

When the National WWI Museum and Memorial opened to the public in 1926, President Calvin Coolidge explained that the memorial had “not been raised to commemorate war and victory, but rather the results of war and victory, which are embodied in peace and liberty.” The Tree of Peace project, initiated by Slovak landscape architect Dr. Marek Sabala, serves a similar purpose.

The Tree of Peace project is an international initiative that began in the Slovak Republic last year to mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War’s conclusion. Within four years, Dr. Sabala hopes to plant a Tree of Peace on every continent, a mission designed to champion a message of peace and the need to avoid armed conflicts. Each Tree of Peace also stands as a living tribute to all those who fought and perished in World War I, including those who lost their lives on unknown battlefields and who remain known only God. So far, eight Trees of Peace have been planted in four participating countries: Austria, Slovakia, Russia, and Poland. With the planting of a Tree of Peace at the National WWI Museum and Memorial on June 21st, the United States will join this international community in hopes of achieving a world free from global conflict. At a National Historic Landmark that has attracted over two million visitors since 2006, the Tree of Peace will establish its roots at one of the most treasured sites in Missouri’s Fifth Congressional District and the nation.

The motto of the Tree of Peace project, to “make love the lifeblood of this world,” articulates an ideal that is antithetical to the depravity of warfare. Visitors to the National WWI Museum and Memorial walk across a glass bridge above a field of 9,000 red poppies—each of which represents 1,000 combat deaths suffered during the War. Conversely, the Tree of Peace symbolizes belief in a future where war no longer inflicts senseless death on so many. World War I was described by many contemporaries as “the war to end all wars.” While the international community has repeatedly proven this description false—with graves all across the world bearing testament to the devastating consequences of armed conflict—the Tree of Peace expresses faith that we may, once and for all, see war come to an end.

The Liberty Memorial Tower is flanked by two Assyrian Sphinx sculptures, known as Memory and Future. While Memory shields its eyes from the horrors of war, and Future shields its eyes from the uncertainty of times to come, the Tree of Peace affirms hope in a future that need not cause one to cover one’s eyes in fear.

The Tree of Peace project encourages each of us to recommit ourselves to the noble pursuit of perpetual peace—in which bullets, bombs, and bayonets are all set aside; hostility is replaced with civility; and antagonism gives way to amity. The Tree of Peace calls on nations to silence the beating of their war drums, cast away their rattling sabers, and pay no heed to war hawks. Only then will the “just and lasting peace” that is described on the north wall of the memorial become a reality.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the planting of the Tree of Peace at the National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. Let us recognize this occasion by reflecting on the values of friendship, harmony, and goodwill.

CONGRATULATING ST. DOMINIC’S GIRLS SOCCER TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019 CLASS III STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Dominic Crusaders Girls Soccer team for winning the 2019 Missouri Class III State Soccer Championship.

This team and Coach Greg Koeller, should be commended for their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community. This is the first state championship win for the girls’ soccer team since 2013, with many more to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the St. Dominic Crusaders Girls Soccer team for a job well done.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW JERSEY BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION’S EMPLOYER LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES AND FRANK ROBINSON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with the New Jersey Business & Industry Association as they celebrate 60 years of Employer Legislative Committees and pay tribute to Frank Robinson for his 40 years of service to New Jersey. These incredible milestones and the New Jersey Business & Industry Association’s efforts to support New Jersey businesses are truly deserving of this body’s recognition.

With a 40-year career spanning the public, private and political sectors, Frank Robinson is a well-known and well-respected face in Trenton. He has served in leadership roles at the New Jersey Democratic State Committee and the New Jersey General Assembly, as well as the 2001 New Jersey Congressional Redistricting Commission. Currently serving as a Vice President of Government Affairs for the New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBI) since 2002, Frank has been an effective voice for New Jersey’s business community. He is the longstanding Executive Director of the State Employer Legislative Committees (ELCs) as well as Director of the NJBI’s Grassroots Network. He also serves as a member on the Monmouth-Ocean Development Group Board of Directors and as a Trustee of the Jersey Shore Partnership. Throughout his tenure with the NJBI and beyond, Frank has distinguished himself as an advocate for the growth and viability of New Jersey.

