

One of the most basic, and often most effective, ways to help prevent suicide is to ensure that our loved ones, friends, colleagues, and anyone else in our lives feels connected and has a sense of belonging. There is great virtue in reaching out to the marginalized and neglected, especially young people who may be lonely or bullied.

For those who are despondent and having suicidal thoughts, services like the National Suicide Prevention Hotline is vital. The hotline is a free support service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: 1-800-273-8255, 1-800-273-TALK.

As we enter this season of hope, let those who are hopeless encounter the encouragement that everyone needs.

CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, during this holiday season, I am baffled as to why and how we have gotten here to this place.

In the last 24 hours, a tweet went out from the White House that would end the Syrian war, to the opposition of the national security team—General Mattis, the Secretary of State, the National Security Advisor, and others who thought that a tweet ending the war was never heard of in the history of the United States.

In the course of these 24 hours, we are in the midst of a political collapse, a catastrophic collapse, and a shutting down of the government. Included in the shutting down of the government will be the funding for the State Department and Homeland Security.

It is clear that we are at a constitutional crisis, one that requires the attentiveness of this body, and to recognize the leaving and retiring of General Mattis, who has indicated: Maybe you can have a Secretary of Defense that fits your thinking.

What thinking?

And then to hear from North Korea: Maybe you can remove the troops off of our borders.

This is a time for us to speak up, to protect the American people, and not a time to shut the government down.

I hope the President is listening.

THE IMPROVING HEALTH OF THE STATE OF MAINE

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

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, during this joyful time of year, I would like to give thanks for the improving health of my great State of Maine.

Because we have cut taxes and regulations, our small businesses are growing and hiring more workers and paying them more. Maine's 2.7 percent unemployment is the lowest rate in 50 years.

We are rebuilding our military to keep our families safe, while supporting 6,000 shipbuilders at Bath Iron Works.

We have passed legislation that guts online human trafficking, which protects our daughters and our sons.

We have made the biggest financial commitment ever to combat the opioid epidemic, giving thousands of struggling Mainers hope for recovery and better lives.

Child poverty in Maine is dropping, while education is closer to home, where it belongs.

We have strengthened Social Security and Medicare so our seniors have more peace of mind.

Our veterans, our beloved veterans, are now able to receive their healthcare closer to home, and our small hospitals that provide those services must get paid on time; otherwise, interest accrues on the outstanding bills.

And Maine's pristine natural environment is living up to our brand: Vacationland. The way life should be.

Mr. Speaker, Maine families are doing better and better, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to help.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all, and may God always bless the United States of America and our great State of Maine.

□ 2015

RECOGNIZING LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS CAROLING FOR A CAUSE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the students, faculty, staff, and friends of Linden Public Schools in New Jersey for spreading holiday cheer while helping those in need.

Each year, members of the Linden Public Schools load into buses with Santa Claus and travel through their town to sing carols and collect donations for a charity gift drive.

Staff and students put their hearts into planning the event, which they call Caroling for a Cause. This year, they collected more than 1,000 gifts from across the community. Those gifts will help bring smiles to the faces of more than 300 children.

Mr. Speaker, this is the season of giving, and the Linden Public Schools are leading by example.

I thank the students, faculty, and staff who participated. And I applaud Superintendent Danny Robertozzi for supporting Caroling for a Cause.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing everyone who participated. They are helping make sure their friends and their neighbors in need have a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

COMMENDING REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP FOR LISTENING

(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, I commend our Republican leadership today for listening to our conference and putting back into the continued resolution the needed disaster relief for the southern States and for the West Coast, and the border security measure demanded by most Americans in this country.

To not do so, to just accept the product that the Senate punted over here, would have been a travesty and a dereliction of our duties here, I think, in the U.S. House of Representatives. These are very important things that need to be done and need to be accomplished, with the caravan amassing on our southern border and the security measures that, although heroically done so far by our Border Patrol folks, need to be augmented with this asset.

Heaven knows, our southern States, having been affected by hurricanes; and farmers depending on decisions to be made in this place; and, on the West Coast, with the fires in my own district, the stability needed from the funding that would come from a disaster relief package, I am really pleased to see the work of the House today put this back out there and send it over to the Senate, where I hope they will have the guts to actually deal with it.

DEMANDING VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT RELEASE MICHAEL NGUYEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BERGMAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) is recognized for half the time until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the leadership on both sides of the aisle for extending this opportunity for us to speak tonight. This is an important issue for all Americans.

I rise tonight on behalf of Mr. Michael Nguyen, an American citizen. Mr. Michael Nguyen, an American citizen who was on a mission of mercy to Vietnam and who is being detained in Vietnam.

I would ask that persons please not allow the last name Nguyen cause you to think anything other than the fact that he is an American citizen who makes America the beautiful a more beautiful America. He was on a mission of mercy.

He is being detained; being detained without the benefit of bail, something that we routinely expect to be the case in this country; being detained without the benefit of a lawyer, something that we are all entitled to under the Constitution in this country when charged with criminal offenses; being detained