

interfere in Vietnam law, and, certainly, if this guy is involved in what you are saying, by all means, prosecute to the fullest extent of the law because we would do the same thing.

But I think what you have here is a case where a person was caught up in something. If you look at his past here and his record here and the people we have talked to in Vietnam, this is a good man. This is a family man that went over there for honorable reasons. And so we asked the people of Vietnam to look into this matter and to address this and do what is right, do the humanly right thing.

If you are a parent, if you are married, you have got a mother and father. You have got a spouse. Think of your children. If you were to be removed from your family with no phone calls, no lawyer—and these are things that we value in this country, the liberties and freedoms that we have, that we have had and we have been fighting for over 200 years to preserve and protect. To have that taken away from you is just unthinkable.

I know the pain and the suffering that not just Michael Nguyen, but his family is going through. Here we are in the Christmas season, and this is the season that we should all come together.

I am asking Vietnam, the leaders of Vietnam to look into this case and to rapidly go through it as fast as we can. Because, like I said in the beginning, we value our relationship. They are our 16th largest trading partner. We have a military agreement where they have allowed our military vessels in there for other reasons for national security.

This is something that we want to make sure that our relationship with Vietnam continues to grow. But I can say this: If human rights issues get in, as Mr. GREEN brought up, this is one of our own American citizens. If Vietnam overlooks these things, it is going to be hard for us as a nation to move forward with them in relationships.

So I am going to plead with the Vietnamese leadership to expedite the case of Michael Nguyen and to do what is right. Return him back to America. Return him back to his family, and let's try to do that before the end of the year.

I appreciate Mr. GREEN for doing what he has done. He has done a stellar job. And I appreciate all of the Members who have stood up for such people. These are things that happen in Congress that the American people don't know we do, that they should applaud both sides. This is not a partisan issue. This is an American issue that we all should be proud of that we are fighting for somebody who is an American citizen.

I know Vietnam, if they are listening, and I am sure they are, they will do the right thing, and the right thing is to return Michael.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I want to reiterate what he

said about this being a bipartisan issue.

This is an issue that crosses the lines that sometimes divide us. There is no chasm between us when it comes to the extrication of Mr. Nguyen. We want him back.

I would like to call to the attention of all who are within the sound of my voice, who are viewing this at home, that there is another Member who is not here tonight but who has played a significant role in this effort to bring Mr. Nguyen home. He is Mr. ALAN LOWENTHAL. Mr. LOWENTHAL is from California's 47th Congressional District, and he has been a real champion on causes such as this.

He understands the laws of Vietnam. He understands the culture of Vietnam as well as any, and he has really had a major push to try to get Michael home. I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) for what he has done. While he is not here physically, I do know that he is here in spirit.

What has been said about Michael's detention is correct. Michael is being detained without bail, as has been indicated previously. In Vietnam, unfortunately, the investigation can go on for weeks, months, and can exceed a year.

When investigations go on for this length of time and the person being detained does not have the opportunity to visit with family members, is denied access to family members during holiday seasons, such as what is occurring here now in our country, when a person is detained without the benefit of bail, without the benefit of speedy trial, when this happens, unfortunately, the detention itself becomes punishment. The detention itself becomes egregious. The detention itself becomes reason for us to complain to the Government of Vietnam.

If you have charges, yes, you should investigate, but you should file your charges. You should not detain and then at some point have some charges brought that may or may not necessitate a long period of additional detention.

This is an American citizen. We have expectations. We believe that every country has a right to its autonomy, every country is sovereign unto itself. But we also believe that every country should respect the human rights and dignity of people who are within the confines of their country.

Mr. Nguyen has a necessity to be with his family and his four young children. They miss him. They want to be with him. This is their father who is expected to be at home, especially around this time of year when we are all celebrating the holidays, many different holidays, but they are celebrated in this country.

We are making an appeal, a human cry, a clarion call to the Government of Vietnam to release this husband, release this father, release this man who has been on missions of mercy to Vietnam to work with his wife as a volun-

teer when they are helping young children to receive surgery.

