

the United States Central Command theater of operations.

Indeed, the sheer longevity of this storied unit's history and global mission reach personifies their motto, "The Sun never sets on the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth."

The unit's exceptional record of service was the catalyst for the 55th Wing Association's creation. Following decades of the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth camaraderie, global deployments, and operational achievement, a handful of veteran aviators were determined to preserve this invaluable heritage so it would not be lost to future generations.

This innovative initial cadre formed the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association to serve alongside the Offutt's 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Active-Duty force. Both organizations were eventually renamed to today's 55th Wing and 55th Wing Association, respectively, and have remained in Nebraska ever since.

The 55th Wing Association is comprised of Air Force veterans who served honorably in the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth, most of whom were stationed at Offutt Air Force Base. The 55th Wing Association's support to their Active-Duty counterparts is second to none, and its support to the 55th Wing alumni is a model for other Air Force organizations to emulate. It embodies the impressive relationship between alumni veterans and Active-Duty military members, and they have it in their credo, "Honoring those who served, and serving those who do." It could not be said any better.

This bond between veteran citizens and military personnel is nothing short of remarkable. These organizations demonstrate the very best of cooperation to serve our national interests, sustain organizational values, and foster military fellowship from as far back as those who served in World War II to those of the present who still fly, fight, and win our Nation's battles right now. Their relationship will forever be enshrined at the many ceremonies in Nebraska on April 6, where monuments will be dedicated to the alumni of the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth past, present, and future.

In 2003, the 55th Wing Association captured the inspirational essence of their history in choosing the following inscription on their U.S. Air Force Museum monument, and it says:

We must never forget that freedom is never really free; it is the most costly thing in the world. And freedom is never paid in a lump sum; payments come due in every generation. All any of us can do is to offer the generations that follow a chance for freedom.

The 55th Wing Association also chose these same words for inclusion on the monuments they will dedicate this April. They are fitting praise for the accomplishments of the past and a challenge to the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth for the future.

Just 11 days ago, Nebraska was hit with the worst national disaster in the

history of our State and a third of Offutt Air Force Base was damaged, including key operations and support facilities. The Fightin' Fifty-Fifth never missed a beat supporting operations all over the world. This indomitable spirit of the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth led the Secretary of the Air Force, Heather Wilson, to say: "Not even Mother Nature could defeat the 55th Wing."

So, after 75 years as an organizational flying wing, over a half century based in Nebraska, and more than 25 consecutive years deployed in the Middle East for combat operations, the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth deserves our highest respect, and I am honored to salute the 55th Wing Association for all of its efforts to preserve its rich heritage.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL CRAIG OSBORNE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Craig Osborne, a soldier in my district who will be retiring this week after 30 years of service in the United States Army.

Colonel Osborne graduated from Illinois State University in 1989 as a distinguished military graduate, and during his time with the Army, he has participated in a total of five combat deployments: Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Joint Guard, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Time and time again, Colonel Osborne has answered the call to serve his country. He has served at the headquarters of Allied Land Forces Southeastern Europe in Turkey, as well as the chief of staff for a combined, joint, and interagency task force in Kabul, Afghanistan.

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In his current position with the National Defense University, he contributes to the education of future generations of our servicemembers.

Among his many distinctions, Colonel Osborne has earned three Defense Superior Service Medals, the Legion of Merit, five Bronze Star Medals, three Defense Meritorious Service Medals, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and numerous other awards.

Words cannot express how thankful I am for Colonel Osborne's service. He is a great example of someone who has dedicated his life to serving his country, and I am proud to honor him today.

Congratulations on your retirement, Colonel.

REMEMBERING GARY JONES

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Gary Jones, a good friend and dedicated police officer who passed away earlier this month after a long battle with cancer.

Gary and I both grew up in Taylorville, Illinois. After graduation, he went on to serve in the Army and in the Army National Guard. He eventually became a police officer in our hometown. He was proud of his job and always loved going to schools to teach students about the police station and his job protecting our community.

Outside of work, Gary's greatest hobby was firearms. He was a gunsmith, a proud member of the NRA, a master firearms instructor, and my and my wife's concealed carry instructor. Gary loved teaching people about the responsibility of owning firearms and teaching people the importance of gun safety.

I will remember Gary as a true example of patriotism and service to our community that we share as a hometown. He made a tremendous impact on the lives of many in Taylorville, and he will truly be missed.

My prayers are with his wife, Gina; their four children, Logan, Kaylee, Tanner, and Dylan; and all those like me who were blessed to know Gary Jones.

SLOW DOWN TO PROTECT FIRST RESPONDERS

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight a dangerous, disturbing, and unacceptable trend in Illinois and across the country. It is the rising number of first responders being struck by drivers.

We are not even 3 months into this year, and 14 members of the Illinois State Police have been struck by drivers while on the road or responding to incidents. These accidents have resulted in one fatality and more than a dozen injuries.

Our first responders put their lives on the line every day to protect us, and it is inexcusable to have this number of them injured by errant and distracted drivers. These numbers average out to more than one trooper struck per week and is nearly double the number of incidents in all of 2018.

Even though every State has laws requiring drivers to change lanes or slow down when vehicles or emergency personnel are on the side of the road, these tragedies keep occurring. For the safety of our first responders, construction workers, and tow truck drivers, please slow down, avoid distractions, and be alert on the road to help save lives and buck this tragic trend.

MOTORCYCLE COMMUNITY PROFILING

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the issue of motorcycle profiling.

This week, I joined Congressman BURGESS, my fellow co-chair of the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus, to introduce a resolution that encourages

greater collaboration between the motorcycle community and law enforcement officials to prevent instances of profiling.

