

them have been best friends since they were 7 years old.

This friendship and teamwork have led them to reach an amazing goal. We could all learn a little bit about teamwork, especially in this great House of ours, and we could learn it from these amazing young ladies.

Congratulations to the Mainland Regional High School girls basketball team. Keep up the good work. We are really proud of you.

REMEMBERING THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SYRIAN CONFLICT

(Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today in remembrance of the eighth anniversary of the Syrian conflict, which resulted in the tragic loss of many human lives and the destabilization of the entire region.

This is all because of the dictator Bashar Assad, who is unwilling to step aside and heed the Syrian people's call for freedom. After destroying Syria, Assad is now attempting to attract economic investment. But in addition to killing over 400,000 Syrians of the Muslim faith, Assad has also failed to protect the religious minority of Christians in Syria.

Having personally met with the Syrian Christians for Peace, I have heard firsthand how Assad repeatedly targeted Syria's most vulnerable populations.

Few Christians continue to live in Assad's Syria, due to brutality by pro-Assad militias. That is why we must support the Trump administration's isolation of the regime and its allies in Tehran and Moscow. That is why the Senate must follow the House and pass the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act.

SUPPORTING THE EQUALITY ACT

(Ms. HAALAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Equality Act.

America must live up to its values, and that means treating everyone as equals and ending discrimination. The Equality Act is about making sure all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, can participate in our society without fear.

New Mexico is home to diverse religious and traditional communities and has stood up for its LGBTQ population for a long time. We stood up early to ban the cruel practice of conversion therapy.

The Equality Act allows us to adhere to our faiths while prohibiting harmful and isolating acts of discrimination experienced by too many LGBTQ Americans.

Consider this: 38 percent of transgender New Mexicans are unem-

ployed; 40 percent live in poverty; 26 percent have been discriminated against during the hiring or promotion processes; 41 percent have been homeless at some point; and 33 percent have been discriminated against at a place of public accommodation.

No one should have to worry about being discriminated against when planning their wedding or struggle to simply get a cake. The Equality Act will outlaw such discrimination, which is why we should pass it as soon as possible.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MAYOR NANCY SHAVER

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mayor Nancy Shaver and her tenure of dedicated service to the citizens of St. Augustine, Florida. A strong advocate for the Nation's oldest city, Mayor Shaver recently stepped down from her position with an admirable record of leadership in her community.

Mayor Shaver, who previously served as a teacher and businesswoman, was elected to office in 2014. During her time as mayor, she was a tireless advocate for important issues that are very unique to the city of St. Augustine. It was my honor to work with her in the effort to combat sea level rise to protect our coastal economies and safeguard the priceless historical and cultural features that make St. Augustine so special.

As mayor, she exemplified the virtues of local government by putting citizens, not politics, first and remaining devoted to the northeast Florida community.

I thank Nancy Shaver for her commitment to the city of St. Augustine and our fellow citizens, for whom she so dearly cared. I wish her and her family the best in their future endeavors.

OPPOSITION TO USING FEDERAL FUNDS TO ARM TEACHERS

(Mrs. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to the idea of using Federal funds to arm teachers. This issue has haunted me from the moment it was first discussed after the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School to more recently when it was revisited after the Parkland shooting.

Seventy-three percent of teachers do not want this. More than 60 percent of parents do not want this. And the majority of students do not want this.

Since 1999, in 225 incidents of school campus gun violence, armed personnel failed to disarm a shooter 223 times.

I came to Congress from the classroom. As a teacher, I would never want

the responsibility of securing a firearm in a school. I understand how this would drastically change the school culture and make it feel more like a prison.

As the wife of a police officer, I understand the training that is involved with the responsibility of owning a firearm, and I know that school districts cannot manage that. I could never imagine explaining to a parent that it was my firearm that accidentally injured their child.

I recognize that many local school communities are still trying to decide where they fall on this conversation, yet I cannot overstress the point that Federal funds should not be diverted from student learning outcomes to arm teachers.

This is why, today, I have introduced a resolution to prohibit the use of Federal funds to arm teachers.

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GRAHAM CREEK BRIDGE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with a strong background in the industry, I understand the vital role freight rail plays in getting Hoosier-made and Hoosier-grown products to the market.

Short line freight rail makes up nearly 30 percent of all freight rail, allowing rural communities like those across Indiana's Sixth District to play an integral role in our economy. One such line is the Madison Railroad, which provides exclusive access to the national rail network for many Hoosiers in southeastern Indiana.

The city of Madison is working to obtain Federal grant funding to replace the 100-year-plus Graham Creek Bridge, critical infrastructure that keeps the Madison Railroad safely operating and serving our community.

Built in the 19th century, the current structure poses an immediate safety risk and cannot accommodate heavy commercial freight loads. Replacement of this bridge will benefit southeast Indiana by removing a potential safety risk and creating jobs and economic opportunity for Hoosiers.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of the historic architecture throughout Indiana, and the Graham Creek Bridge has been an iconic landmark that extends over the beautiful Muscatatuck River. I hope my colleagues in this Chamber can join me in supporting this infrastructure project.

RECOGNIZING RAQUEL GUERRERO

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during Women's History Month, I rise