He has demonstrated his love for the people of Vietnam. He has demonstrated his willingness to go above and beyond, to be of service to the people of Vietnam, and I ask that the Government of Vietnam release him. Let him come home. If you have charges, sure, you should file them; but if not, let's not allow the investigation to become a form of punishment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of the Members who have appeared on the floor tonight. There are others who would be here, but circumstances do not permit.

I want to thank the leadership for allowing us to get this message out to the masses, to the American people, and, hopefully, to officials in Vietnam.

I want to thank the Secretary of State and our Ambassador to Vietnam for their intervention. We are all doing as much as we can, but we all have to do more. Until he comes home, we have not done enough.

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

RECOGNIZING SPECIAL CONSTITUENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a few special constituents in my region who deserve recognition.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL CHANATRY

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, this past October, the Mohawk Valley lost a local businessman, leader, and a dear friend when Bill Chanatry, owner of Chanatry's Hometown Market in Utica, New York, passed away at the age of 89.

Bill was raised in Utica and graduated from the highly acclaimed Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute—many of you known as RPI—and enjoyed a 40-year career as an engineer, eventually serving in the Army Corps of Engineers in Japan during the Korean war; and later he joined General Electric Aerospace Electronics Division, where he served as a project manager for the U.S. Navy E-2C Surveillance Radar Team in Utica, New York.

Chanatry's, the family grocery store, was founded in 1912 by Bill's father and his two uncles. In 1991, Bill eventually retired from General Electric, GE, and became the president of Chanatry's and oversaw a significant expansion and innovation, using his unique skills in engineering to really bring Chanatry's into the forefront and to maintain it as a family, home-owned business catering to the needs of families in our community.

But along with all of these lifelong achievements that Bill had, Bill's legacy is better defined by his terrific family: his loving wife, Janet; five children, Ameena, Joanne, Michael, Bob,

and Mark; and, of course, all of their children, grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren as well.

The strong personal relationships that Bill cultivated with so many people in our community are thanks to his integrity, his loyalty, his ultimate belief in the goodness of humankind. Much of the love that he had came from his very strong devotion to faith. He also was known to attend daily mass.

He also was such a good friend to so many as he worked in his post-retirement, in his post-GE life, retirement life at Chantry.

Bill's son, Mark, a long-time friend of mine, dear friend, stated that his father's greatest lesson to him when it came to rebuilding the number one grocery store in Utica year after year is simply: "Chanatry's business was built on treating people right." And that was Bill's message. Mark and his family continue that great legacy left by their father, Bill.

For anyone who has been to Chanatry's, it is really hard to imagine walking through the market and not seeing Bill attending to every aspect of the business, taking the time to talk to individuals, to help consumers and people coming in and individual customers, which is something that he did every single day. It was a big part of his life.

He was also just hard to miss. He was full of energy, full of excitement, a lot of fun to be around. Our community will dearly miss Bill Chanatry, and especially his friends, his family, and his customers.

Mr. Speaker, our entire community really lost a true leader in Bill Chanatry, someone who was always able to innovate and actually reinvent himself, and someone who—I think what is most important—actually made a difference.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES VANSLYKE

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, next, I would like to recognize another really terrific person, a dear friend of my family. I would like to honor the incredible life of a man named James VanSlyke of New Hartford, New York.

Jim VanSlyke passed away on June 6, 2018, 1 day before his 89th birthday. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Virginia, whom we all know as Ginny; his children, Matt, Patrice, Andy, and Mary; his grandchildren, great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

Hailing from Hamilton, New York, Jim stayed in his hometown after high school, attending Colgate University, also in Hamilton. He received a full academic scholarship and graduated in 1952 with a master's degree in science.

My mother's hometown also happens to be Hamilton, where she and Jim attended high school together. At Colgate, Jim also met my father, who was a college classmate of his.

Immediately following Jim's graduation from Colgate, Jim went on to serve in the United States Army. After

honorably serving our Nation, Jim continued his lifelong journey of service and moved back to Mohawk Valley, where he dedicated 66 years of his life in the town of New Hartford.