There is no doubt, motorcycles represent more than just a mode of transportation to those of us who ride them. They often signify a sense of freedom, identity, and camaraderie. In Michigan, we have thousands of local riders and many more who come from out of State to enjoy our Great Lakes, scenic highways, and the great outdoors.

As an avid motorcyclist myself, I have heard from many in the riding community who felt that they had been profiled by law enforcement at least once, oftentimes solely because of their motorcycle-related apparel. While I certainly support actions taken to enforce violations of the law, we should all be concerned about profiling of riders based on their attire and absent any wrongdoing.

To be clear, motorcyclists have a deep appreciation for our Nation's law enforcement officers. We understand the difficulties they face on a daily basis, and we are not disparaging that in any way. Our resolution simply seeks to bring increased awareness and encourage a cooperative effort to address an issue that affects many of our constituents in the motorcycle community.

By having an open dialogue, I hope we can foster a greater understanding of the issues surrounding motorcycle profiling and ensure our roads and highways are safe for all to enjoy.

RECOGNIZING THE MAITLAND FAMILY

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim and Cheri Maitland of Jackson, Michigan. The Maitlands recently made history by becoming the first family to visit all 418 national parks and units. From Alaska to the River Raisin National Battlefield Park in Monroe, Michigan, they have logged more than 300,000 miles over the span of 8 years. The Maitland children, Jamison and Gerald, each have an impressive collection of Junior Ranger badges from learning about all the parks.

The family earned the nickname the "Parkbound Maitlands" after watching a documentary series on America's national parks, which then sparked a desire on their part to see the beauty across our great land.

When the Maitlands are not exploring in their RV, you might find them volunteering at River Raisin National Battlefield Park in Monroe, Michigan. It is a wonderful park and destination in our community where the family has spent more than 1,000 volunteer hours.

Their philosophy is to leave each park a little bit better than how they found it.

Madam Speaker, I share the Maitlands' love of the outdoors and our national park system. This is truly a remarkable accomplishment and one that makes me pretty jealous.

Congratulations to the Maitland family on your incredible journey. I am

grateful for your commitment to keeping our parks in pristine shape.

PROMISE OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the promise of America.

What is the promise of America? What has it meant for us? And what does it mean for us today?

America has been around for a few hundred years. That is really not that long. In that short time, our dreams have informed the imaginations of people around the globe.

It all started when our Founding Fathers drafted and signed the Declaration of Independence. It set us on a path for our Nation to be the greatest experiment in self-governance that the world has ever known. Our Founders were our first innovators who risked it all for America to be free.

I am sure there are times when we have fallen short, but our experiment has been overwhelmingly for the good. It is here in America that we have led and cultivated history's greatest breakthroughs. We fought a war to end slavery. We liberated Europe from the Nazis. We invented flight; put men on the Moon; split the atom; and invented the microchip, the internet, and more.

At great expense, all this was accomplished by maintaining fleets and armies for America to be a beacon of hope for freedom-loving people around the world. We have done more to lift people out of poverty and raise the standard of living than any nation in the history of the world.

Madam Speaker, I am sure our Founders never dreamed that any of this would be possible, but it was because they made their vision for America a reality rooted in the promise that our rights are self-evident, sacred, and undeniable.

America was born with purpose. It says it right here in the Declaration of Independence. We all know the words, or at least we should know the words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

These are more than just words. It is a faith statement, a distinctive national credo. The moment we fail to believe it, the experiment is over and this Nation will fade away like all nation-states that have lost belief in themselves and forgotten their identity.

If we forget our purpose and let the promise of America be broken, then we are lost. The future is lost.

It is our job and our highest responsibility to transmit the promise of America to our children and to all who are a part of this great experiment. It is not enough that we merely assert these

as ideas. We must live them as truths and show the world that they work.

America is where freedom has made its greatest mark. It is where creativity is unmatched by any time in history. It is where justice flowers more generously than anyplace on Earth.

The torch must be passed to the next generation. That is what President John F. Kennedy said, and, Madam Speaker, we must do just that.

I will keep coming back to this floor, to the people's House, to make this case that the promise of America is for every person in our country.

There is a battle going on right now for the heart and soul of America, so it is worth repeating that we must never forget our purpose. That is what unites us as Americans, and it is where I find hope that we can come together around shared values that built our great Nation.

I am committed more than ever to restore trust and confidence in the promise of America. It is a promise that will keep us free, empower our children in the next generation to shine, and strengthen the moral fabric where our identity rests.

CELEBRATING 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION OF U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 28th Infantry Division of the United States Army National Guard as it recently celebrated the anniversary of its 140th year of serving this Nation.

Its roots in American history were planted long before our Nation's founding. The 28th Infantry's lineage traces all the way back to when Benjamin Franklin formed a militia known as the Pennsylvania Associators. The first meeting of the Associators occurred on November 21, 1747. Franklin organized units to defend the city of Philadelphia against the French and Spanish privateers.

The 28th Infantry Division is the oldest continuously serving division in the United States Army. It wasn't until 1879 when the 28th ID was officially established by Governor Henry Hoyt and designated a red keystone as its symbol.

Throughout history, the 28th Infantry Division has answered our country's call to serve in nearly every war. The 28th ID soldiers fought side by side in the Spanish-American War. They earned the nickname "Iron Division" in the First World War by General John Pershing after a chivalrous stand in France. This decorated division still goes by this storied nickname.

The infantrymen stepped ashore at Omaha Beach and were the first American division to parade through Paris