Established by the NJBI in 1959, today’s eighteen ELCs provide local representation and accessibility to businesses in each county across the state. Hosting regular meetings, ELCs offer opportunities for business people to meet with local, state and Federal officials, hear directly from NJBI’s knowledgeable gov-

ernment affairs representatives and network with colleagues. ELCs provide an outlet for local businesses to discuss issues and learn about regulations and policies affecting their industry and employees.

For over 100 years, the NJBI has represented the common interests of New Jersey’s manufacturing and business industry. It continues to be a leading voice in New Jersey’s state capital on industry affairs and an effective advocate on behalf of its members. Its information, programs and services are invaluable resources to companies and its understanding of laws and regulations help NJBI members navigate the changing industry landscape. NJBI’s efforts to promote and expand New Jersey’s business community are supported by its proficient and competent staff and the successful information sharing of its ELCs.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in marking 60 years of Employer Legislative Committees and honoring Frank Robinson’s 40 years of dedicated leadership to New Jersey.

IN RECOGNITION OF RANDOLPH GOODMAN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and service of Randolph Goodman. He recently retired after 26 years of work at Gary Job Corps.

Randolph Goodman was born and raised in Austin, Texas. In 1968, while attending The University of Texas at Arlington, he was inspired to join the Navy and serve his country after the assassination of Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King.

After serving in the Navy for 20 years and completing his double major in history and political science, Mr. Goodman began working at Gary Job Corps as the Public Information Officer and Business Community Liaison.

The organization is dedicated to giving young adults access to free academic and technical career training. It puts young people on the path to the American dream through hard work and education. Not only does it set them up for economic success—it gives them the pride and purpose that comes from earning a diploma or technical certification and beginning a meaningful career. The San Marcos location, that Mr. Goodman served at, is the largest Job Corps Center in the State of Texas.

Throughout his 26 years at Gary Job Corps, he has traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for funding and ensure students have access to the resources they need to thrive. Mr. Goodman has credited his success and tenacity during his time at Gary Job Corps to the students he has represented.

In his free time, Mr. Goodman has also served in many nonprofit organizations and committees in San Marcos, Texas. However, his believes his greatest success is marrying his childhood sweetheart. Mr. Goodman and his wife, Eva, will be celebrating their 49th wedding anniversary this December.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 355 on H.R. 2740, I mistakenly recorded my vote as No when I should have voted Aye.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF CONSUELLO "CONNIE" HARPER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the life of Mrs. Consuello "Connie" Harper.

Mrs. Harper, former president and CEO of Central Alabama Opportunities Industrialization Center, passed away on June 17, 2019.

The program has helped train and equip low-to-moderate income families in Central Alabama since 1968. Mrs. Harper's nationally recognized self-help programs included providing women with non-traditional training in highway construction and young adults with Job Readiness Training.

Mrs. Harper's daughter, Sylvia Harper, and grandson, Retired Army Special Forces "Green Beret" Lieutenant Colonel Kali McMurray, will continue OIC's work.

Mrs. Harper also worked as an educator in Macon County and served on the Macon County School Board. Her husband, Socrates Harper, is a retired educator and previously served as District County Commissioner for Macon County.

She was a lifelong resident of the Tysonville community in Macon County.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commemorating the life of Mrs. Harper.

CONGRATULATING ST. ELIZABETH'S BASEBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019 CLASS I STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my hometown high school, the St. Elizabeth Hornets Baseball team for winning the 2019 Missouri Class I State Baseball Championship.

This team and Coach, Caleb Heckemeyer, should be commended for their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community. This is the first year since 1997 the Hornets have won the title, with many more good seasons to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the St. Elizabeth Hornets Baseball team for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND MILITARY SERVICE OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN, JAMES E. HUDSON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and military service of World War II Veteran James E. Hudson. Mr. Hudson has always placed God and family first in his life, offering friendship and brotherly love to all those who crossed his path.

