

Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes, who have dedicated themselves to making this monument a reality. It is a long-overdue recognition of those who served proudly and courageously.

AMERICANS ARE BETTER OFF

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, as I travel Michigan's Seventh District, from neighborhood stores to the factory floor, there is a renewed sense of optimism. Folks I hear from feel safer and more secure about the future.

The economy is thriving thanks to progrowth policies like tax cuts and regulatory reform. Businesses are hiring, and there are more job openings than job seekers, and workers and families are seeing bigger paychecks and more take-home pay.

It is not just our economy that is getting stronger; our military is as well. We are taking care of our troops, raising their pay, and reforming the VA to help our veterans. We have also taken significant steps to combat the opioid epidemic, crack down on human trafficking, and make our communities safer.

Is there more work to do? Absolutely. Our focus will remain on helping to improve people's lives and making it easier for them to get ahead. The results so far are clear: Americans are better off now.

HONORING JOHN A. PALUMBO

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a special man, Mr. John A. Palumbo, from Lexington, Kentucky, who passed away earlier this month at the age of 97.

Mr. Palumbo was born in 1921 in Schenectady, New York. As a youth, he was a boxer, winning a Golden Glove, and then moved to Lexington to attend the University of Kentucky.

During his time as a student, World War II was raging, and Mr. Palumbo volunteered for the United States Army Infantry 1st Division.

Following basic training, he was sent to England to train for the D-day invasion. He landed on Omaha Beach at H-hour plus 58 minutes, actually swimming ashore when his landing boat received a direct hit and sank.

He fought across Europe and received many citations for his brave service, including the World War II Victory Medal and the Bronze Star.

After the war, Mr. Palumbo returned to Lexington, finished his education, married Nancyetta, and earned a law degree from the University of Kentucky. He worked for years in the lumber business and, as a Lexington developer, contributed greatly to the city of Lexington. He was well respected in

the business community and was active in several civic organizations.

Mr. Palumbo and his fellow veterans are true heroes. As members of the Greatest Generation, they willingly served to protect the freedoms we enjoy today.

I am humbled to honor the life of an American hero, Mr. John A. Palumbo, before the United States Congress, and I extend my deepest condolences to his family during this time.

SERBIA-U.S. RELATIONS

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

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Bishop Irinej, from the Serbian Orthodox Church, for offering today's prayer.

We are at the 100-year anniversary of when President Woodrow Wilson raised the Serbian flag in a show of support for the Serbian people. That symbolic act of solidarity is remembered today, and I think it is really important.

Since 2006, my home State of Ohio has worked closely with the Serbian Armed Forces through the Ohio National Guard State Partnership Program. Soldiers from the Ohio National Guard and the Serbian Defense Forces have worked together on deployments and training. We have also worked together to construct schools, carry out humanitarian missions, and provide healthcare.

On this anniversary of the U.S.-Serbia cooperation, I look forward to another 100 years of friendship with Serbia, and Ohio stands ready to lead the way.

SUPPORTING THE BLADENSBURG WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of an amicus brief filed by our majority whip, STEVE SCALISE, in defense of the Bladensburg World War I Memorial in Prince George's County.

The 93-year-old memorial honoring fallen soldiers has recently come under attack simply for being shaped like a cross. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the memorial unconstitutional because of the inherent meaning of the cross as a religious symbol.

What kind of world do we live in where a monument to honor fallen soldiers of World War I—93 years old—is being threatened because of its shape or religious meaning?

What is more, this is a clear violation of the Establishment Clause, which has been litigated. It could only be described as hostility towards religion, not neutrality.

What is next, Arlington National Cemetery? the U.S. Capitol? or count-

less other national monuments, historic sites, or traditions?

The Supreme Court has a chance to reverse this decision. I urge them to set precedent that will protect America's historic monuments in perpetuity.

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NEW MEXICO UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DOWN

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, in June, New Mexico's unemployment rate ticked down to 4.9 percent. This is the first time the State's unemployment rate has gone below 5 percent since September of 2008. And just for perspective, one year ago, in 2017, the unemployment was at 6.1 percent.

When we passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs bill, New Mexico didn't immediately feel the results, but now people are being filled with confidence, businesses are hiring, they are expanding, and people are going back to work.

But an even more remarkable development was the right to export our oil. Two counties in New Mexico are driving a surplus that is causing America to extend above and beyond where Saudi Arabia is currently producing. We are on track to become number one. That is after decades of saying that we had reached peak oil in the country.

When we release the ingenuity of the American worker, America can compete with anyone. These things are happening. America is better off today because of what we have done here in Congress as the Republicans.

CONDEMNING VIOLENCE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the resolution we are voting on this afternoon, condemning the violence committed by the government of Nicaragua against its own citizens.

I met with Brenda Lancaster and her husband last week in my office. She is a constituent of mine who started an organization called ZMI Family Ministries International, and they have planted ministries in five different countries, one of those countries being Nicaragua.

Mr. Speaker, Brenda has received hundreds of calls and messages from people affiliated with her ministry down there confirming the severity of the situation. She has seen pictures and videos that she wishes no one would ever have to see.

Luke 9:57 in the Scriptures recounts a man speaking to Jesus saying: "I will follow you wherever you go." Brenda