

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN PHIPPEN

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of John Phippen. John attended the Route 91 festival in Las Vegas on October 1.

John was the father of six and grandfather to one. His life revolved around his friends, children, and grandkids.

John showed his true character the night of the Route 91 festival when he died while shielding a stranger with his body from the gunfire.

John was a kind and gentle man who enjoyed the simple things in life. His favorite thing to do was spend time with his family and friends in the sand dunes at Lake Havasu or camping at the beach. Everyone who knew John remembers him for being a wonderful, selfless, and sweet man.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my condolences to John Phippen's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

□ 1230

A-29 SUPER TUCANO SUCCESS IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the success of the A-29 Super Tucano light-attack combat aircraft in Afghanistan, a joint U.S. Air Force, NATO, and Afghan Air Force program.

Starting in December of 2015, the 81st Fighter Squadron at Moody Air Force Base graduated the first class of Afghan A-29 pilots, and this April marked the 2-year anniversary of these pilots' first combat mission in Afghanistan, a remarkable milestone.

As one U.S. Armed Forces commander stated: The A-29 combat mission in Afghanistan has been a game changer. The program's success has drawn the attention of our allies with more than 14 air forces using the A-29 and over 320,000 flight hours and 40,000 combat hours. Even our own Air Force is currently conducting experimentation on adding this light-attack aircraft to the fleet.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this contribution in part because, since 2011, the A-29 has been built in my district in Jacksonville, Florida, by a team of more than 1,000 U.S. employees, 60 percent of which, Mr. Speaker, are veterans. The A-29 is truly made in America and includes the support of more than 100 suppliers and subcontractors across 20 States.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO CHARLIE DENT

(Ms. SÁNCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, very shortly we will be losing a Member of the House of Representatives. CHARLIE DENT, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, will be leaving this body. I would be remiss if I didn't come to the floor and talk about his tremendous service to the House of Representatives.

I had the honor and the privilege of serving with Mr. DENT on the Ethics Committee. Not that serving on the Ethics Committee is a great honor or a great privilege, but serving with him truly was. He is a man of integrity, a man who kept his word, a man who worked hard to get through the business at hand, somebody whom I could trust, and somebody with a really great sense of humor, which, in this body, is becoming a rarer and rarer thing.

He is truly a likeable individual, somebody who took his job and his responsibilities seriously. And I want to wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors, and I want him to know that he will be sorely missed in this body.

HONORING MAYOR JAMES FULLER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mr. James F. Fuller, Sr., the longtime mayor of Ludowici in the First Congressional District of Georgia.

Mayor Fuller worked in every area possible to serve the people of Ludowici. He began working for Ludowici as a police officer, then police chief, then finally water superintendent. Forty-two years ago, Mayor Fuller was elected to his first term on city council. When he passed, he was completing his second term as the city's mayor. Not only did he lend his hand to Ludowici but also to our Nation as a whole, serving in the Navy during the Korean war.

A true public servant, Mayor Fuller was fulfilling his pledge as the city's leading official up until the very last moments before his passing. Even in the hospital, he said he would never get tired of talking about Ludowici and doing what he can for the people there. Mayor Fuller passed away on April 27 at the age of 83. His family, friends, and the city of Ludowici are in my thoughts and prayers.

REMEMBERING PATTY BIRKHOZ

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a friend and former colleague, former State Senator Patty Birkholz. I join my colleagues and

friends in Lansing today by wearing purple in her honor, as she was affectionately known as Purple Patty. Literally down to the ink pens that she used, everything was purple.

Senator Birkholz was first elected to the State legislature in 1996, as the first woman from Allegan County in the western side of Michigan. Then she became the first female Republican speaker pro tempore. After that she was elected to the State senate, where she served two terms.

Upon leaving the legislature, Senator Birkholz was appointed director of the Office of the Great Lakes by Governor Rick Snyder and as the Michigan representative to the Great Lakes Commission. President Barack Obama appointed Senator Birkholz to the National Sea Grant Advisory Board, a position she continued until she passed away.

Senator Birkholz was a passionate advocate for Michigan's natural resources and passed significant legislation, creating the Great Lakes Interbasin Compact, water withdrawal assessment laws, and ballast water standards that have affected all of the Great Lakes region. In 2010, a 291-acre portion of the 1,000-acre Saugatuck Dunes State Park was renamed the "Patricia Birkholz Natural Area" by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

She was a friend and a colleague who fought hard for her beliefs. She was tough, she was compassionate, and she was a great legislator. She will be deeply missed. Blessings to her family as we mourn her loss.

