

the law clarifies the legal eligibility of the citizens of these three nations for full-term driver's licenses, honors the terms of our Compact of Free Association, and reaffirms our partnership with the three nations.

I would like to thank Representative DON YOUNG, the gentleman from Alaska and my friend, for his work on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us would make a technical correction to the Real ID Act of 2005. The act incorrectly identified persons from the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau as citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, an entity that has not existed since 1994. This error has caused citizens of these trust territories difficulties because they are often issued only temporary driver's licenses. This, in turn, makes some employers reluctant to hire these citizens and makes it difficult for them to access government services.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, urge my colleagues to do so as well, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the sponsor of this bill.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. RUSSELL and the minority member for their work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3398 is a bill that should be passed. I strongly support it. I was listening to the testimony from the chairman, and he has put it so well, I probably won't speak anymore. I do believe that what he said is all true. It is necessary. It is needed.

This is something that was an oversight, because I was here when we wrote the original bill in 2005. It was an oversight, and the gentleman did a great job explaining it.

This is needed for those citizens who we consider from Palau, Micronesia, and the other islands there, and we will do the work. I thank the gentleman again for his work.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA).

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3398, the REAL ID Act Modification for Freely Associated States Act.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague and good friend from Alaska, Congressman DON YOUNG, for introducing this bill, which I proudly co-sponsored.

Through the Compact of Free Association, the United States and the Freely Associated States—the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic

of Palau—agreed to the terms of our special and unique government-to-government relationships. It is through these compacts that the citizens of the Freely Associated States can enter the U.S. to live, work, study, and visit indefinitely as legal nonimmigrants without visa, with guaranteed access to social and health services.

In return, the U.S. has defense and certain other operating rights in the Freely Associated States, denial of access to the territory by other nations, and other agreements of strategic importance to the United States.

The Freely Associated States' citizens migrate to Hawaii and other places in the U.S. for many reasons, including but not limited to job and economic opportunities.

Hawaii is one of the four recognized affected jurisdictions by the U.S. Government. Hawaii experiences the highest impact of FAS migrants. The other affected jurisdictions are Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

Based on the U.S. Census data for 2010 to 2014, the five States with the highest number of FAS citizens are Hawaii, with 17,205; Arkansas, with 3,625; Washington, with 3,430; Oregon, with 2,580; and Texas, with 2,090.

Unfortunately, when Congress passed the Real ID Act in 2005, it used an obsolete reference to the Freely Associated States countries, specifically identifying them as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

As a result, when the Freely Associated States' migrants seek to obtain a U.S. ID or license, they can only obtain a temporary license for 1 year, since they are legally noncitizens without an end date of their stay.

This is extremely problematic when the migrants seek employment, and it further complicates our ability to accurately assess the size of the FAS citizen population.

It is clear Congress intended to include the Freely Associated States' citizen migrants under the Real ID Act, and I appreciate Congressman YOUNG's effort to correct the RECORD and end the ambiguity which keeps FAS citizens from fully and freely participating in our country and becoming self-sufficient members of our society.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to remind people why we even have these compacts. It is because the United States did do atomic bomb testing, nuclear testing, in this area. As a result, it has affected their health, their ability to retain and stay in their home countries, and the compacts give them free access.

Hawaii is one of the most affected, and we carry a lot of the costs associated with the compacts, especially in the area of medical, education, and housing.

So the ability to have these Real IDs, then, will facilitate the various migrants' ability to actually seek jobs and have an equal footing in terms of economic opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 3398.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CURTIS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3398.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### NATIONAL RICE MONTH

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this week, I joined rice farmers in Crowley, Louisiana, the rice capital of the world, to recognize National Rice Month.

With more rice mills per square mile than anywhere else in America, the small town of Crowley was a fitting place to celebrate the beginning of the harvest for American-grown rice. Rice is a part of our Southern culture and is a major agricultural commodity for Louisiana.

There are more than 400,000 rice acres in Louisiana, generating over \$700 million in economic output each year, supporting many thousands of Louisiana jobs. Rice farmers and farm families are solid Americans, and south Louisiana would not be what it is without rice.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a strong advocate of American rice, and I commend the nearly 125,000 Americans who work to provide this quality, nutritious crop to our Nation and the world.

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

(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, September is Suicide Prevention Month, and almost every 12 minutes, an American dies by suicide.

It is now the 10th leading cause of death in the United States of America. The Centers for Disease Control recently reported a 30 percent increase in suicide rates in the last 30 years, with nearly 45,000 Americans taking their own lives in 2016.

Mr. Speaker, suicide is preventable. Increasing access to crisis resources saves lives. Mental and behavioral health research saves lives. Ending the stigma surrounding suicide and reaching out for help saves lives.

On average, one person dies by suicide every 4 hours in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, according to

research from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

There is no single cause of suicide, and suicide risk increases when several health factors and life stressors converge to create an experience of hopelessness and despair.

But, together, we can reverse this course. By making mental healthcare, substance abuse treatment, and suicide prevention a national priority, we can reverse the tide on these deaths of despair.

We will save lives, and we will do it together.

#### COMBATING WILDFIRES IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the topic of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GARRETT).

