

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

provide resources: \$1.6 billion in the last budget. The leader of the Senate Democrats, CHUCK SCHUMER, has voted for 700 miles of fencing along the border. So he, too, has committed and understands and appreciates the need for physical barriers along the border where they make sense.

I think we are long overdue to put some common sense in this United States Congress. I am proud that my colleagues, again, on the House side, my Republican colleagues, have continued to drive the agenda of America first and keeping America safe as the first and foremost responsibility of this Federal Government all the way to the end of this 115th Congress.

Today was a proud day for me to come alongside of my colleagues and this President and vote for the funding that he has requested for that fundamental component of border security in the wall. I am proud to have done that. I am grateful that we have a leadership that listened. This morning, we had a wonderful meeting. It was wonderful because the leadership listened. Our majority leader, KEVIN MCCARTHY; our whip, STEVE SCALISE, our outgoing Speaker, PAUL RYAN, listened and allowed the Members to drive the strategy and the decision today to put that funding bill on the floor, to vote for it, and send it over to the Senate. That is our job.

I am proud of my colleagues' passionate and very compelling pleas to the leadership and to our team to make that vote happen today. Today is a great day for America's security. It is a great day for border States. It is a great day for the citizens who expect their government to do its first job.

Mr. Speaker, again, I am grateful for the opportunity to have served in this 115th Congress with the likes of JACK BERGMAN, Representative CLAUDIA TENNEY, and so many more. I am proud of our freshmen class for restoring civility, the theme of our class with our Democratic colleagues, and I am proud of all the results.

In west Texas, leadership, at the end of the day, is about results. If you don't deliver results, you cannot claim to be a leader. Whether it was rebuilding military or unleashing the full potential of this economy through tax reform and regulatory relief or improving services to our veterans or it was defending our fundamental God-given rights, the rule of law, the Constitution, and traditional American values, we have done what we said we would do in this House as Republicans, as conservatives, and as Americans first. I am proud of that.

God bless these United States of America, my colleagues, and go west Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to say thank you, again, to my colleague, JODEY ARRINGTON, of west Texas, for his terrific remarks. Yes, we did accomplish basically everything we set out to do in the 115th Congress.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention one more thing that Mr. ARRINGTON just referenced, the gentleman from Texas, is that every one of us contributed in the freshmen class to perpetuating and finding a new part of our commitment to civility.

I just wanted to mention our colleague from Florida, Mr. CHARLIE CRIST, who actually came up with these nice bands that so many of us wear. It says: Practice the Golden Rule. It is emblematic. We wear them because we are endeavoring to meet our pledge for our commitment to civility.

I hope that you all and Congressman CRIST and everyone continues on this great path next year, including both sides of the aisle. I hope everybody works on their commitment to civility.

But I want to say thank you again to my colleagues, also to our Speaker pro tempore, the great president of our class, the amazing General JACK BERGMAN, who is now a Member of Congress representing Michigan. I am really honored to be among some of the great people that serve here. I want people to rest assured there are good people in Congress. There really are.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York. Again, we salute her service and we are so proud to have served with her, if only for one term. But, again, this is not the last that we have seen of the gentlewoman and her service to this great country. We will certainly carry on our friendship for years and years to come.

What a special bond our classmates have, and what a unique privilege our constituents and people back home have given us.

And I know the gentlewoman cherishes that. I know she has stewarded that. I wish they could see the gentlewoman every day, because they are already proud, but they don't know the half of it.

So God bless CLAUDIA TENNEY and all the new ventures that she will undertake in the weeks, months, and years to come.

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

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 767. An act to establish the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training pilot program to address human trafficking in the health care system.

H.R. 1162. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide access to magnetic EEG/EKG-guided resonance therapy to veterans.

H.R. 1210. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 W. Goodwin Street, Pleasanton, Texas, as the "Pleasanton Veterans Post Office".

H.R. 1211. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located

at 400 N. Main Street, Encinal, Texas, as the "Encinal Veterans Post Office".

H.R. 1222. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to coordinate Federal congenital heart disease research efforts and to improve public education and awareness of congenital heart disease, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1733. An act to direct the Secretary of Energy to review and update a report on the energy and environmental benefits of the re-refining of used lubricating oil.

H.R. 1850. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 907 Fourth Avenue in Lake Odessa, Michigan, as the "Donna Sauers Besko Post Office".

H.R. 3184. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 180 McCormick Road in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the "Captain Humayun Khan Post Office".

H.R. 3383. An act to designate the flood control project in Sedgwick County, Kansas, commonly known as the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project, as the "M.S. 'Mitch' Mitchell Floodway".

H.R. 4227. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to examine what actions the Department of Homeland Security is undertaking to combat the threat of vehicular terrorism, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4326. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 West North Street in Normal, Illinois, as the "Sgt. Josh Rodgers Post Office".

H.R. 4819. An act to promote inclusive economic growth through conservation and biodiversity programs that facilitate transboundary cooperation, improve natural resource management, and build local capacity to protect and preserve threatened wildlife species in the greater Okavango River Basin of southern Africa.

H.R. 5075. An act to encourage, enhance, and integrate Ashanti Alert plans throughout the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5205. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 6th Street in Hawthorne, Nevada, as the "Sergeant Kenneth Eric Bostic Post Office".

H.R. 5395. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 116 Main Street in Dansville, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Alexandria Gleason-Morrow Post Office Building".

H.R. 5412. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 2nd Avenue in Brentwood, New York, as the "Army Specialist Jose L. Ruiz Post Office Building".

H.R. 5475. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 108 North Macon Street in Bevier, Missouri, as the "SO2 Navy SEAL Adam Olin Smith Post Office".

H.R. 5509. An act to direct the National Science Foundation to provide grants for research about STEM education approaches and the STEM-related workforce, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5787. An act to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to give effect to more accurate maps of units of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System that were produced by digital mapping of such units, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5791. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9609 South University Boulevard in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, as the "Deputy Sheriff Zackari Spurlock Parrish, III, Post Office Building".

H.R. 5792. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 North 4th Avenue in Brighton, Colorado, as the "Detective Heath McDonald Gumm Post Office".