

summer. By the fifth grade, children without summer learning opportunities are 2 years behind their peers.

Students need a safe, stable place to learn over the summer. That is why I am so proud to have introduced legislation to help close the achievement gap and reduce food insecurity.

The Summer Meals and Learning Act will help fund summer reading programs at schools that already serve as summer meal sites, providing the support and stability at-risk youth need to grow and thrive. Every child deserves the opportunity to achieve their goals. It is my hope that this legislation will help students stay on the path to success.

IMPROVING MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE

(Mr. GIANFORTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the members of the House Armed Services Committee for their hard work on this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

Malmstrom Air Force Base is home to the 341st Missile Wing, which maintains and operates one-third of the U.S. ICBM force. Servicemembers at Malmstrom protect our country, but the base can do more to keep America safe and secure. With some work, the base's runway can, once again, host flying missions.

I especially thank and recognize Mr. TURNER from Ohio. We worked on a measure that could reform the basing process to focus on improving existing facilities like Malmstrom instead of building new ones.

This bill begins the process of including Malmstrom in future Air Force basing decisions to host aircraft, potentially increasing the number of men and women serving there.

I appreciate the Montana Defense Alliance for its advocacy on behalf of Great Falls and all the servicemembers at Malmstrom and elsewhere who keep our country safe.

CONGRATULATING ROYAL OAK CITY MANAGER DON JOHNSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. LEVIN of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my constituent and Royal Oak city manager, Don Johnson, on his retirement after 14 years with the great city of Royal Oak.

Don started as city manager right at the height of the Great Recession. To hear him tell it, the city was flat broke. Royal Oak was facing huge revenue shortfalls, and Michigan families were hurting.

In the years since, he has helped Royal Oak turn around and become one

of the most desirable places to live and visit. Royal Oak saw a jump of \$10 million in revenue in 10 years, truly an outstanding accomplishment for the people of Royal Oak and a testament to Don's hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Don for his years of service and wish him the very best in his next chapter.

PROTECTING MILITARY WIDOWS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Congress should strive for Democrats and Republicans in Washington to truly work together. When the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act reached 365 bipartisan cosponsors, I was grateful to share the good news. That is a remarkable more than 80 percent of Congress.

House Democrats had the ability to bring the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act to the floor tomorrow to repeal the widow's tax. Instead, Democratic leadership has diverted a vote by tacking it onto a flawed and hyperpartisan bill without notice late at night, which they know will not receive support on both sides of the aisle.

This is heartbreaking for the 65,000 military widows in America. However, it is not too late to do the right thing and keep this as a standalone bipartisan bill.

I encourage our colleagues across the aisle to put H.R. 553 on the Consensus Calendar. Together, we can give servicemembers and their families the recognition they deserve.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

USE FAMILY FARMS AS SUPPLIERS FOR ARMED FORCES

(Mr. DELGADO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for voting to include my amendment to the NDAA that will allow our armed services to aid small farmers across the country.

Two weeks ago, the USDA released its congressional district-specific data for the "Census of Agriculture" and reported that in my district, New York's 19th Congressional District, 96 percent of the farms there are small family farms.

During our most recent in-district work period, I visited small farms back home in Rensselaer and Montgomery Counties and learned more about their work with organizations to help veterans gain the skills needed to transition to jobs in agriculture.

Today, the House passed my amendment that requires a report from certain Defense agencies on programs, policies, and practices relating to

small farms, farms owned by new and beginning farmers, veteran farmers, and minority farmers in order to better understand how much the Armed Forces are working with small farms to supply commissaries and feed servicemembers.

With this data, Congress and Defense agencies can work together to expand opportunity for our small family farmers.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for standing with me on this very important issue.

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 11, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 11, 2019, at 11:00 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1811.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 962, BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I urge the Speaker to immediately schedule this important bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not recognized for debate.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LEVIN of Michigan). Pursuant to House Resolution 476 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2500.

Will the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS) kindly take the chair.