

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