Mr. Hudson was born on June 21, 1919, in Tishomingo County, Mississippi. He spent his childhood in Iuka, MS with his parents, Milton and Florence Hudson, and his seven siblings. Mr. Hudson graduated from Iuka High School where he played on the basketball team.

Mr. Hudson was drafted to the United States Army right out of high school in 1941. He spent his basic training at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina before being sent to Fort Bliss, Texas, to serve in the First Cavalry division, also known as the Horse Cavalry, of the United States Army. Mr. Hudson was later deployed to the Pacific theater where he went to New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, the Southern Philippines, and Luzon for 2 years. He completed his service in 1945.

After the War, Mr. Hudson returned to Iuka, Mississippi where he still resides to this day. He married his sweetheart, Mae Romine from Florence, Alabama and they had four children. Mr. Hudson worked as a carpenter for TVA building dams on the Tennessee River. He has been blessed with thirteen grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Throughout his life and to this day, Mr. Hudson set an example for his children to follow. Mr. Hudson, a lifelong Christian, is a Methodist and attributes his 100 years of happiness to Psalm 118:24: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad therein."

On June 21st of 2019, Mr. Hudson will celebrate his 100th birthday. Mr. Hudson is an American patriot who served our great nation and continues to set an example for others to follow. We wish him many more years of good health.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Gun Violence Awareness Month. Since 2017, National Gun Violence Awareness month has been celebrated annually in June.

For too long and too often we, as a nation, have mourned with yet another community that was tragically impacted by gun violence. This is one community too many. Deaths from mass shootings in the U.S. are increasing at an alarming rate. After Sandy Hook, over 2,086 mass shootings have taken lives of Americans. From the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh to the gurdwara in Oak Creek;

from Sandy Hook Elementary to Stoneman Douglas High School; from the Pulse Night Club in Florida to the music festival shooting in Las Vegas—these places and events have sadly become memorialized. And there are countless more victims of gun violence who never made it to our news cycle.

Gun violence is indeed an epidemic. In addition to the lives lost, every bullet—every gunshot—rips apart the fabric of a community. For all those who were faced with gun violence—there is no going back. One such tragedy is one too many.

Victims of domestic abuse are especially susceptible to gun violence. That is why we must do all that we can to protect survivors of dating violence and stalking. Currently, nearly one million women alive today have been shot or shot at by an intimate partner. Studies have also shown that women experiencing situations where domestic abusers have access to a gun are five times as likely to be fatally shot. Women of color suffer from an even higher risk of death in similar situations.

We cannot become desensitized to the number of deaths in the news. We must act now. That is why I was proud to help pass on the floor of the House of Representatives H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019, and H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act to ensure universal background checks and close the Charleston loophole that enabled the hate crime at Mother Emanuel Church. In the 100 days of Senate's inaction and refusal to allow these bills a vote on the Senate floor, 233 New Yorkers were killed by gun violence. This—and every incident of gun violence—is a travesty.

No one should live their lives in constant fear. No parent should have to fear for their children as their kids go to school. No one should fear if their presence in a place of worship or a theatre makes them vulnerable.

Madam Speaker, as we mark National Gun Violence Awareness Month, we must be even more emboldened to demand change now. We need to remind the nation—including our policymakers—of the lives that have been taken by gun violence and the urgent need for commonsense gun violence prevention. I call on my colleagues in the Senate to pass H.R. 8 today. While National Gun Violence Awareness Month occurs in June, we must fight every single day of the year to prevent the countless deaths caused by the lack of gun restrictions. Thoughts and prayers are meaningless without critical action. Enough is enough.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, on the evening of Tuesday, June 18th, I was leading a night tour for a group of students visiting from Arkansas and was not aware that the vote times had been moved up by one hour and therefore missed the first five votes in the series. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 334, Yea on Roll Call No. 335, Yea on Roll Call No. 336, Yea on Roll Call No. 337, and Yea on Roll Call No. 338.