

it right have prevailed. If that were not true," Betty said, "I would still be a slave like my great-grandmother."

Betty's colleagues, fans, and friends deeply admire her activism, her leadership, and her dedication to social justice and to America. Her positivity, sense of self, and commitment to doing what is right and preserving and honoring our past continue to inspire us all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating and celebrating this wonderful American's dedicated service and in wishing her a speedy recovery and good health. Her strong spirit and perseverance are an inspiration to us all.

BLOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Blood Cancer Awareness Month this past September.

Including leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Hodgkin's lymphoma, and more, around 14,000 Americans are diagnosed with blood cancer types each month.

Although a staggering statistic, doctors and researchers across the globe have made significant advances since the 1960s. For some blood cancers, survival rates have more than quadrupled.

As with any illness, early detection is important; so I encourage everyone to see their doctor, get a check-up, and discuss whether they have had any symptoms that could be related to blood cancer.

Mr. Speaker, if you have had bone pain, frequent nose bleeds, or tiny red spots on your skin, I especially encourage you to see a doctor.

I will continue supporting researchers to make further advances in eradicating these diseases.

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October 2019 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Workplaces that welcome the talents of all people, including people with disabilities, are a critical part of our efforts to build an inclusive community and a strong economy.

In the First Congressional District of Georgia, I want to especially recognize Goodwill Southeast Georgia, which is working to raise awareness about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities.

Activities they are working on this month reinforce the value and talent that people with disabilities add to our workplaces and communities while affirming Goodwill Southeast Georgia's commitment to an inclusive community.

I encourage employers, schools, and other community organizations around

the country to observe this month with programs and activities, and to advance the important message that people with disabilities are capable of surpassing any obstacle.

□ 1030

CONGRATULATIONS TO SCOTT ISAACKS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Scott Isaacks for receiving the inaugural South Carolina Hospital Association Drive to Zero Harm Leadership Award.

As director and CEO of the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston, South Carolina, Mr. Isaacks oversees 3,100 employees, who are some of the best that the VA has to offer.

The first award of its kind in South Carolina, Mr. Isaacks and his VA medical center are being recognized for their exceptional work in creating a culture of high reliability and eliminating harm from all facets of care.

This high-quality care is particularly important to the First Congressional District of Georgia because of the large number of veterans using the VA medical center there in Charleston. Our veterans are our Nation's heroes, and they deserve the best when they return home, which is why I am so proud to see Mr. Isaacks working hard to achieve this goal.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Isaacks for his service to our veterans and congratulations on his award.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JAMES W. BOYKIN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mr. James W. Boykin, who passed away at the age of 80 on October 3.

In Jesup, Georgia, nearly everything and everyone seems to have been impacted by Mr. Boykin.

During his term serving as Wayne County commissioner, he was a staunch supporter of projects to boost recreation activities, and now there is even a community lake named in his honor.

He took over his father's construction company in 1975 and worked to grow the business for over 25 years, being largely responsible for its size and success today. But whether in business, government, church, or simply playing sports, Mr. Boykin was always well-respected and continuously mentoring all who knew him.

Through all of his passion to improve his community and the lives of others, he never let his four battles with cancer ever impact his attitude or dedication.

I am proud to have had someone like Mr. James Boykin in the First Congressional District of Georgia. His family and friends will be in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

STRENGTHEN OUR COUNTRY'S DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on strengthening America's elections and the democratic process.

The task we face is very simple: Congress should secure elections from foreign interference and break down barriers that prevent Americans from accessing the ballot. And the SHIELD Act, which Congress will vote on this week, protects elections from foreign meddling by increasing oversight of campaign contacts and online political advertising.

U.S. citizens have a right to be fully informed of their ballot box choices without concerns of foreign interference. The 2016 election taught us in the United States many lessons as foreign governments sought to influence the outcome of our election.

The SHIELD Act builds on lessons learned from the 2016 election by creating an obligation to report contacts between campaigns and foreign nationals.

Additionally, the SHIELD Act presents modern-day solutions for the problems of manipulative online political advertisements by ensuring the same standards applied to other political ads will extend to these new advertisements.

Mr. Speaker, the House will vote on the SHIELD Act this week, and I urge Members of the House to vote for the SHIELD Act to strengthen our country's democracy.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 33 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RUIZ) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Marilyn Monroe Harris, First Baptist Church of Teaneck, Teaneck, New Jersey, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our God, how excellent is Your name in all the Earth. We thank You for this day, and we pray for those who gather in these hallowed Halls and serve the United States of America. We pray that You sustain their physical bodies and wrap Your arms around their loved ones.

On this day, we ask that Your holy presence become manifest. Guide all with wisdom and discernment to implement just and sound policy. Engulf all with compassion for humanity and creation. Infuse our hearts with Your love. For it is Your love, O Lord, that is