

and the use of civilians as human shields.

It is my fear that our continued support of this war will only increase resentment of the United States and the region. It will diminish U.S. security and undermine America's moral authority and reputation as a champion of our foundational values such as human rights and civil liberties.

In addition to the horrendous humanitarian costs in Yemen itself, it makes the entire region less secure and makes humanitarian disasters in the wider region more likely. But more importantly, what is happening in Yemen is just simply wrong. It is out of harmony with America's values. Ironically, the very reason we want to support a strong ally in Saudi Arabia is to prevent this type of situation, not foster it.

These conditions provide a breeding ground for violent extremism and for terrorist groups to expand. Prolonging the war in Yemen only strengthens the Islamic state in Yemen and al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. Additionally, the conflict undertaken by the Saudi-led coalition under the objective of "eliminating Iranian influence" has achieved just the opposite.

Iran has been able to use the conflict as an opportunity to establish a foothold across the Middle East. They send soldiers to prop up a dictator, Bashar al-Assad, in Syria. Additionally, Iran-supported Hezbollah is now the dominant political force in Lebanon, and able to threaten neighboring Israel, our closest ally in the region, with its growing missile and rocket arsenal. This threat to Israel is in addition to the ongoing barrage of missiles fired into Israel by Iran-supported Hamas in Gaza.

I welcomed Secretary of Defense Mattis' comments in October, when he said, "It's time to stop this." He urged all parties to sit down and pursue peace. Secretary of Defense Mattis' comments were followed by Secretary of State Pompeo's statement in which he said, "The time is now for the cessation of hostilities."

I echo Secretary of Mattis' further comments when he said, "We have got to move toward a peace effort here, and we can't say we are going to do it sometime in the future." We should support the U.N.-led efforts to bring peace to this devastated country and urge the Saudi-led coalition and Houthis to start peace negotiations immediately.

Ending our support for the Saudi-led coalition highlights the gross inhumanity of the war and that we do not support the way the conflict in Yemen is being conducted. It underlines our growing concerns about the behavior of Saudi Arabia as it affects larger American strategic interests in the region and our interest in preserving global humanitarian norms. Ending our support for the war will force the Saudi-led coalition to reconsider its policies and will signal our support for peace

negotiations as, as called for by the administration.

American foreign policy requires a balance between our national security and moral values. In the case of the war in Yemen, these competing imperatives are not in conflict. Ending U.S. support for the war in Yemen supports both American strategic interests and humanitarian values.

EYE DONATION MONTH

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to acknowledge November as Eye Donation Month, dedicated to increasing awareness of the need to register as an eye, organ, and tissue donor.

Since 1983, the Eye Bank Association of America, EBAA, and each of its 75-member eye banks across the U.S. have dedicated this month to honoring the Nation's eye donors and their families, and to celebrate the transformative impact of corneal transplants on the lives of their recipients.

With a 97 percent success rate, corneal transplants are the Nation's most successful organ transplant procedures. Since the Association's founding in 1961, nearly 2 million corneal tissue recipients have regained their sight.

In 2017, EBAA member eye banks recovered 135,203 corneas from 68,565 donors across the United States. This made it possible to provide the gift of sight to approximately 51,000 men, women, and children in the U.S., and over 26,000 recipients internationally. These eye banks also provided more than 24,000 corneas for research and educational purposes.

My home State of California is served by eight eye banks that recovered nearly 8,000 corneas last year, making it the largest source of corneal tissue for transplant and research in the country. These donations allowed thousands of Californians to regain their vision and resume the lives they had planned on living before disease or injury deprived them of their sight.

In addition to improving their recipients' quality of life and giving comfort to donor families, corneal transplants also have a considerable economic impact on America's healthcare system. A recent EBAA analysis found that the net lifetime economic benefits of cornea transplants performed in 2017 will exceed \$6 billion, due to the elimination of medical expenses related to vision care and the increased productivity of both the cornea recipients and their caregivers.

