

gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Emily Carnes, a former resident of South Carolina's Fifth District who dedicated her life to the preservation of the historic Buford battlefield.

The Battle of Buford was significant and momentous in the southern campaign during our Revolutionary War. 113 Continental troops perished during this struggle and another 150 suffered terrible wounds.

Witnessing this carnage was Emily Carnes' great-great-grandfather, Jacob. Emily would go on to tell her ancestor's story in her book, "Jacob Was There".

The book describes Jacob Carnes, who was 16 years old at the time, and on the fateful day of May 29 of 1780, Jacob was employed plowing in a field close to the historic site when the Continental troops under Colonel Abraham Buford clashed with the British forces led by Lieutenant-Colonel Banastre Tarleton.

Jacob hid behind a tree during the struggle, but was eventually discovered by British troops, who took him into custody. While in their custody, British troops commanded Jacob to bury an American soldier alive. Jacob refused.

In reply, a British soldier fired his musket and shot off one of Jacob's fingers, therefore, adding Jacob's name to the long list of patriots who gave their blood for our freedom.

In remembrance of her great-great-grandfather's traumatic experience and the historic importance of the battle to the southern campaign, Emily Carnes singlehandedly cared for and preserved the 2 acres of leaf and debris-filled battlefield for years. She did this with no support and very few means. Indeed, she couldn't even afford to fly a flag in remembrance of those who gave their life for our independence.

Finally, in 2010, the Friends of Buford Massacre Battlefield was established, and Ms. Carnes was awarded an honorary member.

Thanks to Ms. Carnes' lifelong efforts, the former 2-acre site now encompasses over 47 acres of surrounding land on which the battle was fought, with the site now proudly flying the Stars and Stripes, the Buford Battle flag, and the State flags of Virginia and South Carolina.

The site now also includes modern comforts like a patio, walkways, informational kiosks, and a memorial bronze plaque inscribed with the names of 216 men recognized for defending their country in the Battle of Buford.

We thank Ms. Carnes for her lifelong passion and dedication to this sacred soil and for preserving this moment in a State and Nation's history for all of us to remember and enjoy.

WE CAN PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF LGBTQ INDIVIDUALS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

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

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Equality Act.

First and foremost, I must begin by saying that I believe the LGBTQ community is a critical part of the fabric of our country. They are deserving of our unequivocal love and respect, and their contributions to my home State of Utah are utterly invaluable.

As the mayor of Provo, I prioritized inclusion and love, and sought to ensure my administration did everything possible to recognize the intrinsic value of all of our citizens, including our LGBTQ community.

I fought hard against discrimination and was grateful for my associations with organizations like Provo Pride, Equality Utah, Encircle, and others, who I was honored to stand with to ensure that our city motto of "Welcome Home" extended to everyone.

Perhaps even more important than that, I am grateful for the association and relationships of my life that have helped me better understand the experiences of the LGBTQ community, and who have been patient with me, a conservative Utah boy raised in the 1960s, who took longer than I am proud of to gain empathy for this important issue.

Again, I say I am incredibly grateful for the contribution of the LGBTQ community and will always stand with them in respect and support.

With the Equality Act, we face a unique challenge: balancing the needs and protections against discrimination with the importance of protecting religious liberty, which is one of the fundamental rights enshrined at the foundation of our Nation.

I believe this compromise is possible, because I have seen it before in my home State with historic legislation called the Utah Compromise that effectively balanced the absolute rights of both LGBTQ individuals as human beings and religious institutions protected by the First Amendment.

The Equality Act fails to strike that balance. Instead, these two interests are treated as zero sum games, with no good-faith effort put forth for both sides to win.

This bill would end longstanding religious liberties under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a historic bipartisan legislative victory fought for by the current Democratic leader in the Senate, CHUCK SCHUMER; my own Utah mentor, Orrin Hatch, a Republican; and liberal icon, Ted Kennedy. It was also signed into law by Democrat Bill Clinton.

I have introduced commonsense amendments that would help achieve this critical balance of protection for both maintaining the standards against discrimination and religious freedom, but I am frustrated that House Democratic leaders have decided

there will not be any consideration or even debate of amendments to the Equality Act. Instead, they have established a model of legislative gas-lighting.

In this case, they are taking issues where broad bipartisan agreement is possible and taking the debate right off the table on issue after issue, whether it be climate change, violence against women, and now the Equality Act.

They disregard willing partners, such as myself, standing here hoping to work with them, and instead, prefer to pass party-line bills that won't go anywhere so they have issues to campaign on.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle truly want to achieve progress on this issue, I hope they will recognize that they have a willing partner in me, but they must be willing to work together to legislate and make room to protect both religious liberty and the LGBTQ community.

Exploiting yet another group in order to pass a campaign message bill along party lines is not in harmony with this body.

I hope they will hear me today and change course before we vote on this bill.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN MASSIELO AND EMELIE CURTIS

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize two impressive student athletes from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who are making their school and our entire community very proud.

Justin Massiello and Emelie Curtis, students at Pennsbury High School in Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania, both recently hit impressive milestones in their respective sports.

Justin, a senior, recently recorded his 100th hit as a 4-year starter for the Falcons' varsity baseball team, and Emelie, a junior, just notched her 100th career goal as a 3-year starter for the Falcons' varsity girls lacrosse team.

What makes their achievements even more special, Madam Speaker, is that Justin and Emelie also are cousins.

On behalf of our entire community, I would like to congratulate Justin and Emelie on their notable athletic achievements. We wish them, and their families continued success.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT TERRY HUGHES

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, this week is National Police Week, and I rise today to recognize a dedicated law enforcement professional from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who recently retired after a very distinguished career in public service.

Lieutenant Terry Hughes of the Bristol Township Police Department retired after over 30 years in local law enforcement.

A resident of Bristol Township throughout his entire life, Lieutenant