

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, at 15 years old, Jane was pregnant, alone, out on the streets, and ready to end her life. When Marcus and Robin Thompson found her, Jane thought she was saved. But instead of taking her to safety, the criminals forced the girl on a terrifying 6-week trek across the United States.

The outlaws photographed Jane in suggestive photos and sold her on the marketplace of sex slavery—human trafficking. Truck stops and sleazy hotel rooms became her life, sold to any pervert with the money and desire to buy sex from a child.

After multiple beatings, Jane sought help at a hospital, where nurses identified her as a sex-trafficked victim. The Thompsons are now locked up in prison for the crime they committed—modern day slavery.

Madam Speaker, human trafficking is a scourge. We must remain vigilant like the nurses in this case and rescue victims and send traffickers to the jailhouse where they belong. No more selling our children on the marketplace of slavery.

And that is just the way it is.

□ 1715

CONGRATULATING COACH LANCE WIGFALL

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to honor Coach Lance Wigfall of East Orange, New Jersey, for becoming the 2017–2018 boys indoor track and field coach of the year.

Coach Wigfall was a star track athlete at East Orange during the late 1990s and early 2000s. Now, as coach, he is helping a new generation of young men grow as athletes and leaders.

During Coach Wigfall's tenure at East Orange, the school's track and field team has broken onto the national stage. But Coach Wigfall reminds his athletes to enjoy the moment, trust the process, and always put academics before athletics.

Coach Wigfall is a mentor and a role model for his team. He is an asset to East Orange and to all young people in New Jersey's 10th Congressional District.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Wigfall for becoming coach of the year.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION GOOD CITIZENS AWARD

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize six high school sen-

iors who were selected as finalists for the Oneida County Good Citizens Award, presented by the Oneida County Chapter of the DAR, the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The 2018 finalists were Rachael Powles, Elizabeth Militillo, Crystal Lin, Madden Barnes, Abigail Hall, and William Thomas. Rachael Powles from Sauquoit Valley Central School was the first prize winner and will go on to represent Oneida County at the State level.

These six outstanding individuals were chosen based on their academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and an essay contest. These students clearly have a great future ahead of them, and it is great to see such strong youth leadership coming from Oneida County.

I wish the first prize winner, Rachael Powles, the best of luck as she continues in the New York State competition, and, hopefully, we will be seeing her in Washington, D.C., as a national finalist.

Madam Speaker, I ask that Members join me in congratulating these students on displaying qualities of service, leadership, and patriotism. The Daughters of the American Revolution is a highly respected organization that is devoted to our community, our children, and our Nation. Being a finalist in this wonderful organization is an honor, indeed.

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act.

Signed into law 7 days after Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s tragic assassination in Memphis, Tennessee, the Fair Housing Act builds on his dream to ensure that every American can live wherever they choose.

While in the five decades, our country has made progress in securing equal opportunity and access to affordable housing for all with the unencumbered ability to rent or to buy, but our work continues.

In fact, just last week, in my community, community leaders broke ground on the final phase of a \$120 million public-private project for Legacy Pointe at Poindexter, fueled by a \$30 million HUD Choice Neighborhood grant that I helped to secure in 2014, but our work continues.

I stand here today in that spirit to say that I will continue to defend the central tenets of the Fair Housing Act so that all Americans can pursue the American Dream without fear of discrimination or redlining.

Madam Speaker, our work continues.

CONGRATULATING PLEASANT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, tonight I rise to congratulate Pleasant Valley High School for sending both the boys and girls basketball teams to the State of California championship games for their division.

After incredibly successful seasons by both the girls and boys teams, I am very proud to say that both programs made it all the way to the finals played at the Golden 1 Center in Sacramento, home of the Sacramento Kings NBA team.

Though the two games had differing results, to be playing in the final game of the season in the State in your division while the rest of your opponents are home at spring break is plenty to be proud of. It says a lot about the students and the head coaches and their families on both teams.

The last time the Pleasant Valley girls made it to the State championship was 1985. This is the first trip for the boys to the State championship.

What these young men and women both did on the basketball courts this year was remarkable—even inspiring Pleasant Valley alum and Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers to contribute to their trip.

While the girls did lose a hard-fought contest, the boys pulled it out and won a 70–65 thriller in which they never trailed in the game.

Congratulations to the boys team on their first-ever State championship and to the girls team for again making another trip to the State finals. Indeed, a truly remarkable, outstanding season for Pleasant Valley High School for the boys and girls team. They have much to be proud of.

ATTACK ON SYRIA

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, outrage is certainly not a tough enough word to watch the children of Syria, and innocent civilians, be attacked by poisonous gas. Assad is a vicious dictator, and Russia has propped him up.

It is important for the American people and for Syrian Americans to know that we will not tolerate the kind of vile violence, particularly against children. But Congress must stand for its constitutional responsibility of debating an authorization to use military force. We must not, at any time, recklessly ignore actions by the administration that really should be a collaborative thought-provoking discussion and debate on the strategy for dealing with the crisis in Syria, but, more importantly, the propping up of Assad by Russia and its supporters.

The children need us in Syria to be able to stop both the bloodshed and the terrible tragedy of gas attacks that immediately cause life and injury. It is time for us—the Members of Congress—

to come to this floor and debate our strategy in Syria.

