

save others before comforting our community in the immediate aftermath of this tragedy.

As the hours and days go by, we hear tens, if not hundreds, of stories of the heroism of individuals who helped save lives during this tragic event, including the officer among the first responders who, in the performance of his duties, took a bullet to protect our community, and was, by the grace of God, saved by his protective vest.

I saw believable bravery in Sentara Hospital where Sunday, I had the honor of visiting a survivor of the shooting. She clasped my hand as I stood at her bedside, and her strength and resolve were palpable as she had only narrowly come away alive.

I saw love and hope at heartfelt vigils across our community where people of all faiths joined in prayer to remember those who left us all too soon.

I saw strength among our city leaders and police chief as they addressed our grieving community, determined to remember the 12 we lost far too soon.

SHOWCASE FOR COMMERCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week I was honored to attend the Showcase for Commerce in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Cambria County.

For nearly 30 years, the annual Showcase for Commerce has highlighted the exceptional work happening in Cambria County.

Established by the late Congressman Jack Murtha, the event brings together Federal, State and local leaders, as well as major defense corporations and subcontractors and regional, national, and international business leaders.

With more than 100 exhibitors and more than 2,000 attendees, the Showcase for Commerce has grown into a nationally recognized business and industry trade show and defense contracting exhibition.

Cambria County has a skilled workforce that makes considerable contributions to our national security. We saw more than \$180 million in new defense contracts announced at this year's showcase. Because America can't merely remain competitive in a global economy, but we must lead the way with the most sophisticated technology.

As a Member of the House of Representatives and the father of an Active-Duty soldier and a Purple Heart wounded warrior, I am not interested in a fair fight. Our United States military members deserve our best, that includes the resources to be optimally safe, effective, and lethal.

There is no better means to a peaceful world or a deterrent to would-be dictators and terrorists than a well-equipped, robustly trained, and properly funded United States military.

Generations of workers in Cambria County and southwestern Pennsylvania have been dedicated to our national security through service overseas and service here at home.

They ensure that we send our servicemen and women into combat with the most advanced state-of-the-art equipment available.

Here in Washington, the Army's modernization efforts include a request of \$12.2 billion in research, development, tests, and evaluation funding, and \$21.8 billion in procurement, which will begin to address the Army's identified top six modernization priorities: Long-Range Precision Fires Missile, next-generation combat vehicles, Future Vertical Lift, tactical network, air-and-missile defense, and soldier lethality.

Now, I support this request because we need to be ready to answer the threats that are before us, whether they come from Iran, North Korea, Russia, or elsewhere, we must be able to counter and mitigate such threats swiftly and deliberately.

Career and technical education play a role in our readiness. Right now, there are more than 7 million job openings in the United States, and it is one of the greatest challenges we face—the skills gap.

Thanks to the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, we were able to completely overhaul the Perkins Act and invest the resources necessary to have a dominant and prosperous workforce.

We can secure the future, and help more Americans climb the rungs on the ladder of opportunity through career and technical education programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Showcase for Commerce puts Cambria County workforce on display. Those of us in Pennsylvania already knew this, and the showcase lets us share it with the rest of the Nation.

CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA).

HONORING VIRGINIA BEACH SHOOTING VICTIMS

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, I continue today in grieving for Virginia Beach and for those that we lost.

Those who knew the victims are making statements that we need to hear.

Bert Snelling's neighbor told a Virginian-Pilot reporter, "It's the world we live in now, and it's a shame."

A friend of Missy Langer's told The Washington Post, "This kind of stuff has got to stop." And another friend said, "She didn't deserve to die like that."

None of them did.

This is a moment where doing nothing is no longer an option. To prove

that point, all we have to do is look at the first responder who ran into the building and took a bullet to protect his fellow citizens. To him, it was never an option to not act.

If there is a lesson that we take out of this tragedy, all we have to do is look at him.

We must run into the building together.

We must act.

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, while the Trump administration is setting fire to our legal immigration system, separating families, and all but closing down our border, I am proud that today, here in the House of Representatives, Democrats are standing up and taking action to provide legal status and an earned path to citizenship for young people and families that already call this country home.

Dreamers and TPS holders are our neighbors, coworkers, and our friends. They are productive and contributing members of our society, raising families, serving in our military, and uplifting our communities.

Even though they collectively represent some of the strongest parts of this country, the Trump administration has forced them to live in constant uncertainty and fear that they or their loved ones will be deported.

But even so, they have had the courage to step out of the shadows and tell their stories and fight for the lives they have built for themselves and their families and for the futures they aspire to.

They have spoken up many times, putting themselves at risk to do so in hopes that they would drive us to act to uphold our American values and allow them to become, on paper, what they already are in their hearts: Americans.

The hundreds of thousands of Dreamers who came forward to register with the government as part of the DACA program trusted the government to live up to its end of the bargain.

Although the Trump administration has tried to break that promise, today we are taking action to make sure we keep our word.

We will not allow these aspiring Americans to become the next victim of Trump's brutal deportation force. This wasn't an easy process, and the fight isn't over. It takes immense courage to stand up to power at any time, but even more so, when your life—as you know it—is at great risk.

I have the utmost admiration and respect for Dreamers who have taken a stand and fought for the right to continue to live and work in the country they call home. I know they will continue to fight until this bill that we pass becomes law.

In the meantime, I—and my fellow Democrats—will continue to be right by their side.

RED LION FIRE COMPANY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of John David—he was known as “JD”—Smith, a volunteer firefighter with the Red Lion Fire Department.