I thank the Eye Bank Association of America for its decades-long dedication to the restoration of sight. I thank all of those who list themselves as an organ donor on their driver's license. I thank all of those who are willing to give of themselves for others. I want to reassure and thank their loved ones, because those who have passed have done a great good for society, for peo-

ple who have lost their sight, and for future generations who will one day benefit from the research they have contributed to by donating their corneas.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in urging all Americans to give the selfless gift of vision and life by registering to become eye, organ, and tissue donors.

RECOGNIZING LOIS WHEELER

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, we recently returned to Congress after celebrating Thanksgiving, a time when we pause and reflect on the many blessings that our community bestows upon each one of us.

Today, I am proud to recognize an outstanding citizen from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who worked tirelessly for over three decades to ensure residents were able to enjoy the holiday surrounded by friends and good food.

Lois Wheeler of Lower Makefield began serving Thanksgiving meals to the underprivileged in our community in 1980. Known as "Bountiful Harvest Feasts," Lois hosted between 125 and 200 people yearly at the Masonic Lodge in Fairless Hills.

Lois' dedication to serving the hungry began in high school. While attending Neshaminy High School in Langhorne, Lois saw a classmate who was not able to afford lunch. Wheeler was so moved, she would bring him sandwiches to eat. When they were not available, she would give away her own lunch.

Lois is truly beloved in our community. Her continued generosity has earned her the nickname "Sister Wheeler," and she has also been called the "Mother Teresa of Bucks County."

While Lois' health prevented her from participating this year, her legacy of service to Bucks County cannot be erased. We applaud Lois for her charity and generosity, and wish her and her husband, George, all the best.

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RECOGNIZING THE LINGHOCKEN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY AND THE COUNCIL ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ACHIEVE PROGRAM

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize students and public servants in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who recently teamed up to spread awareness of fire safety and vocational training.

Last month, the Linghocken Volunteer Fire Company met with students in the Council Rock School District's ACHIEVE program, which is geared towards providing students with special needs the tools and skills needed for self-sufficiency.

The Linghocken Volunteer Fire Company's presentation, which took place in a fire safety trailer to simulate real-life emergencies, was aimed

at preparing students to respond to a fire hazard.

I would like to thank Council Rock ACHIEVE staff John Engelhardt, Dan Bartleson, Steve Ruane, and David Marcinkowski for their work in preparing Bucks County students for the future.

I would also like to thank Lingohocken Chief David James, along with firefighters Gary Davis, Charlie Vaughn, Ted Middleman, and Glenn Forsyth of Newtown Township Emergency Services for their dedication to our community.

At a time when our fellow citizens in California are experiencing devastating wildfires, firefighters' skills and expertise are appreciated and so sorely needed. We need them now more than ever.

RECOGNIZING LINDSEY SPRITZLER

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a student from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, for her outstanding achievements.

Lindsey Spritzler, a senior at North Penn High School in Lansdale, was recently selected as a member of the 2018 All-National Honor Mixed Choir and is performing at their annual conference this week in Orlando, Florida.

Lindsey was one of only 240 individuals across our country to be selected to join the vocalist team. This is certainly no small feat. In order to even qualify, Lindsey had to be selected for the Pennsylvania All-State Chorus and place near the top of her section.

I applaud Lindsey for her hard work and exceptional talent.

We are also proud to recognize Music Department Chair Matthew Klenk for his commitment and dedication to our community and for his service to the North Penn School District as well.

On behalf of our entire community, we all look forward to seeing what Lindsey will accomplish in the future. We know they will be great things.

RIGHT HONORABLE WINSTON CHURCHILL'S 144TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, this week Speaker RYAN and Leader PELOSI welcomed members of the Churchill family and the distinguished Ambassador from the United Kingdom to the United States Capitol in honor of the 144th anniversary of the birthday of the Right Honorable Winston Churchill. It is always a touching and fitting ceremony here in the people's Capitol.