#### HONORING BARBARA ROSE JOHNS

Mr. GARRETT. Somewhere, Mr. Speaker, someone is watching what is going on in this Chamber. Even now, probably in a Nation of 320-plus million, many someones are watching, and most of them don't have a clue who I am, and that is okay. But the fact that most of them don't have a clue who the lady pictured to my left, your right, is, is not okay.

On April 23, 1951, in Prince Edward County, Virginia, at the R.R. Moton High School, a 16-year-old student named Barbara Rose Johns strode onto a stage and implored her peers at this all-African American high school to assert their God-given rights of equality.

I am honored today by the presence of Ms. Johns' sister, Joan Johns, in the gallery. She is tickled when she speaks to me, which tickles me, because I am tickled when I speak to her. I told her earlier today, Mr. Speaker, that I was in love with her sister. It is interesting, because she is sitting with my wife.

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The reason that I say that is that I love America, and as a member of the State house, I had the honor of carrying legislation that made April 23 Barbara Johns Day in Virginia. The reason is that Barbara Johns' story is a story that every American should know.

Someone had the temerity to tell me, as I worked towards creating Barbara Johns Day, "That is Black history." Mr. Speaker, it is not Black history or White history. It is American history. And America is not Black or White or brown. America is an idea.

So when the Founders drafted the preamble to the Constitution and called for us to form a more perfect Union, the presence of the word "more" implied a perpetual duty. And the revolution that cast off an oppressive government from across an ocean against Great Britain is one that I would argue was perpetual, and that another hero of mine named Thomas Jefferson was a slave owner, certainly an imperfect man, who articulated near perfect ideas.

Fast-forward to April 23, 1951. Barbara Johns, with a clean and clear and bright mind, influenced by her teachers and her Uncle Vernon Johns, understood that rights are not given by government but by something bigger, and understood that the duty of a citizen and a free nation was to assert their God-given rights. So the idea of something as draconianly oppressive as separate but equal was intolerable.

That day, she implored her students to walk out of Moton High School and the tar paper shacks and the leaking roofs and to demand equality not of outcomes, but of opportunity, because that is what America is supposed to be—without regard to gender, without regard to race, without regard to faith.

Now, what that manifested itself in was a court case, *Davis v. Prince Edward County*. That court case was amalgamated into another case of which I hope that people have heard, *Brown v. Board of Education*. The difference between that case and every other case was that those were initiated by lawyers, and this case was initiated by a 16-year-old girl who understood that the promise of liberty was not just to one group or another, that the American Revolution was perpetual, and that God had given her rights just like everyone else to be asserted as a citizen in a free society.

The fact that people watching don't know who I am is fine by me, but the fact that our students don't understand that America is supposed to be not Black or White or brown, but an idea wherein all people are created equal with an opportunity to succeed based on their work and their merit, that is not okay.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, we filed H.R. 5561, the Barbara Johns Congressional Gold Medal Act. Her efforts, without lauding herself, without patting herself on the back—indeed, going forth from this date and living a humble life as a wife and a librarian, as she aspired to—are the embodiment of the nameless faces of millions who sacrificed so that we can live in a country that seeks to employ an idea that is the greatest idea known to the history of free people.

The civil rights movement is not a Black history story. It is not a White

history story. It is an American history story. We are not a Black nation or a White nation. We are a nation built on an idea, and our students and our posterity need to understand that what makes us great is that this right fought for by people like this lady isn't universal.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that if the President is watching, he will file a Presidential Medal of Freedom; I hope that if Members or staff are watching, they will sign on to the Barbara Johns Congressional Gold Medal Act; and I hope that if students are watching, they will go to school tomorrow and tell their peers this is a country where people stood up so that we all have a chance to be that which we dream to be, because that is who Barbara Rose Johns was, and it is an American history story worth telling.

#### WILDFIRES

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring the Chamber's attention to the wildfires that have devastated our country this year, consuming nearly 7.7 million acres across 12 States. This figure, however, doesn't account for the lives tragically lost, the homes destroyed, or the livelihoods that went up in flames. This doesn't account for the smoke from these wildfires that swept from many of our Western States into the Midwest, creating poor air quality.

The House has passed measures to reduce the severity of our wildfires and improve the health of our forests. Last November, the House passed the Resilient Federal Forest Act, written by my friend from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN). The legislation provides commonsense reforms that will benefit our forests, economy, and the environment.

Conservationists, organizations, foresters, stakeholders, and local leaders throughout Montana recognize the need for reforms to get us managing our forests again. Unfortunately, the other Chamber, mired in obstruction, has not taken up the bill. The House, however, has not lost our focus, including critical forest management reforms into other legislation.

Looking across the West and seeing the devastation of the wildfires this year, I know we can't afford to wait. I am honored that many of my colleagues are joining me here tonight who recognize the threat of catastrophic wildfires and want to do something about them. I look forward to hearing from them.

At this time, I yield to the gentleman from Utah, JOHN CURTIS.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as thousands of Utahans in my district are returning to their homes after being evacuated due to wildfires that came within blocks of their homes.

The Pole Creek fire and the Bald Mountain fire have engulfed over 100,000 acres of land and are still burning strong. It is a testament to our brave firefighters and our incredible