

As I continue monitoring this situation, I will continue pursuing the issue until we have solutions and funding on a Federal level to protect our children.

Water is not a luxury, it is a necessity for life. And the least of ours, our children, should not be put in danger.

RECOGNIZING BRIDLE PATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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 a school in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, that has played a critical role in molding the lives of countless young citizens.

Bridle Path Elementary, located in Lansdale, is part of the North Penn School District. The staff at this school understands that the elementary age group encompasses some of the most formative years of a child's life. As such, Bridle Path provides a myriad of opportunities for students to grow, thrive, and explore their interests.

One area in which Bridle Path consistently shines is in the area of music education. Just last year, Bridle Path Elementary School Chorus, under the leadership of band director Michael Klenk, won the 101.1 FM's ninth annual Christmas Choir Competition.

From my experience with this community, I have witnessed their warmth and their dedication to helping each other, and I applaud the work of Principal Heather Mann and her dedicated team of educators and staff, and I wish them continued success.

RECOGNIZING PEBBLE HILL CHURCH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a house of worship in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that last month celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Pebble Hill Church in Doylestown was founded in 1968. In its first decade, the church became known for its fierce advocacy for peace and its willingness to show independence from conventional norms.

In 1983, the Reverend Gary Culp joined the congregation, quickly cementing the church's reputation of community service and mutual understanding.

Each year, Pebble Hill Church honors an individual with the Harold and Alma Able Peace Award. This year's winner was Janet Berkowitz for her work with the organization Suicide Anonymous. September, Mr. Speaker, is Suicide Prevention Month, and I commend Pebble Hill for recognizing Janet and for her work in shining a light on the plight of mental illness.

I applaud the entire Pebble Hill Church family for their sustained commitment to making our world brighter and more peaceful. I wish the current celebration coordinator, the Reverend Larry Hall, and all dedicated members

of the staff, volunteers, and worshippers continued success for years to come.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF RICHARD STRICKER

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a community icon in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Richard Stricker, who passed away in late 2015, spent decades dedicated to public service. A former council member who served on the Lansdale Cemetery Board of Directors for over 50 years, Richard was a fixture in Lansdale.

He was fittingly recognized on this year's Founders Day, receiving the Lansdale Borough's Lifetime Achievement Award. Throughout his storied career as a small businessman and a contractor and a politician, and as a driving force in the revitalization of the Lansdale Cemetery, Richard always treated all of his fellow citizens with kindness and with respect.

Said Lansdale Historic Society officer Dick Shearer, you would be "hard-pressed to find someone who gave as much to Lansdale as he did."

I am proud to honor Richard Stricker for a lifetime of service, and would like to thank the Lansdale Borough Council and Councilwoman Mary Fuller and all of the ceremony attendees for their work in honoring the life of this fine citizen.

□ 1045

SHAWKAN AND FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out in support of international press freedom and to highlight, in particular, two egregious cases of government assaults on the rights of journalists.

This Saturday, a court in Egypt will decide whether to execute an award-winning photojournalist for doing his job. While in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, the Nobel Prize-winning former political prisoner, Aung San Suu Kyi, has overseen the imprisonment and sentencing of two Reuters reporters who were attempting to shed light on the atrocities committed by the Burmese military against the Rohingya minority.

In Egypt, Mahmoud Abou Zeid, who is known professionally as Shawkan, was taken into custody along with two other journalists while photographing the violent dispersal of a protest in Rabaa Square on August 14, 2013. The other journalists were foreign nationals and were released within hours, while Shawkan, an Egyptian, has been abused and beaten, denied his freedom, due process, and adequate medical treatment ever since—simply for doing his job.

In 2016, the U.N. Human Rights Council Working Group on Arbitrary Deten-

tion issued a report on his case, calling his detention "arbitrary" and recommending that he be released immediately.

Shawkan received the 2018 UNESCO Freedom Prize and has been recognized by press freedom organizations worldwide for his outstanding contributions to the profession in the face of danger.

In July, I sent a letter to President Sisi of Egypt urging him to support the immediate release of Shawkan or, at the very least, to support an individual trial instead of the mass trial that serves as a basis of his detention so that evidence specific to his case can be heard and considered. The Egyptian Government has not responded to this letter, and they are planning to sentence Shawkan as early as this week-end.

Unfortunately, Egypt is not alone in its harassment and imprisonment of members of the press. Just this week a Burmese court sentenced Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, reporters working for Reuters, to 7 years in prison following their arrest while reporting on the mass killing of 10 Rohingya Muslim men in the village of Inn Din, Rakhine State, last September.

This decision is a significant step backward in Burma's transition to democracy and reflects poorly on the Aung San Suu Kyi government's commitment to those same democratic ideals for which he was punished not so long ago.

The freedom to express oneself is a fundamental right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The freedom of the press and the public's right to information are paramount to the success of a democracy. The censorship and degradation of the press is among the most effective tools for oppression and control.

Thomas Jefferson captured this sentiment when he said, and I paraphrase, if forced to choose, he would prefer newspapers without a government rather than a government without newspapers.

Today, authoritarian rule has targeted members of the press in order to stifle dissent and maintain power. According to Freedom House, only 13 percent of the world's population enjoys a free press. Global press freedom has declined to its lowest point since 2013 amid unprecedented threats to journalists in major democracies and attempts by authoritarian states to control the media, even beyond their borders.

We are witnessing a new era in press suppression as even politicians in democracies attempt to shape news coverage by undermining traditional media outlets, exerting influence over public broadcasters, and favoring friendly private outlets.