I recall well one of the most fateful assignments of our predecessor body, the Continental Congress, when a special committee was formed, something Congress is great at. That special committee included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson, and Jefferson was assigned this great task of drafting the Declaration of Independence.

Well, Mr. Speaker, he completes his work, and he comes back to the com-

mittee and he outlines his 27 grievances against the King. He has worked on it for days. Benjamin Franklin and John Adams review that work, and they make 80 changes—80 changes.

It just shows that, no matter how good the author is, once it is turned over to a committee, there will be change.

Of those 80 changes, about 25 percent of the Declaration of Independence that we know today, one of those changes speaks to the heart of the friendship, the underlying friendship, between the British and American people, for one of their changes was Jefferson's poignant lament, which reads as this: "We might have been a free and great people together."

So that was taken out of the document, even though Jefferson outlined the 27 grievances why America should separate itself from Great Britain.

I like to reflect on that when we fast-forward to Winston Churchill coming to America in 1946 and speaking at Westminster College in Missouri, when he toasted what he called the fraternal association of the English-speaking peoples.

He said in that talk: "But we must never cease to proclaim in fearless tones the great principles of freedom and the rights of man which are the joint inheritance of the English-speaking world and which through Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights, the habeas corpus, trial by jury, and the English common law find their most famous expression in the American Declaration of Independence."

So, on this 144th anniversary of the birth of Winston Churchill, someone who was of both, American and British, I salute his birth. I salute that special relationship between the United Kingdom and this great country.

RECOGNIZING ALICE ANDREWS

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Alice Andrews, a good friend who was recently awarded the 2018 Neil Compton Award for her tireless work in conservation in Arkansas.

Born and raised in El Dorado, Alice received her undergraduate degree in fine arts from Henderson State University, where she fell in love with arts and the environment.

She is more than a 40-year member of the Ozark Society and has served extended terms as Ozark Society president and conservation chair.

Alice has worked for decades to preserve water, air quality, and wilderness areas throughout Arkansas. Her lifetime of service to the State of Arkansas and environmental conservation will not be forgotten.

I join all Arkansans in congratulating Alice on this achievement and wish her much continued success.

FARM BUREAU PATRIOT PROJECT

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Arkansas Farm Bureau for participating in the American Farm Bureau Federation's Patriot Project. Arkansas is one of only four

States currently participating in this project.

The Patriot Project is a program that connects military veteran beginning farmers and ranchers who are starting their careers with experienced Farm Bureau farmers, who act as mentors.

The Arkansas Farm Bureau works to identify military veterans and Farm Bureau mentors and facilitate long-term educational and professional mentorship relationships. The military veterans should be actively farming and using their own resources while their mentor guides them towards success.

I thank Randy Veach, president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau, for his leadership in bringing this program to Arkansas, and I extend a warm hand of gratitude to the Arkansas Farm Bureau for its worthwhile commitment to our veterans.

LGBT EQUALITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, throughout my tenure in Congress, I have been so proud to work and promote LGBT equality here at home and around the globe.

When I was first elected as a Member of this distinguished body in 1989, our country was in a very different place than it is today in how we understood people who are LGBT and the rights and the respect due them.

Although much progress still needs to be made, it is true that we are moving in the right direction. Let me give you some examples, Mr. Speaker:

By voting to end the misguided Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy;

By funding much-needed human rights programs abroad, implemented by a wonderful agency, USAID, such as its LGBT Global Development Partnership;

By endorsing the principle of equality as it applies to marriage rights and responsibilities;

By including LGBT individuals within nondiscrimination provisions and by ensuring that these and other services funded by this body are made available without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity.

As a founding member of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, I have continued to build on these successes by supporting education legislation, including:

The Student Non-Discrimination bill to end bullying and harassment continually faced by LGBT students throughout our Nation;

Adoption bills, such as Every Child Deserves a Family Act;

Legislation to modernize laws and eliminate discrimination with respect to people living with HIV/AIDS; and

The Equality Act, which gives consistent protection for LGBT individuals across existing civil rights laws.