARK JOHNSON ON WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mark Johnson, a fellow Texan, a former marine, a father and a grandfather.

On March 17 and 18, Mark completed a double Ironman race across the State of Texas.

A double Ironman is a 53.2-mile run, 4.8-mile swim, and 224-mile bike ride.

He began in Marble Falls in my district and ended in Lufkin, Texas.

When asked why he chose to attempt the event, he answered swiftly: "For Wendy, my amazing sister who has Down syndrome."

In addition to honoring his sister and raising awareness, Mark Johnson has pledged all monetary donations to the National Down Syndrome Society. This is the leading human rights organization for all individuals with Down syndrome and where he sits on the board of directors.

Today and every day, let us celebrate advocates like Mark, his sister, Wendy, and all individuals with Down syndrome and their families.

In God we trust.

RECOGNIZING ANTONIO PAGLIARO

(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 honor Antonio Pagliaro. Antonio recently lost his battle to cancer, leaving behind his wife, Nicole, their children, Alexis, Antonio, and Kylie, as well as his parents, Tony and Richetta, and his brothers, Peter and Michael Pagliaro.

As a graduate of the T.R. Proctor High School class of 1999, Antonio began his professional destiny and purpose in life to help people in need by serving in the emergency medical services industry. His passion was to provide critical help and comfort to those in need, especially in his hometown in the city of Utica, New York.

Antonio was a paramedic supervisor with Kunkel Ambulance for 15 years. He was also a 10-year volunteer with the Schuyler Volunteer Fire Department.

Antonio was a courageous public servant who served our community selflessly. He put his life on the line every single day for the betterment of all of us.

Along with being a dedicated public servant, Antonio was a passionate cook, number one dance dad, a gardener, and a parishioner of the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, and so much more.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Antonio Pagliaro, a true hometown hero. Our community is lucky to have had such a selfless, loving person as Antonio, and we wish his family prayers and positive thoughts to the entire family from all of us and my colleagues.

CONGRESS, NOT THE PRESIDENT, HAS THE AUTHORITY TO DECLARE WAR

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, James Madison, the father of the American Constitution, said that its

most important provision was given to the Congress, and not the President, the authority to declare war.

This is central to the separation of powers. Congress can declare war, but cannot wage it; the President can wage war, but cannot declare it.

This bright line has been badly blurred over the years, but that doesn't change its clarity and importance. The Constitutional Convention was clear that the President's inherent authority as Commander in Chief was solely to repulse an attack against this country until the Congress could convene.

The Syrian crisis presents no such exception.

If it can be proven that the recent use of gas against the civilian population was initiated by the Assad regime, well, then supplying arms and material to the Syrian opposition, economic sanctions, and other non-military responses are appropriate, but any military action against Syria first requires a congressional declaration, period.

TAX REFORM TRUTH TELLERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, in February, Congressman PAUL MITCHELL of Michigan and I established the Tax Reform Truth Tellers series to combat the misinformation being spread about the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Today I had the distinct honor of joining my colleagues from the great States of California and New York to talk about the benefits this historic tax reform bill is having on our communities and local economies.

When it comes to taxes, our two States have something in common: some of the highest State tax rates in the country.

My district in Orange County, California, is home to great people, beautiful weather, and a rich history, but it is also located in the highest taxed State in the Nation.

It is my duty to find ways to help my constituents build and achieve their American Dream, whether it is opening a small business, sending their children to college, or saving for retirement. Unfortunately, high taxes can prevent these dreams from becoming a reality.

While the State legislatures in Sacramento and Albany keep placing