

improvements, exceptional teamwork, and their partnership with the surrounding civilian community.

I am proud to have these installations in Georgia, and in turn, these installations make me even more proud of our military in the United States.

Thank you for your service. Congratulations on your award.

MARYLAND MOURNS THE PASSING OF SPEAKER MICHAEL BUSCH

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the last day of the session of the General Assembly in Maryland.

Sadly, the day before, on Sunday, the longest serving speaker of the house of delegates—as we call our house of representatives—died on Sunday, and I rise to pay tribute to him.

He was a great American, a great public servant, and a very dear friend.

Maryland lost a champion. Michael Busch, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, passed away after a long and distinguished career serving the people of our State.

He was young; he was 72 years of age, and the longest serving speaker, as I said, in the history of the house of delegates.

He had served as speaker of the house since 2003, having first been elected to represent Anne Arundel County in the house of delegates in 1986.

His title was Mr. Speaker; many, however, knew him as “Coach,” a reminder of his days as a teacher and athletics coach at St. Mary’s High School in Annapolis.

It was at St. Mary’s High School that Michael Busch first made a name for himself as a very excellent football player. He later played at Temple University, and for 40 years, he worked with the Anne Arundel County, Department of Parks and Recreation with young people, teaching them, mentoring them, giving them values.

Many who served with him in the legislature called him “Coach,” not just because of his history, but because Speaker Busch was like a coach and a mentor to so many of those who served in the house of delegates.

He was a man of deep intellect, poise, steadiness under pressure, and a wellspring of compassion.

He led efforts to expand access to quality, affordable healthcare for Marylanders. He helped lead efforts to make Maryland one of the first States to adopt marriage equality by legislative action, an action that was later confirmed by the voters of our State.

He led the State in its effort to abolish the death penalty, and he oversaw the enactment of Maryland’s \$15 minimum wage. And he worked hard to ensure a cleaner Chesapeake Bay and its watershed for future generations while increasing investments in renewable energy.

Earlier this week, the General Assembly overrode the Governor’s veto to

enact Speaker Busch’s bill to protect five oyster sanctuaries in the Bay.

Michael Busch’s positive impact on Maryland will be felt for, literally, decades to come.

He was a good and decent person who sought to elevate our politics during an age when too many, unlike him, had brought our politics low.

I hope my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, would join me in expressing our condolences to his wife, Cindy, their daughters, Erin and Megan, and to the entire Busch family and to the people of Maryland he served so faithfully for so many years.

I hope all of us in this House will find inspiration in Speaker Busch’s life and legacy as we strive to do right by those we serve, as he did for so many years, and to do so together in a way that is bipartisan, as was his inclination and performance; and be reflective of the way he lived his life and approached the work of governing.

In an age where, as I said, politics has been brought low by divisiveness, and in some respects, hatefulness and attacks on one another, Michael Busch was somebody who treated others with respect, with consideration, and with fairness.

Michael Busch served Maryland well. He served our people well. He will be missed.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Library Week, which began on Sunday and runs through Saturday, April 13.

This year’s theme is “Libraries = Strong Communities,” and Melinda Gates is the honorary chair.

In the last 20 years, the Gates Foundation’s Global Libraries initiative has been dedicated to enhancing libraries and empowering local communities.

National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.

Mr. Speaker, libraries have always been great equalizers in our society. Nearly 1.3 billion people visit public libraries every year, according to the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

They are at the heart of our cities, towns, schools and campuses, providing critical resources, programs, and expertise. Libraries provide a public space where all community members—regardless of age, culture, or income level—can come together to connect and learn.

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is an observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country each April.

It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our Nation’s libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries, including schools—public, academic, and special—participate.

There are several celebrations throughout the week, including today, which is National Library Workers Day. It is a time to show appreciation for the staff, administrators, and Friends groups, and recognize the valuable contributions made by all library employees.

Tomorrow is National Bookmobile Day, which is celebrated today to recognize contributions of our Nation’s bookmobiles and dedicated professionals who make outreach possible and books accessible in our rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, from the largest library in the world, the Library of Congress, to the smallest local libraries around, I hope Americans will support their local libraries this week with a visit.

A PLEA NOT TO REINSTATE THE FAMILY SEPARATION POLICY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. And I rise because I love my country. I rise today on a mission of mercy.

I am on a mission of mercy for people that I will likely never meet and greet. Perhaps by some fortuitous circumstance, I may encounter some of them, but I know not who they are currently in the sense that I know them personally.

I rise on behalf of the many people who are seeking asylum, and I do so, Mr. Speaker, because it has been reported on many news stations—outlets, if you will—that our President intends to reinstate the family separation policy.

I rise on a mission of mercy, and I make an appeal to the most powerful man on the planet Earth. My appeal is that you would not—N-O-T—you would not reinstate this policy.

I beseech you to please, Mr. President, treat these people the way you would want to be treated if you found yourself in similar circumstances. I beg that you would understand that separating babies from mothers is unacceptable by any standard that we know of.

No one supports the notion of taking babies from their mothers, children from their parents.

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So I am begging and pleading with the President of the United States of America, the most powerful man on Earth: Please, Mr. President, do not reinstate this policy.

I also appeal to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to encourage the President to do the right thing, the just thing.