

the people, by the people, and for the people.

We must take this responsibility seriously or, again, we won't have a fighting chance to rebuild the trust of "we, the people" and keep the promise of America alive. I have said it before in the well of this House: this is the promise that will keep us free and empower the next generation to shine. For their sake, our character, the spirit that leads us to do what is right and just, must be our guide so our House will forever stand.

#### UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the new trade agreement negotiated with Mexico and Canada, or the USMCA.

My district that I represent, the 11th District of Pennsylvania, is one of the top ten dairy producing counties in the Nation and is the number one producing county for egg layers.

One thing that I can tell you about the farmers of the 11th District is that they adapt, and they hold on to hope that better times are yet to come. I agree with them: better times are coming for these farmers because the Trump administration has worked to do right by the American farmer in negotiating the USMCA.

Under the agreement, Canada would eliminate its price control systems, which have effectively locked out America's dairy industry.

The agreement also makes improvements for the egg and poultry industry, with Canada agreeing to increase its quota regimes to allow for more American eggs and chicken into the market.

The farmers of my district are eagerly calling for the USMCA to be enacted as soon as possible, and I join them today in that call. I am hopeful that we can get there.

That is why I urge the leadership across the aisle to join in standing up for our Nation's farmers and to allow a vote on the USMCA. We have a generational opportunity to help American farmers compete and to thrive. Let's take that opportunity.

#### HONORING WARDEN CHERYL STEBERGER

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, earlier this month was National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, and I rise today to recognize individuals from Lancaster County, who are making a difference improving criminal justice and public safety in our community.

I would like to recognize Lancaster County Prison Warden Cheryl Steberger, who has shown exceptional leadership in managing the Lancaster County Prison. Warden Steberger has substantially improved the welfare of those repaying their debts to society

while in prison and helped with their transition out of incarceration.

The warden has done so by meticulously following the data with a program known as Prison Stat. Prison Stat is run in conjunction with the Lancaster County Prison Board, led by Lancaster County Commissioner and Chairman Josh Parsons. This program monitors key metrics on the prison's performance and holds leaders accountable through transparent and frequent public review of the data.

Their work in Lancaster County has been honored by the National Association of Counties, who awarded both Commissioner Parsons and Warden Steberger with the 2018 Achievement in Criminal Justice and Public Safety Award.

Madam Speaker, we appreciate the work of our correctional officers and we thank Warden Steberger for her dedication and leadership.

#### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

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

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, in honor of National Foster Care Month, I would like to address a vital issue in today's foster care system: the need for more foster care parents. I would also like to recognize a few foster care organizations in Nebraska's Second Congressional District. These organizations embrace children in the foster care system and are committed to helping youth find permanent homes through foster parents, so that they, too, can experience love, stability, and the freedom to reach their full potential, regardless of their circumstances.

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska has been an advocate in the child foster care system for more than 125 years. This year, their mission is to secure 100 foster families who can offer a mature and stable environment.

Boys Town Nebraska, where I was fortunate to speak this last weekend at their high school graduation, directly serves about 30,000 children every year and believes that foster parents are the heart of high-quality foster care by offering children protection, permanency, and comfort.

The Child Saving Institute values the overall well-being of children by offering free, trauma-informed training to individuals and couples who want to serve as foster parents.

And the Nebraska Children's Home Society not only strives to find permanent homes for children, but they also address the need to foster teenagers.

All four of these organizations provide care and assistance to the abused and neglected and encourages the need for foster parents for children of all ages.

Each year, hundreds of Nebraska youth are removed from their homes due to unfortunate circumstances. Many of them fear where they will end up or if they will ever find their forever home.

My wife, Angie, and I adopted two children, Austin and Jessica, from the foster care system when they were just 8 and 9 years old. Even though we already had two sons, we knew that there were not enough homes for older children and siblings. Austin and Jessica are blessings to our family. Even though foster parenting was challenging, choosing to adopt them was one of the best and most rewarding decisions Angie, my wife, and I have ever made.

Even though foster children are hurting, they are just looking for someone to be committed to them and help them succeed. It is time to realize that everyone can play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care and that these children just want someone to care for them. It is the hope that one day, through opportunity and lessons, these children will grow up and provide safety for their own children, benefiting future generations.

The idea of children being placed with stable and devoted families is not a partisan issue. I am very appreciative to my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, and I am thankful to serve as a co-chair for the Foster Care Caucus. I will continue to be an advocate for foster children and encourage the need for foster parents. We must remember that every child, no matter the age, is worthy of love and deserves a family.

#### HONORING MAJOR JOHN E. CLECKNER, SR.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great man and a great patriot from Redding, California, in my district. His commitment to his fellow veterans is certainly unparalleled. Major John Cleckner, Sr. passed away on May 11, but he leaves behind a tremendous legacy of service.

During a 22-year military career that began in 1957 in the 82nd Airborne Division and later the U.S. Army Special Forces, John received far too many awards and honors to list in this time. During his time as a veteran of the Vietnam war, he was wounded multiple times and received three Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars.

In 1969, he was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group. Upon arriving, he initiated a massive rebuilding of their camp's defenses and intelligence gathering when he heard of increased activity by North Vietnamese units in the area. Not long afterward, a North Vietnamese heavy weapons regiment laid siege to their camp for 5 months, but, thanks to John's efforts, the camp held.

After receiving his third Purple Heart, John was medically retired in 1979.

As impressive as his military service record is, it might even pale in comparison to his 35 years of dedicated

service to his fellow veterans, both in northern California and across the United States. Much like his military career, his accomplishments as an advocate for veterans are too numerous to properly list in this format.

