

victory. It is an honor and a blessing to represent such a great community.

□ 2015

#### OFFICER NORBERT—HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the rain came down, the bayous and creeks rose, and the wind blew. It was as if it would never stop raining. It was Hurricane Harvey last September. After it was over, 55 inches of water had hammered the Houston area.

But in the rainy haze, Officer Norbert Ramon appeared. But Officer Ramon, a 55-year-old officer of the Houston Police Department, was sick. He had stage IV colon cancer. He was undergoing treatment, and doctors said that he had only a few years to live.

However, the 24-year veteran of the Houston Police Department jumped into the flooded aftermath of the hurricane despite his cancer. Officer Ramon sloshed through bacteria-filled waters, putting his own life at risk.

Over the course of 4 days, he rescued 1,500 Houstonians stranded in the flood. He said: "My main concern was to help the citizens. Nothing else was on my mind. I didn't worry about me or anything."

As the waters receded and the Texas Sun came out through the blue sky, Mr. Speaker, Officer Ramon headed back to the hospital, returning to his treatments. Despite a hard-fought battle, Officer Ramon lost his fight against a cancerous invader.

Taps sounded today, Mr. Speaker, as hundreds of peace officers and citizens of Houston honored the life of one of Houston's finest.

Officer Norbert Ramon stood Houston strong. Mr. Speaker, they don't make 'em like him anymore.

And that is just the way it is.

#### AUSTIN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the selfless work that the Austin Habitat for Humanity is doing in the 25th District of Texas that I proudly represent.

Over the past 30 years, they have built more than 425 homes, repaired another 280, and provided financial advice to over 10,000 Texans. Just last month, I had the opportunity to visit this organization and meet with the great folks who operate it. The work they do here is so important, and I was inspired by their spirits and selfless attitudes.

Hearing about the remarkable work they do day in and day out was extraordinary. They put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes and communities and to

give hope to those who need it the most.

Those who work and volunteer for Habitat for Humanity are superb people. They are compassionate and kind, and, frankly, we need more Americans just like them.

Every single person deserves a decent and affordable place to live, and this organization is there to help those who are less fortunate. I encourage each and every person listening to get out there and do something for your local community. Together, we can really make this world a better place.

With that being said, God bless Texas, God bless Habitat for Humanity, and God bless the United States of America.

"In God We Trust."

#### SUPPORT ACTIVE-DUTY PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS

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

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act that just unanimously passed the House. I was proud to support it.

This bill recognizes the sacrificial service of the 7,000-plus servicemen and -women who received a Purple Heart after being wounded in battle and continue to serve on Active Duty. My bill, included in this passage, takes the rightful step to waive the funding fee on all VA home loans for Active-Duty Purple Heart recipients. With this bill, we will save servicemembers thousands of dollars and help their families achieve the dream of homeownership.

U.S. Marine Corps Major Byron Owen, who was wounded twice in Iraq and once in Afghanistan, explained it best when he shared his experiences with my office. He said: "I was medevaced out of Iraq in 2006 and had to undergo months of therapy to return to service. Why should I have to pay 20 grand to get a VA loan when someone with a noncombat-related disability gets to waive it? Some of my friends are amputees still serving in uniform. They're paying the funding fee. Does that seem right?"

Major Owen, I hear you—and, no, it is not right. That is why I am proud to have introduced this bill and voted with my colleagues to support Active-Duty Purple Heart recipients with the passage of H.R. 299.

#### CONGRATULATING PENNSYLVANIA CONGRESS OF THE FUTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ATTENDEES

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two high school honors students from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional

District chosen to represent the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders.

The following students were selected to attend the event, which will take place June 29 to July 1 in Lowell, Massachusetts: Jacob Hulse of Tidioute and Brett Kelly of Lewis Run. These outstanding students were required to achieve a 3.5 GPA to be nominated for this prestigious honors-only program by their teachers or the National Academy of Future Science and Technology Leaders.

The event aims to encourage and guide the top students in our country who wish to devote their lives to the sciences and technology. Chosen delegates represent all 50 States and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Jacob and Brett on this tremendous accomplishment, and I wish them the best of luck as they continue their career paths to be future leaders in the science and technology field.

#### WHAT HAPPENED TO FAMILY VALUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS) is recognized for half of the remaining time until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for allowing me to lead this critical Special Order to speak about the lack of family values demonstrated by the Trump administration and the GOP, their choice to mismanage, and to offer a counternarrative to the wayward path they are leading us down.

Black people have no permanent friends or permanent enemies or permanent interests, as so eloquently stated by former Congressman William Lacy Clay, Sr.

Mr. Speaker, the President asked Black Americans: What do you have to lose?

The Congressional Black Caucus responded with a document that was hand-delivered to him that is titled, "We Have a Lot to Lose."

Over the course of the 2016 Presidential election, time and time again, then-candidate Donald Trump asked the Black community a larger question: "What do you have to lose?"

The inquiry presupposes that the experience of all African Americans is destitute and that we live in fear. In fact, President Trump declared some African Americans' communities are