

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Library Week, which began on Sunday and runs through Saturday, April 14.

This year's theme is Library's Lead, and ballerina Misty Copeland is this year's honorary chair.

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is an observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country each April.

It is time to celebrate the contributions of our Nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries—school, public, academic, and special—participate.

Celebrations during National Library Week include: National Library Workers Day, celebrated yesterday, which is a day for library staff, users, administrators, and friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.

National Bookmobile Day, which is celebrated today, recognizes contributions of our Nation's bookmobiles and the dedicated professionals who make quality bookmobile outreach possible in their communities.

Tomorrow is Take Action for Libraries Day, which is a national library advocacy effort.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 60th anniversary of National Library Week.

In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less on books and more on radios and television and musical instruments. Concerned that Americans were reading less, the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizens organization called the National Book Committee in 1954.

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The committee's goals range from encouraging people to read in their increasing leisure time to improving income and health and developing a strong and happy family life.

In 1957, the committee developed a plan for National Library Week based on the idea that, once people were motivated to read, they would support and use libraries. With the cooperation of the American Library Association and with the help of the Advertising Council, the first National Library Week was observed in 1958 with a theme "Wake Up and Read."

National Library Week was observed again in 1959, and the American Library Association Council voted to continue the annual celebration. When the National Book Committee disbanded in 1974, the American Library Association assumed full sponsorship. Today, it is an annual celebration, marking six decades this year.

The 2018 honorary chair, Misty Copeland, is not only a best-selling author, but she is also the principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre,

making her the first African-American woman to ever be promoted to that position in the company's 75-year history.

Misty's passion is giving back, and she has worked with many charitable organizations and is dedicated to giving of her time to work with and mentor young boys and girls. It is clear that she is an excellent role model for our youth and a strong supporter of libraries.

Mr. Speaker, libraries have always been great equalizers in our society. Our libraries promote knowledge as a power and ensure that it is within reach of every American, regardless of their personal life circumstances.

From the magnificent Library of Congress to small-town community libraries, I wish everyone a happy National Library Week.

RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIE J. HAGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Willie J. Hagan, who is retiring after a storied career as an educator and, most recently, served as president of the California State University Dominguez Hills, which is in California's 44th Congressional District. I am also proud that he is able to join us today in this Chamber.

Dr. Hagan began his career at the University of Connecticut, where he earned a Ph.D. in psychology before moving to southern California to become the vice president of administration at Cal State Fullerton. During his time there, he somehow found time to earn a master of fine arts in screenwriting from UCLA and also to write a screenplay.

During his tenure at Cal State Dominguez Hills, Dr. Hagan worked tirelessly to advance the goals of the university by providing quality education, scholarship opportunities, and services that have been truly transformative.

Under Dr. Hagan's leadership, Cal State Dominguez Hills experienced continuous growth in graduation rates, enrollment, tenure-track faculty appointments, and enhanced student services, while bringing distinction to the university. Dr. Hagan led an unwavering commitment to students' success, which promoted highly impactful student-focused initiatives.

Dr. Hagan is a well-respected and admired educator who has demonstrated his commitment to the advancement of higher education and community growth.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Dr. Hagan the best of luck in his future endeavors, which I am sure will include spending time with his wife, Betty, who is also an educator.

PATROL THE RIO GRANDE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, national security is border security. Recently, I visited my friend Congressman CUELLAR's hometown of Laredo, Texas, on the Texas-Mexico border.

Being from Texas, I have been to the border about 20 times since I have been elected to Congress. The border is actually the middle of the Rio Grande River, not the shoreline.

I toured the river with our Border Patrol, Texas State law enforcement officers, and the National Guard. It is a long border. From El Paso to Brownsville, Texas, it is about 900 miles—a river border. Laredo is right in the southern border of Texas.

Standing on the United States side of the border near Laredo, I looked across straight into Mexico. A seemingly innocent stark-white water plant peeked out over the thick brush. Looking closer, a figure appeared, having a radio and binoculars in his hand. Why? He was waiting for the Border Patrol to pass; ready to send a "go" signal to another group of illegals waiting to rush across the Rio Grande River.

The drug cartels, Mr. Speaker, control border crossings, whether they are smuggling drugs, people, or criminals. The cartels have an advanced system in place, a sophisticated criminal network. They have scouts on both sides of the border with cell phones and surveillance equipment. They have stash houses on both sides of the border where they hide drugs and people so they can move them closer inland to America.

Everyone pays to cross. In the Laredo sector, the violent Los Zetas cartel is in control. No one crosses into the United States without their permission. The cartels, the Zetas, for example, hide in the bushes, ready to stop anyone who tries to cross without their permission and without paying the money. How much it costs depends on where the person is from. But everyone pays, whether a person is from Central America, China, or Mexico.

Make no mistake about it: the cartels are the ones that make money off of illegals crossing into the United States.

President Trump has authorized State Governors to use the National Guard to help secure and protect the borders. Our Border Patrol agents do the best they can to apprehend illegal crossers, but they are outmanned, outgunned, and outfinanced. Technology helps, but there is far too little of it.

The cameras operating in the Laredo sector are from the 1990s. A cell phone camera is better than the cameras that they have. We need to have high-tech cameras along the entire border. Cameras help spot illegals as they slip over the river and through the tangled brush on both sides of the river.

The National Guard will take over monitoring these cameras, monitoring

sensor activations, conducting surveillance on skyboxes or other observation posts, and operating vehicles. This will free up law enforcement resources to patrol the border and make arrests.

We must have a mix of both physical and virtual barriers on the Texas-Mexico border. For example, Laredo needs about 30 more camera towers to actually secure the border. Border Patrol needs to see the illegals and adjust manpower needed for the threat.