JD passed away on Sunday due to injuries sustained during a motorcycle accident.

JD officially joined the Department in June of 2016, though he was involved in years prior as well. His sister, Megan, said, “He was a very dedicated firefighter. It was like his second home. He ran just about every call he could without hesitation. He had a kind heart and would help anyone who needed it. If you were sad, he was the first to ask you what’s wrong and if you need anything.”

Mr. Speaker, we appreciate JD’s compassion and service to his community. We recognize that those who volunteer with our local fire companies are special, and their dedication to the protection of others is admirable.

I ask that the community join me in keeping JD’s family, friends, and fellow firefighters at the Red Lion Fire Department in our prayers during this difficult time.

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NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, May was National Foster Care Month, and I would like to recognize all of the loving and caring foster parents in my district.

Nearly 670,000 young people have foster parents across this great Nation, and it is in a loving home that they are able to grow and thrive. Today, I would like to thank the foster parents, volunteers, family members, social workers, child welfare professionals, and countless others across the district that I represent who help them find permanent homes and build strong foundations.

In particular, I would also like to recognize the work of two outstanding nonprofit organizations in my district that do great work in assisting foster children and families: Bethany Christian Services and COBYS Family Services.

This is an issue we should all care deeply about. I was very proud that my very first legislation to become law was bipartisan language, cosponsored with Representative TERRI SEWELL, to help place foster children in the home of family members.

When it comes to finding loving homes for children, there are no Republicans or Democrats, just mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, and sons and daughters who believe that each child should have a bed to be tucked into at night in a loving home. Our thanks are with those foster parents who provide just that.

CONGRATULATING WARWICK GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the State champions,

PIAA AAA Girls Track & Field champions, the Warwick Warriors. The Warriors bested the competition last week, bringing home the school district’s fifth State championship. The team took home seven medals from the State championship games.

“Every time those girls were asked to do something, they did it,” said Coach Alex Decker. “They rose to every occasion, from the time they were sophomores to now, and they are just unreal.”

Certainly, there is much to be proud of. The lessons that these young women have learned together will stay with them throughout their lives.

When asked what she learned from graduating seniors on the team, junior Meaghan Quinn said: “No matter how many medals or how many awards you get as a team, it always comes back to the people who you are and the friendships that you’ve made along the way. . . . We can’t do it without each other.”

Mr. Speaker, the community is proud of the efforts of these young women. We congratulate them on their tremendous success and continue to wish them well in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGING CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM WORKERS

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

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, May was National Foster Care Month, a time for our country to come together to acknowledge the half million people in our child welfare system, the hundreds of thousands who work within the system day in and day out, and the millions of adults who have exited the system and are no longer in care.

No one knows the child welfare system like the foster youth who have grown up in the system. Today, the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth and the National Foster Youth Institute have brought more than 100 young people from every corner of the country here to Washington, D.C., to shadow their Member of Congress. I would like to take a second to thank the nearly 100 Members of Congress who are spending this morning learning from a constituent and delegate of this program about their personal experiences and ideas to make impactful change in the child welfare system.

The delegates of this program have been in town since Saturday and have been learning about community activism and successful movement building. Yesterday, we held a forum right here in the Capitol where our delegates were able to ask Members of the leadership of Congress questions about changes to the child welfare system. I can’t wait for the participants of this program to be up here serving in Congress, making their voices even louder than they are now.

Each year, our participants have a real hand in making change. From the

Chafee Grant extensions to the passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act just last year, this group’s voices have changed our child welfare system forever.

The reality is this: When the government removes children from their parents, the government becomes that child’s parent. Too often, the government forgets this commitment and life goes on for those not in the child welfare system; but for those in it, they come to feel trapped and forgotten.

These young people here today have traveled thousands of miles to share their stories of their challenges with abuse, trafficking, overmedication, or homelessness. In addition, they are sharing their successes with mentorship, adoption, family reunification, community activism, and independent living. Their goal is to leave Congress with a better understanding of the reality faced day in and day out by our Nation’s youth in care.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the stories of four former foster youth who are here shadowing me today.

Yeshe Vaughan graduated in the top 10 of her high school class. In May 2019, she graduated with honors from Saint Martin’s University with a bachelor’s in social work and a minor in sociology. She hopes that as a social worker she can share her story to encourage other youth.

Fonda Williams is a former foster youth from California, born and raised in the city of Watts. She is 27 years old and the sixth child of eight. Her current occupation is a public safety dispatcher. She attended UCLA and is currently attending El Camino College.

Racquell Perry is a Florida barred attorney and is the statewide outreach for Keys to Independence at Educate Tomorrow. The Keys to Independence program is designed to help youth in out-of-home care overcome barriers to driving. Racquell is a proud two-time graduate of Florida A&M University, earning a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and a JD from its college of law.

Toni Criner, while attending Howard University, had the opportunity to be an intern in my office, where she experienced child welfare and foster care policy issues from a different viewpoint. After Toni’s time on the Hill, she went on to pioneer a White House initiative and was given the opportunity to work with Washington, D.C.’s most vulnerable transitioning-aged youth. In 2019, Toni founded her own company, T.C. Mentoring and Consulting LLC. The company’s mission is to help at-risk youth and young adults find their path in life.

Mr. Speaker, our country is the richest country in the history of the world, and there is no excuse for us not to take care of the half million youth who are in the child welfare system. When the government removes them, we are the ones responsible, and we should never be in a situation where anyone