

Mrs. Mengoni devoted her life to her husband and raising their three children. She was deeply involved with the 4-H Club and even started the 4-H Club location in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she lived for a number of years.

Mr. and Mrs. Mengoni, their children, and other family members will be in my thoughts and prayers.

□ 1800

PUSH BACK ON CLEARANCES BEING REVOKED

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, last month, President Trump stripped former CIA Director John Brennan of his security clearance. That was not done because Director Brennan posed a threat to national security. No, it was done to silence a political opponent.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans agree that the President should not be able to order the IRS to initiate an audit against a rival, and we should all be able to agree that he may not use his authority to revoke a security clearance. Yet the President has announced that he intends to invalidate the clearances of other current and former officials who disagree with his policies.

That is why I introduced H.R. 6680 with my colleagues, Mr. LIEU and Ranking Member SCHIFF of the Intelligence Committee, that will prevent the administration from revoking security clearances for political reasons. My bill would give agency officials the basis to push back on White House demands that more clearances be revoked outside of judicial processes and protocols.

Mr. Speaker, granting, denying, or revoking security clearances for political retribution or the stifling of political dissent is un-American, and it should never be tolerated or allowed. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING THE FIREFIGHTERS OF CALIFORNIA

(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, as we return this week to Washington after our district work period this last month, I rise today to recognize and honor the many firefighters around California, particularly in my own district, who have been fighting so hard to extinguish these devastating wildfires of hundreds of thousands of acres.

The Carr fire quickly became one of the most devastating fires in northern California history, and, unfortunately, claimed the lives of three firefighters in the process. I am very grateful for their sacrifice and their unwavering efforts in the face of what had to seem

nearly impossible odds. After all, when California's poor forest management practices turn our public lands into tinderboxes, containing a wildfire becomes extremely difficult.

I spent a lot of time in Redding last month, and I saw firsthand the challenges they faced and the great work being done to protect the citizens, the communities, and each other.

Local firefighters, CalFire, the Hotshots, Forest Service, smoke jumpers, all of them were ready to go and were working, participating, putting their lives on the line. We owe all these men and women a great deal of gratitude.

We can debate what may cause these catastrophic fires, the fuel load in our forests, and lack of management, but there is no question who put these fires out. We are very grateful to them.

KAVANAUGH HEARING PROCEEDS

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as the Kavanaugh hearing proceeds, the House gets no say on Supreme Court nominees, but our constituents have much to lose if Judge Kavanaugh is confirmed.

As chair of the Congressional Black Caucus' Judicial Nominations Task Force, I have studied Judge Kavanaugh's record closely. African Americans have the most to lose because they, more than other Americans, have advanced their rights through the court.

However, most Americans have much to lose, too, as Kavanaugh's record on the Affordable Care Act, criminal justice, and reproductive rights shows. Let the House also note, Kavanaugh's vision of executive power would enhance the authority of the executive at the expense of the other branches of government, including Congress, and, therefore, would pose a special danger to the Constitution's careful balance of power.

Brett Kavanaugh does not belong on the Supreme Court.

DAIRY FARMERS FACING A CRISIS

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, our dairy farmers are facing a crisis. Family farms have shaped our upstate communities, built our local economies, and put food on our tables, but the great tradition of family farming is in jeopardy.

Our farmers need help. Unfair trade agreements; rising regulatory costs; high taxes, especially in New York, which has some of the highest property, sales, and income taxes in the Nation; and distortions in the labor market have pushed our farmers to the brink of bankruptcy. Sadly, many have

chosen to close in New York altogether, the third largest dairy-producing State in the Nation.

I am grateful that the Trump administration is hearing our desperate call. In a recent visit to Trinity Valley Farm and Brabant Farm in New York's 22nd District, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue heard our farmers' pleas for help.

He visited our district, the first time a sitting Secretary of Agriculture has visited our district in over 20 years. He provided insight and took our concerns back to Washington.

It is time to turn the tide and end this crisis. Preserving the great tradition of farming is vital to preserving our heritage, our families, and our economy.

HIGHLIGHTING CRUCIAL ISSUES

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, 1 minute is really not enough time, but I really wanted to highlight, as quickly as I can, some crucial issues that we have experienced over the work recess.

First of all, I condemn the actions of Saudi Arabia as it relates to the bombing of the two or at least one bus of children. I believe the United States should address this question immediately, for children are our most precious resource.

I am concerned that now 497 children still remain without their families at the border, that 300 of those parents have been deported, and most of the children are under 5. This is inhumane, cruel. And it is, of course, the most tragic act that this Federal Government could have done. I ask the Trump administration immediately to respond.

Listening to the hearings of Justice Kavanaugh, let me indicate that there is no comment on the character of the man, but there is a comment on the appointment. And that appointment involves an individual, the President of the United States, who is under investigation, and, also, the papers that are needed have not been provided.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me indicate that I note that the State Department and the Defense Department decided to cut the funding for Pakistan. Pakistan is a nation that we should attempt to continue negotiations and diplomacy, and we should recognize that those military dollars are important for the fight against terrorism. These things should be taken up on behalf of the American people.

TIME TO REAUTHORIZE FVPSA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to join my colleagues on the