

If we are not pleased with the laws in this country, we have a means by which we can address the law. If we believe that something is unacceptable, there is a way for us to address it. The way to address this problem is with immigration reform.

I beg the President and all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: Please, let's try to resolve this with legislation. Let's not do what we have done and, quite frankly, have not atoned for.

Some of the children are still not back with their parents who were separated previously. This is the United States of America. This is not what we do. We don't take children from their parents and then place them in places where we cannot find them such that we can reunite them.

This is my appeal, Mr. President. I make the appeal because, as a Member of Congress, I believe that at some point we are going to have to account for the actions that we engage in while we are here. I don't want it on my record that while I was in the Congress of the United States of America and I had the opportunity to at least speak to power, to speak truth to power, and make an appeal on behalf of those who are among the least, the last, and the lost—I am making my appeal. I am doing what I can to help those who are fleeing harm's way.

Mr. President, you don't have to do this, and I beg that Members of both parties would please encourage him not to do so.

This is a moment for us to reflect and a moment for us to demonstrate to the world that what we preach, we will practice. We have, for years, encouraged other countries to take in refugees. We have gone so far as to pay countries to take in refugees. We have funded countries to take in refugees. We ought to practice what we preach.

Those who are not qualified should not come, should not be brought into our country. But I would also say this, that we should not say to the world: Go back, refugees, asylum seekers. You are not welcome in the United States of America.

This is not the country that would proclaim such a thing. Our laws we stand on, and I stand on those laws.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MUCAAD HUSSEIN ABDALLA

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mucaad Hussein Abdalla, known by his friends and family as Sirraaj.

Last month, a tragic incident took the lives of 157 individuals when an airplane crashed in Ethiopia. This unfortunate event took the lives of eight Americans, and one of those individuals was Mucaad Hussein Abdalla.

Mucaad was a member of our community. Growing up in St. Cloud, Minnesota, he graduated from St. Cloud Apollo High School and began a career as a truck driver.

To his friends and family, Mucaad was simply known by his nickname, Sirraaj, meaning a light or a lamp. He brought laughter, joy, and light to those around him.

We extend our most sincere condolences to his family and loved ones for their loss.

THANKING KORIANN CARTER AND THE UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize community resource navigator KoriAnn Carter and the United Way of Central Minnesota for working together on a pilot program to assist students and families at Lincoln Elementary School with food, housing assistance, mentoring, and after-school programs.

In addition, I want to recognize the work KoriAnn does through a program called Girls On Arise To Succeed in partnership with the Roosevelt Boys & Girls Club, McKinley Area Learning Center, and CentraCare Health, which brings young girls together to discuss important life topics and provide guidance.

For young women encountering family issues, experiencing homelessness, or struggling with mental health issues, this group gives them a space to talk to adults who care. Girls between 12 and 18 can participate in one of the girls groups where they learn lessons in healthy habits, the importance of education, how your current actions impact your future choices, leadership skills, goal setting, and gratitude.

These groups have transformed students throughout the St. Cloud area, giving them an avenue to succeed as well as find community and fellowship.

I thank KoriAnn and all the partners who make this possible. Their work to foster the next generation of leaders makes our corner of the world a better place.

CONGRATULATING ST. CLOUD VA

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the St. Cloud VA for being one of only 18 hospitals nationwide to be selected to participate in the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to establish the highest level of care for our military veterans.

Our veterans and our community rely on the St. Cloud VA to provide the highest level of care possible already. So to those of us in the community, it comes as no surprise that our VA will now help lead the Nation and the VA system to help establish these standards.

The selection is a great honor and testament to everyone who makes the St. Cloud VA the success it is today. The opportunity to lead our VA system to the highest standard of care for our Nation's heroes is indeed a high calling.

Congratulations to the St. Cloud VA, and good luck in your mission.

RECOGNIZING STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIRES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a university in my district that has demonstrated leadership and innovation in STEM education.

Stevens Institute of Technology, located in Hoboken, New Jersey, has been leading the way with a rigorous technical curriculum that attracts the attention of some of the Nation's most sought-after companies and industries.

The university continues to develop new ways in which to augment the success of their students, and I was pleased to hear recently about inventive initiatives that support the success of underserved and underrepresented students.

It is telling that the applications have increased 191 percent, and undergraduate enrollment has seen a 41 percent growth. Moreover, the graduation rate has impressively risen to 87 percent with Pell grant recipients graduating at a rate of 91 percent. This is well above the national averages, which are 59 percent and 51 percent, respectively.

There is a reason. Forbes magazine recently called Stevens "one of the most desirable STEM colleges in the Nation."

Upon graduation, 96 percent of Stevens graduates either get a job in their field, with an average starting salary of over \$70,000, or enter graduate school within 6 months.

Not only is Stevens producing students who are highly skilled and prepared for the professional world, but Stevens is also at the forefront of cutting-edge research in areas of national importance, such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing. In a recent National Science Foundation competition for quantum engineering, Stevens won two out of eight grants awarded.

There are over 40,000 Stevens alumni who are essential to the economic progress of New Jersey and the Nation. I am proud to represent the university that acts as a trailblazer in scientific innovation.

I would like to recognize President Farvardin for his leadership, and I look forward to the continued success of Stevens and its students.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GERALD ALEXANDER KNIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great American, Gerald Alexander Knight, who was born on April 11, 1944. He was the middle child of five children born to his parents, Woodrow and Virda Knight.

His family, like most American families, had much to overcome during the ending of World War II and the economic and emotional hardship that ensued during the postwar period.

While the Knight family struggled to make ends meet, the American values of hard work, pride in what you do, and determination were instilled at a very young age. Gerald began working at the early age of 6 when he routinely walked a half mile to gather 3 gallons of water from his grandparents' home.

