

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General Mark Berry, commander of the Arkansas National Guard. After a long career of dedicated service, Major General Berry is retiring on August 10, 2019.

He first assumed duties as the adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard on January 13, 2015. Prior to this post, Major General Berry was the A-4 assistant to the director of the Air National Guard in Arlington, Virginia.

In addition to his highly decorated career, Major General Berry is a man who goes out of his way to protect and to serve his fellow countrymen. Most recently, Major Berry provided critical immediate assistance when flooding devastated many parts of Arkansas.

I had the opportunity to work side by side with him during flood relief efforts and saw how he worked around the clock to save lives and to protect homes and businesses. He is a great leader, a great friend, and, above all, a great American.

I thank Major General Berry for his service and wish him all the best in retirement.

IN SOLEMN MEMORY OF THE LIVES LOST IN THE AURORA THEATER SHOOTING

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

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn memory of the 12 lives lost and the many lives changed forever 7 years ago in the Aurora theater shooting.

Since then, I have come to know many of the victims' families, and I stand in awe of their courage and strength. Many have become stewards in our community, and their example is an inspiration to us all, people like State Representative Tom Sullivan, who honors his son's life by serving in the Colorado State Legislature and fighting every day for commonsense gun violence prevention, or Sandy and Lonnie Phillips, who lost their daughter and have spent their days since advocating for survivors around the country.

Today, my only wish is to tell them that we haven't forgotten.

Looking at this Chamber, it may seem as if we have moved on. In the 7 years since, little has changed. Our country is no safer. We disagree about how to solve the problem, but we do agree that there is a problem. There is a public health crisis in our country, and it doesn't matter if you live in a red or blue district.

I stand here today, committed to making a change, committed to showing families in our community that just because time has passed, our urgency to addressing gun violence has not.

IN RECOGNITION OF STENNIS SPACE CENTER TEAM

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

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, 50 years ago, rockets tested at the Mississippi Test Facility, now known as the Stennis Space Center, carried Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins high above the Earth's atmosphere.

These brave Americans were aided by the technical and engineering expertise of Mississippi scientists and engineers. The men and women at the Stennis Space Center conducted 2,475 man-years of rocket engine testing to ensure that the astronauts successfully carried American ingenuity toward the stars and returned home safely to a proud nation.

Following the successful mission, the Stennis Space Center team continued to support the Apollo program by performing tests on the Saturn V rockets and continues today to support NASA in our exploration of space.

As a Mississippian, I join the rest of our States as we remember the crucial role we played in this historic accomplishment of our great Nation.

HONORING BETSY BOSSART FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, all of us who serve in this House are deeply indebted to our hardworking staff who enable us to serve our constituents and meet the rigorous demands of this job.

In particular, all of us are grateful for our district directors, as we are for all of our staff. But our district directors are "us" for so many instances, for so many constituents, and for so many different events.

They represent us when we cannot be there, when we are here in Washington. They are our eyes and ears on the ground when we are here. They are the angels on our shoulders who remind us that everything we do on a national level needs to benefit our constituents back home.

For the past 30 years, I have been blessed—the Fifth Congressional District has been blessed—to be a colleague of Betsy Bossart.

I love Betsy Bossart, and my constituents love Betsy Bossart.

Before she served as my district director, she was my administrative assistant, the jack of all trades who made sure my office ran smoothly, and served as one of my chief advisers.

Betsy joined my staff on March 3, 1989, 30 years ago, and until she retired—sadly, from my perspective—last month, she served me, the people of the Fifth District, and our country every day.

With her departure, my office—and, indeed, this House—is diminished by the end of her extraordinary service.

Betsy gave her time and energy selflessly for the people of the Fifth District, working many, many late nights, many weekends, and long days.

She has taken meetings with every organization and visited nearly every school and medical facility and government office in the counties I represent.

Betsy Bossart has been so successful as my district director because she is an excellent listener and has a deep wellspring of empathy for people.

She has been a role model, Madam Speaker, for others on my staff and a champion, an advocate for young people coming into public service and waiting to make differences in their communities and in their country.

She has been an unsung hero of my team for three decades.

It is largely because of Betsy's hard work behind the scenes that we are able to organize the Rebuilding Together program—formerly known as Christmas in April—in all five counties in our district. It is a day of service that brings people from all walks of life together to repair homes, revitalize communities, and help our neighbors.

Because of Betsy's efforts, we have the annual Fifth District Women's Luncheon, dedicated to advancing women's equality and raising awareness of women leaders in the Fifth District and our country.

Because of her, we have robust support for the network of early childhood centers in Maryland named in memory of my wife, Judy, who had a wonderful relationship with Betsy as well.

Maryland's Judy Centers will always be a major part of Betsy's legacy, and the thousands of children and families who benefited from their services may not know Betsy or what she did to make the Judy Centers possible, but they will always owe her and her colleagues who partnered with her on that effort a debt of gratitude.

Along with her friend and my friend, Betty Richardson—another longtime member of my team, who has since retired but remains very active in my district—as partners, Betty and Betsy were also instrumental in launching the annual Fifth District Black History Breakfast, now in its 38th year.

All the young people who participate in the annual Greater Washington Soap Box Derby have Betsy to thank for being able to use the Capitol Grounds.

Madam Speaker, I will look back with many, many, many fond memories of my time working with Betsy Bossart, my friend, my colleague, my coworker, whom I had the opportunity to work with to advance the interest of our district.

We traveled together to South Africa and met with Nelson Mandela, discussing the important issue of racial justice and unity through history and healing.

We have attended so many events together across Prince George's County and southern Maryland, making sure that every one of our constituent's voices is heard loudly and clearly in Congress.