Unfortunately, the current President of the United States has led the charge against the press with nearly daily tirades against the media, branding them as the enemy of the state and rejecting the news media's role in holding public servants accountable. Just

yesterday, President Trump suggested he would like to change libel laws in order to prevent negative news stories about himself, a tactic more suited to Russian or Iranian leadership than the world's greatest democracy.

And let there be no doubt that leaders around the world take note of the President's attacks on the press. They know that the Trump administration has no interest in lecturing them about their human rights abuses and no leg to stand on if it did.

So the Egyptians and Burmas of the world will continue to ignore national norms while the Trump administration looks the other way or worse. That is why, as Members of Congress, it is absolutely imperative that we remind the world that, no matter what the President says, we have not forgotten our values, those universal values that apply to every man, woman, and child. We must remain vigilant and defend against even the smallest attacks on the free and independent press, because the loss of this freedom creeps slowly like a cancer on our democracy.

I urge the Governments of Egypt and Burma to do the right thing and end their attacks on the media and release Shawkan, Wa Lone, Kyaw Soe Oo, and all other political prisoners. I will continue to use my voice to advocate for them and the hundreds of other journalists around the world whose freedoms are at risk because of their work and because of what they do every day, and I hope my friends on both sides of the aisle will join me in this effort.

HONORING UNITED STATES NAVY CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our United States Navy's chief petty officers and their families and loved ones who are gathering today at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena and Wall for CPO Pride Day. This annual event celebrating their service is held in different regions across the country, and I can tell you, it holds significance for me.

Mr. Speaker, my father, James A. Rutherford, was a young sailor who was deployed abroad on the USS *Waccamaw* the day I was born in September of 1952. He proudly worked his way through the ranks to later attain the position of chief petty officer.

Like so many military families both then and now, my father and other CPOs sacrificed a great deal to defend our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, chief petty officers are the backbone of the Navy, responsible for training junior officers. They lead a division of sailors and petty officers and inspire them to be part of something bigger than themselves.

North Florida is incredibly proud to be home to so many sailors and their

families, and our community gratefully celebrates chief petty officers today, for we owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

Congratulations and best wishes to them on this CPO Pride Day.

CONCERN OVER LEADERSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concerns over the leadership coming from our Nation's White House.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote the words of a White House staff member that was recently published by The New York Times in an op-ed:

The dilemma—which the President does not fully grasp—is that many of the senior officials in his own administration are working diligently from within to frustrate parts of his agenda and his worst inclinations.

This comes directly from a staffer at the Trump White House.

It is scary to think that the policies that have come out of the White House already publicly aren't even the President's worst inclinations.

It is scary to think that separating children from their mothers, as young as 9 months old, is not the President's worst inclination.

It is scary to think that the rhetoric being launched at immigrants, hateful rhetoric launched against immigrants from all parts of the world—this is a nation of immigrants—that that is not part of the President's worst inclination.

It is scary to think that arming teachers not with a book, not with a laptop, but with weapons is not the President's worst inclination.

There is a quiet resistance within the administration of people choosing to put country first. That is what the staff member said in that op-ed. People before party. Country before party.

That is what the staff member has said in this op-ed, and I stand here today to say to my Republican colleagues: Where are you? Will you put country before party?

Where is your courage to do what is right? Will you put country before party?

Where is your courage to hold the President accountable, to exercise the checks and balances that are given to us by the Constitution?

Trump's circle of chaos runs deep within the administration. To my colleagues: Where are you?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING KENNEWICK POLICE CHIEF KENNETH HOHENBERG FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kennewick Police Chief Kenneth Hohenberg for 40 years of service to the Kennewick Police Department.

Chief Hohenberg began his career as an officer at age 22, making him the city's longest serving employee. He rose quickly through the ranks. He served on patrol, both as a motorcycle cop and a DARE officer, a sergeant, a lieutenant, and then captain. He attended the FBI National Academy, an honor few police officers receive, and was named chief in 2003.

Not only is Chief Hohenberg one of the most respected police chiefs in the State, but he is also a widely admired member of our community. He has been named Benton-Franklin United Way Volunteer of the Year, Kennewick Man of the Year, and Tri-Citizen of the Year.

In central Washington, we know him as a man who is constantly looking for opportunities to help and always willing to serve in and out of the police department.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Ken Hohenberg for his tremendous service to the city of Kennewick and to Washington's Fourth Congressional District.

CONGRATULATING ROWDY BARRY

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rowdy Barry, Kennewick's own professional bullfighter, on a successful 33-year career.

Rowdy grew up around rodeos and has been bullfighting rodeos of all sizes since he was 18 years old. Putting himself between bulls and bull riders requires a true dedication to the sport. Rowdy sacrificed his time, as well as several injuries and broken bones, to keep riders safe and to provide a few additional laughs for the audience. On September 15, Rowdy will be hanging up his bullfighting hat for good at the Othello Rodeo.

Earlier this year, he was inducted into both the Kennewick Rodeo and Omak Stampede Halls of Fame. The Walla Walla Frontier Days posters honored him with some of his own artwork.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Rowdy on a career that will not be forgotten in central Washington. I wish him the best in his future.

CONGRATULATING JAMES WEBB

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Webb, a Yakima native, for receiving the prestigious Louis H. Bauer Founders Award by the Aerospace Medical Association this year.

It is not every day that a man born and raised in central Washington is awarded the Aerospace Medical Association's highest honor, and Mr. Webb deserves it.

After graduating from the University of Washington, James joined the