When he turned 14, he earned his driver's license and began driving a pulpwood truck at 4:30 every morning to earn money for his family. After finishing his early morning drive to the lumberyard, he would attend school and then returned home to gather another load of wood.

Gerald would often say: "I was born into poverty, but I did not choose to stay in poverty."

After graduating from Flat Creek High School in 1962, he joined the Air Force and boarded a bus to San Antonio, Texas, where he entered training to become an air traffic controller. He was one of only three out of 18 to graduate, and he became an air traffic controller as part of the 648th SAGE Squadron serving during the Cuban Missile Crisis, where he monitored air traffic in the Southeastern United States and Puerto Rico to Cuba.

Gerald was soon stationed in Germany. During a visit to his home, he met his future wife, Joyce, on a blind date set up by his brother Charles. After one date, he asked her to marry him. However, being a senior in high school and needing to graduate, Joyce declined but promised to wait for Gerald until his military service was completed.

Gerald spent the next 2.5 years in Birkenfeld, Germany, where he continued to work in air traffic control and warning systems, monitoring the airspace of Europe, including tracking and identifying all aircraft in the airspace.

After completing his service in the Air Force, Gerald hitchhiked home, where the Vietnam war was raging. His younger brother Ronnie had been drafted and sent to serve in Vietnam. Gerald, wanting to be with his brother, offered to reenlist in the Air Force, provided he went to Vietnam. He never served in Vietnam due to a clerical error by the Air Force and was, instead, sent to Maine, where he declined and returned to South Carolina.

He married Joyce on November 6, 1966, and by 1970, they were the proud parents of two small girls, Carrie and Bobbie.

After working in the textile industry for a short time, he was hired by the DuPont company located in Camden, South Carolina, where he initially worked as a spinner operator. The company quickly realized that Gerald had a unique talent for listening and relating to people and moved him into the employee assistance department,

where he was certified and began investigating sexual harassment cases and representing DuPont in Federal court.

He counseled employees and their families dealing with addiction problems, as well as working for the Lancaster Recovery Center, which served the entire community on these issues. Gerald was uniquely qualified to deal with these issues as he had struggled with alcohol abuse in his younger years until surrendering his life to Christ at the age of 38.

Gerald was instrumental in writing new human resources policy for DuPont and was once told: "You are the best outhouse lawyer I have ever seen."

His career at DuPont was stellar, and he was characterized by his peers as being honest, caring, and treating everyone with respect and dignity, regardless of their status in life.

When Gerald was asked what his greatest accomplishment was in life, his response was: "My girls. I look at their lives to measure my success, as they are well-adjusted human beings with their own families serving God."

Gerald Alexander Knight has lived a life with a sense of moral obligation to duty and a personal creed of God, family, and country, in that order.

He is a proud member of the Greatest Generation and will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, and integrity.

God bless you, Gerald Alexander Knight. The world was a better place because you were in it.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING PETTY OFFICER
SECOND CLASS MARGARET
NICOL OF THE U.S. COAST
GUARD

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

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Petty Officer Second Class Margaret Nicol of the United States Coast Guard.

A fellow resident of Sammamish, Washington, Maggie grew up in a large boating community in Florida. She found out all too well at the early age of 8 that the Coast Guard is an elite group of individuals whom we can always count on when she had to be rescued by them. Driven by a desire to give back, she enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserves during high school.

After attending college, she completed 2 years of Active-Duty service in Iraq, responded to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and went on to pursue registered nursing.

After relocating to the Seattle area in 2017, she rapidly qualified well ahead of deadlines to earn her response boat-small coxswain and boarding team member qualifications. To support her colleagues, she amassed over 130 hours helping to train and qualify crew members, significantly increasing Station

Seattle's Reserve mobilization readiness.

But Petty Officer Nicol's commitment to our country does not stop at the armed services. She is a business owner of FLWA Holdings, providing affordable housing for those in need in Washington and Florida. She volunteers at Food Lifeline, serves local schools in the community, and engages with the Diveheart Foundation for disabled children, adults, and veterans.

Among her accolades, Petty Officer Nicol has earned the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and, most recently, the high honor of being named the 2018 Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year. She epitomizes the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty. Most importantly, she leads by example, champions a humanitarian spirit, and has devoted her life to serving others.

Thank you, Maggie. Washington State and the Coast Guard would not be the same without you.

TAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL, STATE CHAMPIONS

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tahoma High School, State champions.

Congratulations to the students of Tahoma High School from Washington State's Maple Valley on their 10th consecutive statewide victory and 23rd victory in the last 25 years in the Center for Civic Education's We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution annual tournament.

These smart and ambitious students from the Eighth District will represent Washington State in the 32nd annual We the People finals later this month right here in D.C., where they will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the Constitution to distinguished panels of scholars, lawyers, and leaders from across the Nation. They will no doubt uphold the standards of excellence for which Tahoma High School is known and champion the values inscribed in our founding documents.

I would especially like to recognize Gretchen Wulffing, Tahoma High School's dedicated teacher and coach for civic education. She has coached the Tahoma High School team for 11 years, was honored as one of Washington's Civic Educators of 2016, and received Washington's Civic Educator of the Year distinction in 2011. We are grateful for her dedication to our schools and to our next generation of leaders.

Congratulations to Gretchen and the hardworking students from Tahoma High School for being true warriors of the Constitution. You are exemplars of young people leading the way in the 21st century. Good luck. Washington could not be more proud of you.

WE ARE A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, Mr. GREEN of Texas.

We are a nation of immigrants. It is our responsibility to welcome refugees