Upon his return, James began his 31-year career in New Hartford School District, serving as a math and science teacher, a coach, a guidance counselor, and a principal for both the junior high and senior high school.

I had a the honor of attending New Hartford High School during his tenure as principal. Back to Mr. VanSlyke, as I always called him. He was respected, sometimes feared, but always a person with common sense and someone who could be relied on for sage advice for many high school students, including me.

Later in his life, Jim ventured into another form of public service, where he served seven terms as the town and village justice for the town of New Hartford.

Jim was regarded as a knowledgeable, fair, and hardworking man, always making sure that he knew each aspect of the law relevant to the case at hand.

□ 2045

If Jim didn't know the answer to something, he was quick to admit it and also quick to find the answer. He was willing always to listen to another's perspective, including other attorneys. His intelligence was self-evident but humbly portrayed.

As an attorney, I appeared before Jim on many occasions in court. He always asked me about my family, and especially my mother's sister, whom he was quite fond of, my Aunt Polly, who was also a classmate at Hamilton High School.

Jim was also a very talented high school athlete and a college athlete, as I learned from my mother kind of the hard way. I am always going to remember, there was an article written by someone I actually went to Colgate with, I believe, and it was in Sports Illustrated. It described Jim's famous son, who is a professional baseball player and also my classmate in high school. He used to sit right behind me, a baseball player named Andy VanSlyke, who many know, who also later became a coach. I remember the article described Jim VanSlyke and Andy as coming from a family with no athletic talent, to which my mother immediately said:

He was the star of Hamilton High School in every sport, and he went on to Colgate to be a star as well.

Though Jim never served as a professional athlete like his son, Andy, Jim was a star in all of our minds. He was a terrific person, a great educator, and later in life found a passion for cooking. His culinary skills provided another way to express his deep love for his family by bringing them together at the dining room table.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life of one of New Hartford's

greatest educators, Jim VanSlyke. Our community will forever remember the life and legacy of Jim VanSlyke. We will also remember Jim's sense of humor and his kind and humble manner in every aspect of his life.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO CONSTITUENTS, MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS, FAMILY, AND STAFF

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I now want to just say a few words about my term in the 115th Congress and what an honor and a privilege it has been for me to serve.

I want to first thank my constituents who have been terrific. I have really enjoyed my time with them, serving them, and working very hard every day to try to find results—actually excellent results—in the 115th Congress. I think we have reached some unprecedented levels in our last 2 years.

I also want to thank my supporters. They were terrific, a lot of fun. It was a great time, a lot of hard work, a lot of anguish, and a lot of frustration. But through it all, they were very tough and hung in there in spite of our loss this past November.

A lot of my volunteers, also among the supporters, were terrific. I want to thank them for so much work, so many phone calls, and just a great opportunity to serve with them.

I also want to thank a lot of the people in our community who serve in social service agencies who have done so much to help the truly neediest people in our communities. I am grateful that they reached out to me and I was able to give back to them and provide much-needed resources on the Federal level. I really appreciate their good counsel and care and what they provided to me and my staff in making sure that we were able to understand the issues and bring those issues back to Washington and deliver to our constituents.

I wanted to also thank the local officials in my district throughout the community who have been an invaluable resource for bringing issues to the table that needed to be resolved and their hard work, their belief in me and some of the amazing accomplishments we had throughout the eight-county region and to the many towns and villages, it was really an honor to serve.

Some of the resources we brought back to the city were tremendous. So I want to thank them for their sage advice, their counsel, and their good friendship. I hope that we can continue to provide solutions and realize good things for them in the future.

Also I thank my friends and my family who have been through a lot in my rather short time in public service. It has been very exciting and filled with a lot of ups and downs, but a lot of challenges. I am just grateful for them to kind of hang in there with me through all of this.

I stand here today as a Member of the 115th Congress. I also served three terms in the New York State Assembly. I have been a lifelong Republican. I never missed a vote since I was 18.