FREED AMERICANS IN NORTH KOREA

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a big welcome home to the three Americans who arrived early this morning back in the United States, in their words, the greatest Nation in the world, following their captivity in North Korea.

I commend Secretary of State Pompeo for his work to secure the release of these Americans and to President Trump for resetting the negotiating dynamic that led to this day. If we were following the prior administration's strategic patience, they would still be imprisoned.

With the freeing of these Americans and the other recent developments on the Korean Peninsula, including what is reflected in this photo, both North and South Korea removing their respective propaganda speakers from the DMZ, one cannot help but recall the events of 1989, in Eastern Europe, and the thaw that resulted in the freeing of half a continent.

Today's homecoming is a positive step in achieving lasting peace, but we still have a long way to go. It is a

shame that this could not have come to fruition in time for Otto Warmbier's safe release.

Let us hope that, with the forthcoming talks between the United States and North Korea, much more progress will be made.

GODSPEED, CHARLIE DENT

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today we say farewell to a colleague and good friend, CHARLIE DENT, a dedicated public servant who served in the Pennsylvania House for 8 years, the Pennsylvania Senate for 6, and 14 years in the United States Congress.

Again, a dedicated public servant. He is smart. He is tough. He is hard-working. He has a great sense of humor. But, most importantly, he has been a voice of reason here in the House of Representatives. He has worked extremely hard to represent the people of the 15th District over those past 14 years and done it with great honor and integrity.

As Charlie leaves the House today, I say to my good friend: Chuck, we are going to miss you. Godspeed.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 115-123)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, with respect to the Central African Republic, is to continue in effect beyond May 12, 2018.

The situation in and in relation to the Central African Republic, which has been marked by a breakdown of law and order, intersectarian tension, widespread violence and atrocities, and the pervasive, often forced recruitment and use of child soldiers, threatens the peace, security, or stability of the Central African Republic and the neighboring states, and continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to

the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic declared in Executive Order 13667.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 10, 2018.

HOURLY OF MEETING ON TOMORROW AND ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2018, TO TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow; and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO HAVE UNTIL 6 P.M. ON FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2018, TO FILE PRIVILEGED REPORTS

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations have until 6 p.m. on Friday, May 11, 2018, to file privileged reports to accompany measures making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

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

There was no objection.

FAREWELL TO THE CONGRESS AND THANK YOU TO MY CONSTITUENTS IN THE 15TH DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give notice of my intent to resign from the United States House of Representatives on May 12 and to share a few words with my fellow Members and the American people.

It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve the people of Pennsylvania's 15th District, and I am proud of my time in Congress. I believe that I have made a difference and improved the lives of the constituents whom I have served in Pennsylvania: from serving on the House Homeland Security Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which is being very ably led by my good friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER)—and his term is also coming to

its end. I want to commend him and congratulate him on his dedicated service all these years—and to my current role as a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, chairing the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies; and as past chairman of the House Ethics Committee.

And I was delighted for my good friend LINDA SÁNCHEZ, who just spoke a few moments ago, serving with her. She was a wonderful partner on that committee. So much of the staff, some of whom are here in the Chamber today, I was so thrilled to be able to have that opportunity to work with her and the staff, who are all so professional.

I also had the opportunity to serve as co-chair of the Tuesday Group Caucus. I was very pleased with what we were able to accomplish in that role. And as a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, I fought to fulfill the basic functions of government, like keeping the government funded and preventing default on our Nation's obligations. At times, that has not been easy.

I see my good friend Mr. COLE is here, too. He has been a great appropriator, a great leader, and a great mentor to me.

Unfortunately, due to disruptive political influences, increased polarization has led the Congress to becoming more paralyzed and unable to perform even our most basic and fundamental tasks. This phenomenon manifested itself most clearly during the 2013 Federal Government shutdown, but it continues today.

This political polarization has led to a disturbing trend where fringe elements of both the far right and far left are emboldened and empowered. And while the bases of both political parties are well represented in Congress, the governing center has been under increased pressure.

Too many Republicans expect unquestioning—blind, unquestioning—loyalty and obedience to President Trump, no matter how absurd or disruptive the comment or behavior. Constitutional separation of powers is almost an alien concept, after relentlessly demanding Congress assert its Article I powers during the Obama years.

On the other side, far too many Democrats offer unflinching resistance and opposition to President Trump, even if they agree with him on a given policy or position.

Separation of political parties has replaced separation of powers as a guiding, governing philosophy. This dynamic is simply not sustainable, and it is already having troubling consequences.

We have already seen a rise in the three-headed monster of isolationism, protectionism, and nativism. These are not qualities of a great nation. In fact, they dishonor the sacrifices and service of the Greatest Generation, who delivered both victory during World War II