

The U.S. must continue to support Turkey's push to achieve a diplomatic solution to at least delay an assault on Idlib.

I believe the use of chemical weapons should not be the only trigger for an American response, but that we can no longer stand by as scores of innocents are massacred by the brutal dictator and his Russian agents.

I call on the President to strengthen his resolve against Assad's barbarous acts and to continue to support the innocent Syrian people.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER ELIJAH HARNUM

(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 recognize the life of Christopher Elijah Harnum.

On November 13, 2010, Chris was a victim of gun violence, a 14-year-old boy shot through the stomach as he played with his friends.

Chris spent over a year in the hospital recovering from his injuries. As he recovered, Chris devoted his life to serving others. Chris worked to become an EMT so that he could help those in need.

In the aftermath of the October 1 shooting in Las Vegas, Chris formed Vegas Out of Ashes, a nonprofit devoted to helping those victims. Chris personally collected donations, purchased water and goods, promoted blood drives, and visited local hospitals.

Through it all, Chris struggled with PTSD and depression from his own trauma. The events of October 1 reopened Chris' wounds, and as he worked tirelessly to help those suffering around him, Chris suffered himself.

On August 19, 2018, Chris lost his battle against depression.

Today, I honor Chris as a fighter, who rose from his own ashes to put the needs of others above his own, who exuded love through his own pain and who embodied the best of what it means to be a Nevadan, a Las Vegan, and an American.

□ 1945

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, more than a century ago, one of the most horrific genocides in history took place as the world was fixated on the Great War raging in Europe.

The Ottoman Empire and its successor state, the modern Republic of Turkey, have always denied the atrocities they committed against the Armenian people.

For too long, our own government has played along with Turkey. We have

allowed politics to blind us from the mass murder of 1½ million innocent Armenians by the Ottoman Turks. We must officially recognize this horrific crime to prevent similar events from occurring again. This also means pressuring the Turks to acknowledge their past sins.

Turkey, under dictator Erdogan, has proven to be an oppressor of his own people. Today, we see him adopt similar brutality against the Kurds that was applied to the Armenians more than a century ago.

This behavior is unacceptable by a NATO member and a supposed American ally.

And that is just the way it is.

HONORING VEL R. PHILLIPS

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the House is going to take up and, hopefully, pass legislation that I have introduced to honor a Wisconsin hero and one of my she-roes, Vel R. Phillips. The bill would designate a post office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in her honor.

Vel was the first of so many things: the first African American and the first woman to become an alderman in the city of Milwaukee; the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School; the first African American judge in Milwaukee County; the first and only African American to win election statewide in Wisconsin.

But her life and contributions cannot simply be summed up by merely adding up her many firsts. Such an approach gives short shrift of her local and national impact. For you see, Mr. Speaker, she was a soldier for social justice in the national movement for desegregation in housing in the open housing movement.

I first met Vel when I was 16 years old, and she was the judge in an oratorical contest. That encounter has made a lifelong impact on me.

Vel passed away earlier this year in her 90s, but her legacy of love, service, and commitment lives on.

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the tragic epidemic that impacts too many Montanans and Americans.

Suicide rates are increasing across the country. On average, a Montanan dies by suicide every 33 hours. Suicide is now the eighth leading cause of death in Montana. The Centers for Disease Control recently reported a 30 percent increase in suicide rates in the last 20 years, with nearly 45,000 Americans taking their own lives in 2016.

Veterans account for almost 20 percent of all suicides in the United

States. Suicide rates amongst farmers have been increasing.

We, however, can reverse the trajectory of one of the leading causes of death in this country.

There is good news coming out of Montana. The Billings Clinic, which I recently toured, announced it will launch Montana's first psychiatric residency program. This will expand access to mental healthcare for our more rural areas.

I speak out today during Suicide Prevention Week because suicide is preventable. Access to crisis resources saves lives. Mental and behavioral health research saves lives. Ending the stigma surrounding suicide saves lives.

HONORING SERGEANT GERALD TIMMANN

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, Sergeant Gerald Timmann.

Sergeant Timmann is a Vietnam combat veteran from Leetonia, Ohio, who served in the 101st Airborne from 1967 to 1969. He spent 13 grueling months in Vietnam's jungles and was exposed to some of the worst battles in the conflict.

Ten days prior to the end of his tour, Sergeant Timmann was hit by a grenade during combat, causing him to lose both legs. Sergeant Timmann says he is forever grateful to the brave medevac helicopter crews that, under heavy fire, rescued him.

In honor of his profound bravery, Sergeant Timmann has deservedly received a number of awards, including the Purple Heart, Infantry Combat Medal, and National Defense Service Medal.

Sergeant Timmann exemplifies the selfless courage of our military, and I am honored to share his story with the Nation today.

PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues, Democrat and Republican alike, and House leadership to support permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This vital program benefits millions of Americans in innumerable ways, from promoting recreational activity to contributing to our Nation's robust economy, along with furthering environmental protection.

As we rapidly approach the deadline for this crucial program, which affects 98 percent of counties here in the United States and contributes to an