Oddly enough, I have never been endorsed by my local Republican committee for any office I ever sought until this year. So maybe it is bad luck in the end. But I wanted to just say thank you to so many of the rank and file and people who serve in this capacity in both sides, in all parties, in what they bring to the table and how important it is to our constitutional Republic and democratic principles. I want to just say I am grateful to them.

Toward that, I also want to just say thank you, especially to my colleagues. You hear so many terrible things about Congress, and I myself thought: What is wrong with these people here?

But I have gotten here and realize there really are terrific people who care about this country. They care about their constituents, they care about preserving our constitutional Republic, they care about democratic principles, they care about serving mankind, and they recognize the importance of where we are in the world. I say that about people I have met genuinely on both sides of the aisle, there are really terrific people who serve in this office. I may not agree with everything that they have to say, but they have been really terrific to me.

I especially want to thank my freshman class. They have changed my life in so many ways. It has been such an honor, including, Mr. Speaker, a couple of my favorite colleagues here, but I wanted to say that I really appreciate the fact that our freshman class, the incoming class for the 115th Congress, took a very special measure. It was spearheaded by my colleague, Congressman MIKE JOHNSON. We signed a commitment to civility; something that I thought was a really great idea, a terrific idea, something that really meant a lot to us who have signed on to this. We have endeavored to stick to that commitment to civility. I know I have.

Among some of the pledges we made was to introduce legislation and make every effort to make sure it was bipartisan. I am honored to say that every piece of legislation that I authored, unless it was district specific, was cosponsored by one of my Democratic colleagues, and I always wanted to get one of my freshman class members when I could. So I am grateful to all the Democrats and the Republicans, everyone who signed that commitment and came forward to try to work on resolutions to stand together and to really work to get to know each other.

I think we did make a difference. Unfortunately, it isn't sound-bite worthy. The media didn't really cover it. But I think it is something people should really look at that makes our class so unique and why we accomplished so much this first term.

I really want to just say thank you all to my family. My family has been terrific. They stood through a lot. It was very hard for my family to go through the political process, as ugly

as it has become, which is why that commitment to civility is so important and why I was so dedicated to it.

It is okay to advance your cause, to argue, and to disagree. I am a lawyer. That is a natural instinct, and that is good. But to make sure in the end that we don't hold grudges, that we stand for each other and respect each other when we walk away, and I think our freshman class showed that this year. I am honored and proud to be part of that.

I am not done, but I think that my colleague from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) would like to say a few words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to Mr. ARRINGTON.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady from New York—and let me say the gentlelady from New York has served these United States so admirably and so effectively and with such dignity and honor. Gentle because she has a big heart soft for this country. She mentioned the civility and the commitment to civil discourse. She was part of leading that effort and leading by example. A gentlelady, she was class every day and in every way in her term in serving the people of New York in her district. Gentlelady from New York, she is a New Yorker, and I am a Texan. The only folk I know who may rival Texas in toughness are New Yorkers. She is tough, she is strong, she is passionate, and she fought every day for her constituents and for this country she loves.

So I just wanted to say that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve with CLAUDIA TENNEY, United States Representative, CLAUDIA TENNEY.

I am a better person, I am a better servant leader, and I am a better Representative of my people in west Texas because of the time I spent with you. So I know your folks back home are proud, your freshman class—and I will say this on behalf of our freshman class, and I can say it with confidence—you make us proud. We are going to miss you, but I know we haven't seen the last of you and your service to this country.

Ms. TENNEY. Thank you so much Representative ARRINGTON. You are terrific.

I might add something about the commitment to civility and why it really reflects who you are also and why it was such an honor to serve with you. I remember all of us having the discussion, the freshman class, with the Democrats. We were at one of our social events, and you were just always the consummate “let's get along, let's be ladies and gentlemen, let's work together. We have got to do this, because in the end the tables are going to turn. You are going to be in power, and we are not, or you are going to be in the majority, and let's just not look at that. Let's go beyond that.”

I still remember those conversations with you. You are a terrific Member. You served honorably. You have a won-

derful family. I really am grateful for your friendship and your support.

