

Forces of Russia stated: “The very rules of war have changed. The role of nonmilitary means of achieving political and strategic goals has grown, and, in many cases, they have exceeded the power of force of weapons in their effectiveness. The focus of applied methods of conflict has altered in the direction of the broad use of political, economic, informational, humanitarian, and other nonmilitary measures—applied in coordination with the protest potential of the population.”

Last month, General Philip Breedlove testified before the House Armed Services Committee stating: “Russia sees the West, and in particular, a unified West, as an adversary. Waging a conventional war against the West would be unfavorable to Russia. As such, it has used hybrid warfare to break up Western unity.”

He went on to say: “Exploiting divisions in U.S. society and promoting a ‘culture war’ is one key element of Moscow’s efforts to weaken the West.”

In 2015, Russia’s disinformation campaign against the United States impacted my home State of Missouri. Research conducted by U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Jared Pier found that the same Russian trolls involved in the 2016 Presidential election interjected themselves in the 2015 protests at the University of Missouri with the goal of inciting further unrest and spreading discord and fear. The Russian account @fanfan1911 tweeted: “The cops are marching with the KKK. They beat up my little brother. Watch out.”

The tweet was then retweeted by Twitter bots and hundreds of real Twitter users who fell victim to the hoax. Lieutenant Colonel Pier’s research found that this same Twitter account later changed its tweets to all German and spread rumors about Syrian refugees provoking unrest in Germany during the height of the refugee crisis. In 2016, the account switched back to English and began tweeting about the 2016 Presidential election.

Russia’s interference in the 2016 Presidential election by spreading disinformation on social media is troubling, and it showcases Russia’s success in weaponizing the internet. Russia has exploited political divisions with the intention to cause individuals to question the legitimacy of our democracy. That is Russia’s ultimate goal, not to sway the outcome of elections, but to call into question the very foundations that make our democracy strong by provoking mistrust and instability into democratic institutions.

As Americans, we must wake up and band together to fight against Russia’s tactics. In Missouri and around the country, we have our own interfamily squabbles. Brothers and sisters may have arguments, but the minute the neighborhood kid picks on one of us, we defend each other. It is time that we face the reality that Russia is exploiting our American family disagreements and making them far worse.

Instead of placing blame on each other and further polarizing our Nation, we should turn toward each other to develop a defense strategy to counter Russia’s propaganda machine. Russia is instigating fights on both sides of the aisle. They do not care about American political parties, but rather the demise of Western democratic institutions. It is time that we stop Russia from infecting our family with their disinformation virus.

I call on all Americans to judge inflammatory posts with a wary eye. We need to quit being naive, allowing ourselves to become a pawn of those who want our undoing.

The internet is now a battlefield. It is critical that we consider the source of all information we receive. That information could be from a Russian bot in St. Petersburg. It is time to stand united, talk to each other, and work together to solve the challenges of our times.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REV. DR. FREDERICK DOUGLAS REESE

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a mentor, a fellow Selma, Alabama, native, voting rights activist, and an American hero, Rev. Dr. Frederick Douglas Reese, who passed away on April 5, 2018, at the age of 88. Dr. Reese is best known for the pivotal role he played in the Selma to Montgomery march that led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

It was Dr. Reese, as president of the Dallas County Voters League, who invited Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to Selma to organize and support their local voting rights campaign. As a longtime educator, pastor, and civil rights activist, Dr. Reese’s life and legacy stands as a testament to the power of one man’s ability to change the world.

Dr. Reese was born in Selma, Alabama, on November 28, 1929, the only son of a strong, matriarchal family led by his mother, Ellie R. Reese, and that included his older sister siblings, Doris Reese and Annie Ratliff. His strong educational and spiritual home environment, coupled with the Christian education training he received, was the solid foundation of his success.

An outstanding student, Dr. Reese graduated from Alabama State University and Livingston University with a degree in mathematics and continued his education at the University of Alabama, Southern University, and Auburn University before receiving his doctorate of divinity from Selma University.

