

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a growing number of Americans in celebrating National Decency Day, a call to action to engage in civil discussion in the midst of bitter divisiveness.

As Americans, we cherish our freedom to dissent, but we must always bear in mind that these debates should be productive and substantive.

Lisa Cholnoky, a part-time resident of my district, has championed this belief in founding her Campaign for Decency. This campaign, which began on Shelter Island in my district, has now spread as far as Hawaii and Alaska.

This campaign sets an example for all of us to abide by across our country and here in Congress as we strive to reach across the aisle in a bipartisan fashion.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Cholnoky for championing this issue and empowering so many Americans to do the same.

HONORING SERGEANT KELVIN ANSARI

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Kelvin Ansari, who passed away in the line of duty on Saturday night at the age of 50.

On Saturday night, Sergeant Ansari and Officer Douglas Thomas arrived to investigate a robbery in downtown Savannah. Both officers returned to the scene later that night after receiving a description of the suspect's car, who they thought had left the scene. However, the individual was still inside the car and opened fire. Both police officers were struck, but Sergeant Ansari later succumbed to his injuries.

Joining the police department in Savannah in 2008, Sergeant Ansari had previously served in the United States Army for 21 years. He was a father of four, a husband, and a leader who dedicated so much of his life to protecting our country and our community.

It is unfortunate in times like these that we are reminded of the danger that our police officers face each day in keeping our communities safe.

Sergeant Ansari's family and friends, as well as the entire Savannah Police Department, are in our thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize National Charter Schools Week, a week where we honor the opportunity to bring real educational choice to millions of families across America.

Georgia has a rich history of school choice and in charter schools. Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to visit Drew Charter School in Atlanta, Georgia.

Serving more than 1,800 students from pre-K through 12th grade, Drew Charter School has implemented a project-based learning approach that is helping all students reach their highest potential.

The numbers speak for themselves. Drew Charter School has a 100 percent graduation rate. No wonder there is a wait list to attend this wonderful school.

While speaking with administrators, touring the beautiful campus, and visiting a few classrooms, it was evident that Drew Charter School has excelled in their mission to provide a quality education.

As the senior Republican on the Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, I look forward to sharing my support for charter schools and everything they do for our young students. By supporting charter schools, we are putting kids first in education, not politicians more concerned about power and money.

CHINA IS ONE OF THE LARGEST THREATS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for being here, and I want to start tonight out.

We are going to spend an hour highlighting what many of us on Capitol Hill view as one of the largest threats in the 21st century, and that is a China that has grown wealthy in building their military might.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), my good friend.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

To start off tonight, I just want to recognize that today is the 1-year anniversary of the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. I was honored to be there in person last year for this very special moment. Jerusalem should be recognized as the undivided, unquestionable capital of the Jewish state.

This was a bold move by this President not just to fulfill promises of Presidents past and to fulfill U.S. law; most importantly, it was the right thing to do.

In addition to its religious importance, Jerusalem is also the capital, the home, the location of the Israeli Knesset and offices and residences of the Israeli Prime Minister and President.

Moving our Embassy set an important precedent for other nations to follow as well.

I commend the President. I thank him for following through on his sup-

port and commitment. I thought it was important tonight to highlight that today is the 1-year anniversary of that important opening of the Embassy in Jerusalem.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Florida for hosting this important Special Order today.

The United States is currently facing a very real and dangerous threat from the People's Republic of China. The Chinese Government is not just using a whole-of-government approach but, rather, a whole-of-nation approach to achieve global influence.

Today, I would like to focus on two areas of concern: Chinese military development, and its influence operations targeting U.S. academia and research.

China is rapidly modernizing its military in order to improve its anti-access/area denial radius, power force projection, and nuclear capabilities, with the goal of complete military modernization by 2035. Investments in nuclear and power projection capabilities have expanded China's reach beyond the Pacific region and into other parts of the globe, demonstrating its desire to conduct offensive operations.

Here are a few facts about China's military capabilities:

China has the largest navy in the region, with more than 300 ships. To put this in perspective, the United States currently operates 289 ships.

China's first aircraft carrier will likely enter the fleet this year, and its second aircraft carrier is already under construction, paving the way for China to have a multicarrier force.

China operates the third largest aviation force in the world, with more than 2,700 total aircraft.

Its first fifth-generation stealth fighter entered service in February of last year.

China maintains a stockpile of nuclear weapons and continues to modernize its arsenal.

China has claimed to successfully test its first hypersonic aircraft.

China is using the S-400 missile defense system, strengthening its A2/AD radius.

These capabilities, coupled with territorial and maritime disputes in the South and East China Seas, pose serious concerns for the region. Not only do we have a commitment to our allies, such as Taiwan and Japan, but the Pacific is the most heavily trafficked region for trade and commerce. Aggressive maritime and military actions by China, such as building man-made islands, not only threaten regional stability, but also global stability.

China is also expanding its military operations beyond the Pacific. In August of 2017, China opened its first overseas military base in Djibouti and is actively seeking other overseas military basing opportunities. According to a recently released Department of Defense report on China's military activities, China has sought to expand its