None of these friendships end here. This is an amazing 2 years in this 115th Congress. I think it was really special. Maybe everybody feels that way when they go to Congress, but I think our group was really different, and I am including the Democrats in that as well.

We had a great group, and as we move into 116—I am sorry I am not going to be joining you all—but let's keep on the tradition of what we have done. Let's stay together and continue to work to protect our constitutional Republic.

I am a huge Lincoln fan, and I have said this many times, certainly in my community, but I look back on some of the tough times that we are facing ahead, and I remember what Lincoln said at one point. I would say the enduring message from his body of work was: Can we save this Republic? Can we save it? Can we be self-governing?

We can, but we have to work together. We have to fight the fight. We have to stand on our principles and find a way to compromise in the end. I feel like that is what we have done with so many great bills and so many accomplishments. If you look at what happened in the 115th—and I think we can all take credit for this across the board—the accomplishments are something that we haven't seen in decades in Congress. In just one Congress all of our agenda was passed and done, and much of it was bipartisan. I wish it all were, but maybe as we go into the 116th we can make that happen as well.

But I just want to say thank you so much to you and all my colleagues who served with me, whether they are in the freshman class or not, I love you guys. You have been terrific. My life has changed, and my life is better because of my service here and meeting all of you and finding out, yes, there are really good people who serve this Nation, and they are here in Congress—not everybody. But there are a lot of us out there.

I am so proud and honored to have been serving here for 2 years and to have met the people I met, whether they are in Congress, whether they are the great staff or the people who work here, the people behind me who we keep up at late hours to do their job, but it has really been an honor. I want to say thank you so much to you.

One last thing, I do want to say thank you to—first of all, I want to thank again the chairman of my committee, the Honorable JEB HENSARLING—who is retiring—for his terrific service and great work and what an honor it was to serve on the Financial Services Committee.

Also to the staff of the Financial Services Committee, I want to say thank you. They were terrific, and they helped us every day come up with an incredible agenda and very bipartisan work. I am grateful to them to have had a number of bills that were originally sponsored by me that either

were included in other bills, the S. 2155, or others, and for their help in getting those across the finish line and having five original sponsored bills that ultimately became law.

So I want to say thank you to them.

I also want to say thank you, last but not least, to my hardworking staff. First of all, I put them in alphabetical order so you don't know who is better than the other, but I want to say I loved having them on my staff. They did a tremendous job.

Let me just say a hearty thank you to my staffers, Hannah Andrews, Alexandra Cade, Haim Engelman, George Iverson, Maria Giurastante—I can never say Maria's name—Kate Kelly brought me to New Orleans my first time, Samantha LaMarca who was with me from the times in the assembly, Rebecca Lumsden, Patrick O'Brien, Nick Stewart, Robert Simpson, Michael Stademeier, Kathy Vences, Brett Wakeman, and Katie Ziemba.

I want to thank so many terrific interns who joined us and inspired us every single day with their excitement, their youth, their enthusiasm, and the fact that they were all so much more technically proficient than I was, so I could just hand them my phone with trust that they could fix whatever it was that was wrong with it. I want to say thank you to them for the hard work and the hours that you put in throughout the last 2 years.

It wasn't easy. We were in a tough position, whether it was the media, whether it was just the position we were in as a targeted seat in the Nation. But you came through. We did terrific work. We made groundbreaking strides in our community.

I want to say from the bottom of my heart, thank you to all of you for what you have done and what you have done to serve us and serve my community and always have a servant's heart as you dealt with all the constituents and the literally, I don't know if it is thousands, but every time one of my constituents contacted me directly and I got to the message, I copied, I pasted, and I sent it to you, and you reacted and helped the constituent out.

□ 2100

I really am grateful to all of you for doing that because I love the job that I do. I love serving. I love doing this kind of work to help people. For the first time, I really felt like we got to help people in the last 2 years.

Again, I want to say the last thank you to my family members: my son and my parents. My parents, who passed away, never got to know that I actually got here. I just want to say thank you to them for instilling in me the integrity, the loyalty to people and the compassion for fellow human beings and for helping this world, and also for the tenacity that I got from my mother, who was really my inspiration.