The United States needs to prevent people from crossing into the United States in the first place by having boats in the Rio Grande River. Remember, the center of the river is the international border, not the shoreline in the United States. Once a person crosses and they are on the shore, they are in the United States. They are not on the border. Boats from Customs and Border Patrol, the State of Texas, and the Coast Guard should patrol the border.

I have traveled the Rio Grande River with Texas law enforcement, and where there is a boat present, illegals do not cross. Our longtime policy was to let people cross into the United States, then apprehend as many as we could and send a few back to their native country. That philosophy needs to change by keeping illegals, drugs, and gangs from crossing in the first place. Patrol the river.

Also, we must use more aerostats. Those are small blimps that have cameras that look 20 miles in each direction. We must further use the new high-tech fiberoptic lines that run under the shoreline that detect any movement crossing that line, whether it is human, whether it is an animal, whether it is an airplane, whether it is a tunnel beneath or even a bullet.

Our Border Patrol agents are on the front lines and the number of agents is dwindling. There are more officers in the city of New York than there are in the entire Border Patrol. There is no doubt the National Guard deployment will be a welcome relief for our Border Patrol agents.

The greatest country on Earth, Mr. Speaker, must have the moral will to stop illegal entry into the United States. We must address America's border security because it is a national security issue. Secure America first.

And that is just the way it is.

QUESTIONS OF WAR SHOULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once again, I rise because I love my country. I love what it stands for. I love the concept of government of the people, by the people, for the people.

And, Mr. Speaker, because I believe in this and because I believe in the Constitution of the United States of America, I rise to announce that I do not approve of nor do I support of the

notion that we should have war by Twitter, that we should announce that we are going to war with a tweet. I disapprove. I do not support it.

Questions of war should be brought before the Congress of the United States of America for our input, our debate, and our vote. It is easy to say what you would do when you don't have to vote to do it. I believe Congress has a responsibility, a duty, and an obligation to stand up in times like these and make our positions known on questions of war and peace.

This is the Congress of the United States of America. This is our responsibility, and, Mr. Speaker, I am having my staff, as I speak now, tweet out my opposition to that tweet. I want to make sure the people that read Twitter are aware of my position.

I don't know what others will do, but I know this: I am making my demand that Congress have this opportunity to have input.

And, Mr. Speaker, because I love my country, because I love the Constitution, I believe that, if this President should fire Mr. Mueller, Mr. Speaker, he should be impeached. Whether he will be or not is a question to be decided in the House of Representatives, but I can guarantee you this: there will be articles of impeachment if he fires Mr. Mueller. Whether someone else will bring them or not, I do not know. But if no one else does, there will be articles of impeachment because I will bring them.

I love my country. I am not going to watch this President decimate the Constitution.

I love my country. We didn't act when he fired Comey. We should act if he fires Mueller, and I plan to take that action.

I say this in closing: We have seen, under this President, a deterioration of respect for the rule of law. This country is great because no one is above the law. Are we now going to allow the President to be beyond justice?

This is a moment in time, a crucial, critical moment in time for every person to determine whether they are going to be the true patriots that we claim to be. This is our moment. Let us stand up for the Constitution and the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONNECTICUT'S NAVY INSTALLATION

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today, April 11, 2018, is a special day in southeastern Connecticut. It marks the 150th anniversary of when the State of Connecticut and the city of New Lon-

don conveyed a deed of gift to the U.S. Navy that today still stands as the Naval Submarine Base New London, which has had a glorious, distinguished career in terms of our national defense.

Again, on that date in 1867, when the deed was signed and given to Gideon Welles, who was the Secretary of the Navy at the time, himself a native of the State of Connecticut, Glastonbury, Connecticut, it was the result, again, of an effort by one of my predecessors, Congressman Augustus Brandegee, who got an authorization and an appropriation through the Naval Appropriations bill in 1867 that set up this conveyance.

Congressman Brandegee was a distinguished Member of this body. He was a strong supporter of abolition. He voted in favor of the 13th Amendment, and he was somebody who was a frequent friend of President Lincoln at the time. They rode horseback together in the morning, and he was a very strong ally of the President.

After that deed of gift was signed, the Navy base was a coaling station that provided a way station for Navy ships in New England waters to again get refueled. It also was a place that Civil War Navy ships were stored in the wake of that conflict.

Again, fast-forward to 1915. That is when the Navy actually designated that base as a submarine base. It was a timely event because, very shortly thereafter, with the U.S. involvement in World War I where U-boat activity, obviously, was the driving force for why the U.S. got into that conflict, the submarine base in New London became a critical part of our effort in terms of that conflict.

Moving forward, even from 1915 when the first G-boat subs arrived at the Navy base in World War II, as Admiral Nimitz, who headed up our efforts particularly in the South Pacific, stated frequently in the wake of Pearl Harbor: It was, in fact, the submarine force that really held the line against the Japanese onslaught that took place in that area.

The Groton base was a site where a lot of the submarines that were part of that conflict actually took on that struggle; again, tragic and catastrophic losses. Nonetheless, I think most historians, particularly in the Pacific region, will affirm it was, in fact, the submarine force that was critical in terms of holding the line, particularly in 1942 and early 1943.

After World War II, the Groton base played another huge role in our national defense with the development of the nuclear Navy. Admiral Hyman Rickover developed the USS *Nautilus*, which was launched in the 1950s. That all took place in Groton and New London, Connecticut. Electric Boat was the shipyard where the *Nautilus* was built.

Today, our submarine force is completely nuclear powered. We have 15 attack submarines at the Groton-New London base which are doing important work both in the European theater, in terms of Putin's much more