

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.

□ 1045

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

would accuse the government of abuse and neglect. This is why we need to transform the Nation's child welfare system to make sure that all of the children in our country have everything they need to be successful adults.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JOHN D. MILLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember John D. Miller of Monticello, Illinois. He was a beloved public servant and active community member who suddenly passed away last week.

After graduating from Monticello High School in 1971, John served in the United States Army and later in the National Guard and the Army Reserves. It was there that he began his career in law enforcement, serving as a military police officer and an instructor.

His civilian service started with the Decatur Police Department before he was named Argenta's chief of police. In 1995, he was appointed to the same role with the Monticello Police Department, where he went on to serve for 17 years until his retirement in 2012.

Throughout his tenure, he was known for his sense of justice, but also his sense of compassion. In total, he dedicated 34 years of his life to law enforcement.

In 2013, he once again answered the call to better his community, and he was elected as an alderman on the Monticello City Council. In 2017, he was reelected to a second 4-year term.

John lived his life in humble service to his friends and neighbors. For so many, he was a role model and a mentor, and he will be truly missed.

My prayers are with his wife, Karen, his children, and his grandchildren.

CONGRATULATING COACH JIM OTT

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Jim Ott and the men's golf team at Illinois Wesleyan University on their NCAA Division III national championship win last month for the 13th straight year.

Illinois Wesleyan University has made it to the national championship, but this year, they took home the trophy. When asked about the win, Coach Ott said: "The nice thing is it was such a team effort."

During the 3-day tournament, the Titans had led the scoreboard until the final nine holes, when the second-place team caught their lead and tied them.

Thanks to a 12-foot par putt on number 18 by junior Skylar LeVine and a 15-foot par putt on the final hole by senior Drew Pershing, the team secured their first-place ranking, earning them the title of national champions.

Illinois Wesleyan's win also earned Coach Ott the Dave Williams National Coach of the Year Award, presented by

Golf Pride Grips. He has been the men's golf coach for the Titans since 2000 and led Illinois Wesleyan to eight wins in 11 tournaments this season. After coaching the Titans for 19 years, he can finally boast a national championship win.

Coach Ott has a lot to be proud of. I congratulate him and the entire Titan golf team.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF TERRY TODT

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Terry Todt. Terry was a friend and a beloved community member who passed away on May 23.

Many of us in central Illinois grew up listening to Terry on the radio. For the past 41 years, he was the man behind the microphone announcing some of the most memorable moments in high school sports in central Illinois.

Terry got his first transistor radio at the age of 7. In 1978, his dream of becoming a broadcaster came true when he was hired by WSMI in Litchfield, the radio station he had listened to on that transistor radio while growing up.

Because of his excellence in sports announcing, he was inducted into the media division of the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, as well as many other distinctions.

But Terry's love for youth sports went far beyond his broadcasts:

For many years, he officiated basketball, baseball, and soccer with the local sports association;

He was instrumental in expanding the Raymond Park District to add two athletic fields, including a soccer field that was named in his honor;

Last year, he began the T. Todt Shootout, a basketball benefit that raises money for the Montgomery County Cancer Association.

Terry left a lasting legacy that will long be remembered.

I remember meeting Terry in 1995, and he is just one of the most genuine people anyone could have ever met. He was an iconic member of the Raymond community, and he will be missed by many.

My prayers are with his wife, Brenda, their children, their grandchildren, and everyone who knew my friend Terry Todt.

PROTECT THE DREAMERS

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about our Dreamers and the need for Congress to work together now to protect them and provide legal status.

Simply put, Dreamers are Americans, just like you and I, and they should be treated as such. They came here, brought by their families at a very early age: 2, 3, 4 years of age. For them, this is the only country they have ever known.

They are our friends, our neighbors, and members of our churches, syna-

gogues, and mosques. They serve in the military and attend our schools and universities.

In my district alone, the 16th Congressional District in California in the San Joaquin Valley, there are over 1,200 Dreamers who are attending California State University, Fresno; the University of California, Merced; and thousands more who are attending our community colleges.

□ 1100

I have heard their stories, I have looked them in the eyes, and I have consoled them. They have great fear. They fear things that we would not probably think about, like driving to school and driving to work. They are fearful that they might be pulled over because maybe their vehicle has some sort of a violation, only to be pulled over and find out that they are not here legally.

The jobs that they have—many of them full-time jobs, good jobs—are threatened by potential audits to the employers who are seeking to determine whether or not they are here illegally or not.

Yet, in spite of all of those challenges, they work tirelessly to improve their education and to contribute to the betterment of their families and their local communities. They pay taxes. They give back.

After all, isn't that the American way?

They are the next generation of leaders in various regions throughout our communities, yet they are living in fear every day that they could be deported. They fear for their families, and they fear for their futures as they wait to see if they will be removed from the only home they have ever known.

Can you imagine being in a household where some members of your family are here legally, and some are not, and the notion that your family might be split apart, mother and father, brothers and sisters?

How horrific that must be.

They have trusted our government to uphold its word that we would give them protections under the DACA program. Now, of course, that is all under a cloud.

We must keep our promises. Living with this uncertainty is just not right. It is unfair, it is unjust, and it is not the American way.

My grandparents immigrated to this country, and they often faced many of the same challenges that our Dreamers live with every day. Our story, therefore—a nation of immigrants past and present—is their story. Their story, like my family, is the American story. It is a story of immigrants wanting to come here to have a better life for themselves and for their children.

So, therefore, I am unwavering in my support that we provide them legal status. We must let our Dreamers know that we stand with them and that we