I want to just say one of my favorite quotes that my dad used to always say

when I used to be in all the sports I attended, whether it was curling—yes, I am a curler—whether it was basketball, horse shows, equestrian—I did that as well—golf and a lot of sports I got into, my father would quote, when I was disappointed that I didn't win, from Rudyard Kipling's poem "If." I am just going to pick out part of it. "If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two imposters just the same," and the poem goes on. But that is exactly what it is. It isn't about winning and losing. It is about how you play the game. We did a great job.

I want to say thank you, lastly, to my son, who has been my inspiration. I am hoping that I get to see him at Christmas, but I am not sure I will, because he is currently serving as a captain in the Marine Corps. So we are very proud of him in our family for answering the call to serve.

But I do want to say thank you so much again to everyone who has been so kind to me. Whether it is Pat and Doris, the ladies in the Lindy Boggs Room, everyone who is working here, it is really a highly professional operation. You hear terrible things about Congress, but it is not true. There are a lot of terrific people that work here that aren't just Members. They are the people who keep the trains running on time, the people who make this happen.

I just want to say thank you again for letting me have this tremendous honor to do what I have done for the last 2 years. I wish everyone the best of luck and God bless.

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

STANDING WITH THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) for the remainder of the hour.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to address this body and commend my Republican colleagues for standing with this President.

We are facing a national security crisis on our own homeland, at our borders, and our Commander in Chief has pleaded with us for the resources and tools necessary to secure the border and to protect the American people.

The President understands his first job and the first job of the Federal Government, which is to keep its citizens safe. He understands and I believe most Americans understand that the current situation is anything but safe.

Mr. Speaker, I am from the great State of Texas. Being a State along the border, I can tell you it is absolutely chaotic. This President has been hamstrung and for too long we have let people pour into this country illegally and we have allowed criminals and gang members and criminal activity and drugs. A lot of bad stuff comes over here and wreaks havoc on our commu-

nities on account of us being derelict in our duty to do our first job to provide for the common defense.

So, Mr. Speaker, this President has come along at such a time as this—a strong man, a strong leader, who ran on an agenda to put America first and the American people first. That is exactly what he has done. I have never seen a politician more hell-bent, more doggedly committed to delivering on what he promised.

At the center of those promises and that agenda that he ran on was securing the border and building the wall. I am one who believes that comprehensive border security is more than a wall. I believe it is technology. I believe it is boots on the ground. It is a number of things.

If we are going to truly be effective in the long run, we have got to fight this battle on a number of fronts. I believe that the driver of illegal immigration is supply and demand. As long as we have demand in this world for a better life and for the job opportunity and the services that we provide in this country, and as long as we provide the supply of jobs and services to folks who come here illegally, they will continue to come.

I do believe that, no matter how high you build a wall, or how long, you have got to turn off the magnets that are drawing people here. Chief among them are hiring people who are not in this country legally. I welcome the freedom-loving, law-abiding immigrant. This is a Nation of immigrants. But I will only welcome them if and when they respect our laws, our sovereignty, and the safety of our citizens.

We have a process. It is not perfect. We should work on it. We should improve it. But we have a process by which you can legally enter this country, and a million people do that every year. Millions more are standing in line to get a piece of this incredible land of opportunity and all the blessings of liberty that this country offers.

So, understand this. The American story and the story of the immigrant are indistinguishable, inseparable. I am proud that we are the leading Nation in terms of immigration and welcoming the immigrant and that we continue to circulate the new blood of those who are hungry for freedom and opportunity into the system, into this country's bloodstream. It is part of the greatness of America, no doubt.

But we are also a Nation of laws. As the President has said, without borders, you don't have a country. Without security, you don't have freedom. So we must uphold the laws of the land. We must fix the broken pieces of the immigration system. We must close the loopholes. We must turn off the magnets. And, yes, we must build a wall, a fence, and whatever physical barriers make sense. That physical barrier, that wall, that fence is a fundamental component of comprehensive border security.

Most of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have already voted to