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Dr. Reese’s teaching career began in Wilcox County, Alabama, where he taught science for 9 years and, most significantly, met his future bride, Alline, a fellow teacher. The two were

married on June 28, 1953, and she remained his lifelong companion for 64 years.

By the mid-1960s, Dr. Reese had returned to teach in Selma, Alabama, where he became the president of the Dallas County Voters League and president of the Selma Teachers Association. He used both leadership positions to actively educate Blacks in Selma about the right to vote. With courage and tenacity, Dr. Reese led the first-ever teachers march to the Selma Dallas County Courthouse in which over 100 Black teachers demanded the right to vote. He challenged his fellow teachers to exercise their right of citizenship by saying: “How can we teach American civics if we ourselves cannot vote?”

As the president of the Dallas County Voters League, he invited Dr. King to Selma to support their local efforts. With the help of Dr. King and SCLC, Dr. Reese organized a voting rights march on March 7, 1965, a day that will live in infamy as Bloody Sunday. During the march, protesters were brutally beaten and sprayed with tear gas simply for speaking out for their right to vote.

The sacrifices made that day by foot soldiers like Dr. Reese were captured on national outlets and led to the rise of so many Americans who came to Alabama to support their efforts. The Selma to Montgomery marches which Dr. Reese set in motion led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. While many minority Americans continue to face barriers to the polls today, our progress as a nation is unmistakable. We have Dr. Reese to thank for that progress.

On a personal note, I know that I would not be here today as Alabama’s first Black Congresswoman were it not for the work of Dr. Reese and so many foot soldiers who led the way, who looked our democracy in the eye and made us hold up to those ideals. It was my greatest honor as a Member of Congress to present to my fellow Selma native Dr. Reese the Congressional Gold Medal for his work in the voting rights movement on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery march.

Dr. Reese and others helped to change the course of American history and open the doors of opportunities for African Americans all across this Nation. We shall never forget the sacrifices that they made to our country.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama; a great, grateful nation; and the State of Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and contributions of Reverend Dr. Frederick Douglas Reese.

Dr. Reese was an American hero, a national treasure, a beloved Selma native whose life’s fight for voting rights will forever change the fabric of American history. May we all recommit ourselves to the cause he fought for by voting in every election: local, State, and Federal.

HONORING THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Civil Air Patrol and the contributions this civilian auxiliary makes to our great nation. The Civil Air Patrol supports America's communities with emergency response; diverse aviation and ground services; youth development; and promotion of air, space, and cyber power.

The Civil Air Patrol consists of 1,445 squadrons and approximately 58,000 volunteer youth and adult members nationwide. It is congressionally chartered and operates as a nonprofit organization. It is made up of 8 geographic regions, consisting of 52 wings throughout the 50 States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday evening, I had the honor of speaking at the Pennsylvania Wing Civil Air Patrol's 2018 Conference in Grantville, Pennsylvania. More than 400 Civil Air Patrol members and cadets throughout the Commonwealth will gather there this weekend to celebrate this outstanding civilian auxiliary. Colonel Gary L. Fleming is the wing commander.

Mr. Speaker, this year, the Civil Air Patrol is celebrating its 70-year association with the U.S. Air Force. Congress passed a law on May 26, 1948, designating the Civil Air Patrol as the official Air Force auxiliary. The Civil Air Patrol cadet program has been in existence for more than 75 years. Cadet programs throughout the country are making incredible impacts. Cadet programs attract more than 25,000 members, ages 12 through 20.

The program educates youth in four main program areas: leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character development. It enriches the school curriculum through after-school programs. Programs offer orientation flights in powered and glider aircraft, as well as flight training scholarships. Activities and competitions are available for cadets at local, State, regional, and national levels. Opportunities for community development are available through the color guard and drill team, as well as emergency service missions.

The Civil Air Patrol makes up about 10 percent of each of the U.S. Air Force Academy's classes. The cadets who have earned the General Billy Mitchell Award enlist in the Air Force, U.S. Army, and U.S. Coast Guard at higher pay grades.

