confined to any one geographic, socio-economic, or other type of demographic. Rather, this epidemic is ravaging communities all around our country.

How did this epidemic start? Let’s go back to 2012, when there were more opioid prescriptions written in the state of Ohio than there were people. Prescriptions for opioid pain killers handed out like candy, and there was little-to-no regulation on these highly-addictive drugs. Someone could sustain a simple injury—say, to their knee or their back—perhaps even have surgery, and be prescribed highly-addictive opioids for their pain. With no oversight, Americans everywhere were slowly becoming addicted to these substances, with their tolerance levels increasing, therefore requiring them to take higher doses to experience the same level of pain relief. Of course, these drugs are not cheap. Often times, when the drugs become too costly or a prescription ran out, these now-addicted opioid users would turn to street drugs, such as heroin, to feed their addiction. In Ohio, four out of five heroin addicts began their drug use with prescription painkillers.

Often times, once an addiction starts, it’s near impossible to break the cycle. Truly, the best way to treat addiction is to stop it before it even starts. Of course, we know now that opioid addiction is completely preventable, and fighting this growing epidemic will take the work of many committed groups. This multi-faceted crisis needs the support of police departments, communities, families and schools, government at all levels, and the medical and science communities. That’s where the EF-FORT Act comes in.

This critical piece of legislation will direct the National Science Foundation to study the effects of the opioid epidemic and will require this body to consult with the National Institute of Health—and vice versa—in their research of opioid addiction. I’m a firm believer that research should be conducted between police departments and the National Institute of Health to ensure there is a two-way flow of information. This will help our law enforcement officials better understand the effects of the opioid epidemic and how to address it.

Chief Lavoie has been a leading and respected voice in the Granite State advocating for the Safe Station Program and forming the Nashua Community Conversations on Race and Justice, which have enhanced relationships between police and Nashua’s diverse population and the community at large. I applaud Chief Lavoie on his retirement after three decades of work in public service. On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire’s Second Congressional District, congratulations to Chief Andrew Lavoie for a well-deserved retirement. I thank him for his service and wish him the very best in the years to come.

CELEBRATING THE ROBINSON WESTBROOKS FAMILY 109TH FAMILY REUNION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Robinson Westbrooks family who will be celebrating their 109th family reunion in Los Angeles, California on August 16–18, 2019. Each year, the Robinson Westbrooks family gets together for the oldest ongoing registered family reunion in the United States.

It all started with Mr. John Bolin Robinson, Mrs. Dora Anne Westbrooks Robinson, and their youngest child, Leonard Wilbert Robinson, who all share a birthday on August 16.

Their coinciding birthdays led to the tradition of getting the family together every third Sunday in August to celebrate family unity and the blessings of God. The first official Robinson Westbrooks Family Reunion was held on August 16, 1910 in Eclectic, Alabama, making this year the 109th celebration.

The Robinson Westbrooks family makes the most out of their annual family gatherings throughout the United States. They are registered at the United States Library of Congress.

This year the family celebrates their oldest family members, Mrs. Queenie Elizabeth Thompson-Hunter, age 93, of Detroit, Michigan; Mrs. Clara Dora Thompson-Smith, age 92, of Detroit, Michigan, and Mr. Charlie Anderson Brown, age 96, of Eclectic, Alabama.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District of Alabama, I extend best wishes to the Robinson Westbrooks family. I hope this tradition continues for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RANDY CORBIN, OWNER OF CORBIN COLONIAL CHAPEL, FUNERAL HOME, "MAYOR OF MADISON STREET"

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of my constituents, and a personal friend, Mr. Randy Corbin who migrated from Arkansas, came to Chicago and established a business and lived a wonderfully productive life. Randy died on October 31, 2018, at the age of 73, at his home near Chicago.

Randy was a dedicated husband and father. He is survived by his wife, Karen, and their four children, his sister, fourteen grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

Mr. Corbin was a successful business man, and he became a prominent community leader. He was a member of the Illinois Funeral Directors Association, and a leadership member of the Boy Scouts of America. He supported local basketball teams and students pursuing education. He hosted school supply drives, donated volumes of supplies to youth and families throughout the year. He regularly donated to churches and left money in his will for the benefit of his children.

Mr. Corbin left us a legacy of love and kindness. He was a true gentleman and a shining example of how one person can make a difference in the lives of others.

Honoring Captain Aaron Hattabaugh and Operation Senior Surprise

HON. ADAM KINZINGER OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. KINZINGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Aaron Hattabaugh, a retired captain and B–52 navigator, for taking part in the longest combat mission in Air Force history.

On January 16, 1991, Captain Hattabaugh and fifty-six other airmen aboard seven B–52Gs aircraft of the 596th Bombardment Squadron took off from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana on Operation Senior Surprise. However, those who took part named their mission Operation Secret Squirrel.

This was the United States’ first move to liberate Kuwait from Saddam Hussein. Using state of the art air launched cruise missiles, these brave airmen had one objective: to destroy Hussein’s strategic assets in Iraq and Kuwait. Over the course of this mission, the aircraft destroyed nearly all of the targets and blinded the Iraqi military to its ground forces, in turn saving countless American lives. Incredibly, these aircraft completed four in-air refueling maneuvers and covered 14,000 nautical miles in under 36 hours.

This year marks the 28th anniversary of “Operation Secret Squirrel” and each year, those involved in this historic mission gather to remember their piece of history made. In the longest mission since the Doolittle Raids on Japan, these aviators carried out their mission with honor and bravery.

Madam Speaker, those who served on this mission displayed true endurance and dedication to country in their actions. It is my honor to recognize Captain Hattabaugh and the fifty-six others who took part in this critical mission.