He has worked closely with me and my office and others previous to me over the years as an adviser on all things veterans related and as a tireless partner and champion of programs and legislation that can make a real impact to help our veterans thrive.

He was a leader in every sense of the word. John was instrumental in getting a new VA clinic in Redding, whose groundbreaking will be very soon, and started the quest for a veterans' cemetery in Shasta County, both of which have now come to fruition, thanks to his relentless efforts.

John even collaborated with country music legend Merle Haggard, who is a Redding resident, to coordinate a national fishing tournament for combat-disabled veterans to have a chance to get out and relax and enjoy the outdoors with people who they can relate to. For him, it was all part of making the lives of veterans better in any way that he could.

When John discovered that many veterans struggled to obtain legal help, he went back to college at the age of 62 to get a degree that would allow him to serve as a legal assistant to in-need veterans at no charge to the veteran. That is amazing service. That is the kind of person John Cleckner was.

For his impressive track record, both on the battlefield and in civilian life, the Special Operations Center of Excellence at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School inducted John into the Distinguished Members of Special Operations Regiment in 2010.

□ 1045

I know this: Major John Cleckner was an American hero, on and off the battlefield. He devoted his life to his country, and when he could no longer serve his country, he devoted himself to improving the lives of his fellow veterans.

I have seen it firsthand. I consider myself fortunate to have known him as a friend, and I am grateful for the things he helped us—in my office and others—do to accomplish things for veterans in northern California.

John was tough, even a little scary, especially if he thought you weren't being true to what you were saying you would do. But if you were, you wouldn't have a stronger ally than Major John Cleckner in what we pursue to help our veterans, to help our Nation be strong, to be true.

His commitment has only strengthened my own resolve to further some of the initiatives he started and we have helped with and to never stop fighting for our veterans who deserve it.

I thank John for his service, his sacrifice, his dedication. We will miss him in northern California but will ensure

his legacy lives on through our efforts—all of us—to help our veterans, to help our Nation remain strong.

God bless Major John Cleckner, his faithful wife, Doris, his amazing family, and all that he has ever had touch with during his life of service to his nation and to his brothers.

#### IN MEMORY OF TROOPER DONALD C. BRACKETT

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and memory of Trooper Donald C. Brackett, a dedicated law enforcement professional with the Pennsylvania State Police. Trooper Brackett passed away while on duty Saturday morning at the age of 58.

Our Nation just recognized National Police Week, a time to reflect upon and honor the sacrifices made by the men and women in law enforcement. Trooper Brackett was no exception.

A resident of Bensalem, Trooper Brackett served nearly 18 years in the United States Marine Corps and enlisted in the Pennsylvania State Police in October of 2001. He was most recently assigned to the patrol section of Troop T, King of Prussia, and was previously assigned to Troop K, Media, and Troop M in Trevoise throughout his distinguished career.

Madam Speaker, Trooper Brackett lived his life in service to our Nation and to our community. He is truly an American hero, and I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Marta, and his children, Gabriella and Brianna.

Trooper Brackett lived his entire life in service to our community. He set the example for our entire Nation to follow.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL STEKLENSKI

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a native of Perkasio in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who is promoting animal welfare through the nonprofit organization he established 4 years ago.

Paul Steklenski, an Army veteran and a network engineer, founded Flying Fur Animal Rescue in 2015. Flying his 1970 Beechcraft single-engine airplane, Paul transports shelter animals, mostly dogs, at risk of being euthanized to rescue groups along the East Coast. To date, Paul estimates he has saved the lives of over 1,300 animals in need.

Paul credits Rick Witt, who helps manage the operations at Doylestown Airport, for the success of this organization. Rick allows Paul to use the original aircraft he used to transport the animals.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the work of Flying Fur Animal Rescue and thank Paul for his work. I encourage all of us to follow his lead of being a voice for the voiceless.

#### RECOGNIZING BRUSH WITH THE LAW

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding nonprofit organization in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, that is serving individuals in need in our community.

Brush With the Law, based in Montgomeryville, was founded as a visual arts program at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility in 2013. The program quickly grew popular and was transitioned into one that helps marginalized individuals trying to re-enter society.

Brush With the Law works with municipalities and small businesses in their endeavors, which involves creation of conceptual art installations to beautify our community. These installations seek to raise awareness for issues important to local residents, such as drug addiction, homelessness, and climate change. The principal goal of Brush With the Law is to bring people together, a vision which we all should applaud.

I would like to recognize the founder and director, Maria Maneos of North Wales, for her leadership and for her work in empowering our community.

#### MOVE ON FROM THE RUSSIAN INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, on April 18, 2019, my Democratic colleagues were overjoyed. The report on the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election was released. It was two volumes, volume I and volume II. Volume I was 199 pages long, volume II, 182 pages long.

Special Counsel Mueller's report was my colleagues' dream: the smoking gun. Now we can impeach President Donald Trump. The taxpayers spent \$2.5 million so far, but that is a victory.

The folks back home heard this, one ugly thud. There was no collusion and no obstruction.

So why do my colleagues keep the investigation going? Why are they threatening subpoenas, contempt of Congress?

Well, it is because Mr. Putin hacked into our elections with a wide open door given to him by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the DCCC.

Volume I, page 38:

On April 12, 2016, the GRU, the Russians, had gained access to the DCCC computers using the credentials stolen from a DCCC employee who had been successfully spearphished the week before.

A few lines later:

Approximately 6 days after the first hack into the DCCC network on April 18, 2016, the GRU—again, the Russians—gained access to the DNC network via a virtual private network connected between the DCCC and the DNC.