Mr. Speaker, the cadet program also offers college scholarships in several different disciplines, as well as an international air cadet exchange program.

The Civil Air Patrol cadet program truly encourages our youth to reach great heights. They have been building leaders for more than 75 years, and I am so proud of the Pennsylvania Wing

Civil Air Patrol Cadet Advisory Council for its incredible commitment to our youth. I wish them the best in advance of the annual conference later this week, and I look forward to joining them at that celebration as well.

DRAFT FARM BILL

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House Committee on Agriculture will be marking up the most important bill that almost no one pays attention to, rolled out with very little fanfare. And actually, we can kind of understand why it has been sort of played down a little bit. The draft farm bill makes it more difficult to get SNAP benefits, while weakening the meager limits for farm subsidies and while cutting investments in conservation and innovative programs which people care deeply about.

The draft bill cuts billions from those SNAP benefits. It creates burdensome work requirements for caretakers of children over 6 and people between the ages of 50 and 59. Under this provision, people would have to find work or attend job training for at least 20 hours per week. The provisions won't do anything at all to address poverty. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that, even for those in the general population, securing a job within 3 months is virtually unattainable.

There will be a spirited debate about whether we ought to reduce nutrition for low-income people, but there are a whole range of other items that need to have attention.

The commodities programs that channel 94 percent of the subsidies in the farm bill to people who grow six commodities. This bill will exempt most corporate farms from payment limits and make it easier for large agriculture entities to call themselves family farms and get even more subsidies. It gets rid of payment limits for marketing loan gains and loan deficiency payments and exempts partnerships, joint ventures, LLCs, and Subchapter S corporations from means testing, opening the loopholes wider.

In the area of conservation, which matters deeply to Americans across the country and makes a big difference to farmers and ranchers in Oregon, this bill gets rid of the Conservation Stewardship Program, one of the largest conservation programs in the farm bill. It cuts the conservation title by \$1 billion over 10 years and cuts funding for the working lands program by nearly \$5 billion over 10 years, and it weakens the Endangered Species Act by allowing pesticides to be approved without considering the impact on endangered species.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most important areas that needs our attention deals with local food and regional infrastructure to promote local sustain-

able agriculture. It effectively eliminates funding for farmers markets, value-added producer grants, and cost-sharing programs for organic certification by failing to reauthorize mandatory funding for these programs.

Mr. Speaker, I spent the better part of 2½ years traveling Oregon after the last farm bill asking people what they wanted. And I will tell you, people in Oregon—farmers and ranchers, people who eat, sports people, people who are involved with food production and nutrition—this is not the approach that people in our community want, nor, frankly, by all available evidence, the vast majority of farmers and ranchers.

They want to see reforms. They want to have a crop insurance program that isn't wasteful support for large commodity producers, but actually is available for people who grow food, specialty crops for nursery, and the wine industry. It ought to be helping beginning farmers and ranchers get a toehold. It ought to deal with the efforts to cut down food waste, to provide protection for animal welfare.

Mr. Speaker, the draft proposal that has been released is a missed opportunity, a missed opportunity for the committee. But I am hopeful that Congress, as this process works out, will step up and do its part to make it better, to focus on people who eat; people who care about clean air, clean water; people who want to protect animal welfare; people who want to have a vibrant, thriving local food scene; and to be able to provide food security for people who are at risk.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better. I strongly urge my colleagues to take a hard look at this proposal and think about what a farm bill would look like for their community. I think they will find this bill falls far, far short.

RECOGNIZING THE MIRACLE LEAGUE OF NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization in my district that strives to empower individuals with special needs as well as their families.

The Miracle League of Northampton Township fosters both social and educational growth through sports and recreation. Along with buddy programs and coaching opportunities, Miracle League offers those with special needs the ability to participate in baseball, basketball, bowling, and soccer leagues.

On May 5, this organization will be holding its first annual charity wiffle ball tournament. The Miracle League of Northampton Township Wiffle Ball Classic will take place at Miracle League Fields in Churchville, and will feature a single elimination bracket along with awards for best team name and best uniforms.