TRIBUTE TO MARY REGULA

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, at this spring season of new life, please let us pay tribute to the spirited life of a visionary woman dedicated to high learning and civic improvement, Mary Regula from Ohio, who tragically passed this last week.

As an educator first, her love of history drew her to national causes. Mary had a style and a spirit all her own. I vividly recall her dressing as Mary Todd Lincoln at the dedication of the First Ladies Museum in Canton, Ohio, which she had spearheaded, as she dutifully and lovingly put in place fascinating historical truth about a long-neglected dimension of American political life.

A soulmate to her beloved husband, the very honorable Ohio Congressman Ralph Regula, Mary was a beautiful and engaging force for good and for progress on many levels.

On countless late nights here in the Capitol, she would work into the evening with her husband. Then, when votes were complete, they would drive home together, usually in Ralph's red pickup truck. Their service was a patriotic love of America.

May Mary Regula's family and friends, and the people of greater Canton, Ohio, which Mary and her husband served for 36 years, know our abiding gratitude for their service and for electing such an extraordinary Congressman, a seasoned appropriator, and his awesome life partner, beloved Mary.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RHONDA LEROCQUE

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Rhonda LeRocque. Rhonda attended the Route 91 Festival in Las Vegas on October 1.

Rhonda was married to her husband, Jason, for 21 years, with whom she had a 6-year-old daughter, Ali.

Rhonda and Jason were very active in their church and enjoyed participating in humanitarian projects together. One of their biggest projects was when they traveled to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina to help rebuild homes.

Rhonda worked for a design firm in Cambridge, Massachusetts, but dreamed of opening up her own catering business. She loved skiing, cooking, and baking, but nothing could surpass her love for her family. She is remembered for being a selfless and joyful woman who had a strong faith.

I would like to extend my condolences to Rhonda LeRocque's family

and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

INEQUALITY AND FAIRNESS FOR ALL AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HANDEL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I wanted to spend a few moments on what, to me, is the most important domestic issue in our country right now: the issue of inequality and fairness for all Americans. It is at historic levels of disparity from where it should be, historically both from an economic standpoint, an ethical standpoint, and, in my view, a moral standpoint. It is important for Congress to know what the experts know and to share that with this House and with the American public.

I am pleased to partner with some of my good friends: Representative LEE, who I hope will be here soon, a good neighbor in northern California, who has done such extraordinary work around poverty and inequality; and also Ms. DELAURO from Connecticut, who has also helped us to put this Special Order together.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), my good friend and colleague, and a national spokesperson on issues of inequality.

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from California for yielding. I appreciate all of the work Congressman DESAULNIER does in this area. And I want to thank him for raising this particular issue for this Special Order.

Madam Speaker, I agree with him that inequality is the issue of the moment. Not only does inequality funnel money from working Americans up to the richest people, but what do they do with the money once it is up there? There is only a certain number of boats you can ski behind, only a certain number of houses you can buy, and only a certain number of luxury cars you can buy.

What do the billions go to? Much of it goes to things like merger and acquisition, and also political influence. It is very important to understand that as economic inequality has grown, political inequality has also grown. Nowadays, the money goes into some super-

PAC: some big, giant thing where they do independent expenditures and pour money in against their enemies and pour money in in favor of their friends.

Politics in America has become the battle of the billionaires now. You have to get a billionaire on your side in order to win. I mean, we know that whether it is the Coates', or the Mercers, or the Adelsons, or whoever it is, it is some big, rich person who is going to sponsor a political candidate, and that is who gets to represent us in what is supposed to be a democratic society. So I think that it is critical to make the link between economic inequality and political inequality.

I will say again, when we get economic inequality to the degree that it is, one of the other things that is purchased, besides political influence, is mergers and acquisitions.

I would just like to point out to everybody that it doesn't matter what industry you are talking about, markets are deeply concentrated and anti-competitive. If you are talking about like a pharmacy—not a pharmaceutical company, but a pharmacy—CVS, Walgreens, we used to have Rite Aid and, of course, they merged together. And, of course, there is another merger coming up. Every day you open the paper, there is some other big company buying up some other big company, concentrating markets, making the barriers to entry even higher so that the small-business person is just locked out.

It costs a lot to get into business now. If your opponent, who is some big, huge company, doesn't want you in the market, they can just drop their prices, suffer the losses, because they are big, run you out of business, and raise them right back on up.

But if you look at any market—beer, hamburger, chicken, online search engines, anything you want—almost all of them are deeply concentrated—two, three, maybe four—companies representing 80 or 90 percent of the industry, which cuts off opportunity, limits competition, and it is bad for the American people.

Madam Speaker, I have a few more things to share, but I will kick it back to Congressman DESAULNIER for now. Maybe he can kick it back to me a little later, and we will just have a conversation for a little while.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, that sounds good to me.

Madam Speaker, I do want to say, as a former small-business owner, having owned restaurants in the San Francisco Bay area for many years, I can definitely identify with your comments that all too often Main Street America, those entrepreneurs who employ most of our workers, are at a distinct disadvantage.

□ 1730

And, unfortunately, I always felt this as a small independent restaurant owner, that the desires of a lot of my fellow restaurateurs that were nationally owned were not necessarily my desires. I supported the community. I was