

RECOGNIZING PENNSBURY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION 12-AND-UNDER AND 8-AND-UNDER BASEBALL TEAMS

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pennsbury Athletic Association 12-and-under and 8-and-under baseball teams, who were both honored for their championship-winning seasons.

The 8-and-under team had an undefeated regular season. They went on to win the district, State, mid-Atlantic, and world series championships. The team's final record was an impressive 38-1, which included going undefeated during the Cal Ripken World Series.

The 12-and-under team had a great season as well, winning the annual Keystone Cup State tournament. Winning is nothing new for this team. In the last 4 years, they have won two State titles and four district titles. They will be finishing the season with an amazing trip to Cooperstown for the national tournament.

Mr. Speaker, the accomplishments of these teams show the importance sports can play in our children's lives. Team sports teach the importance of hard work, being part of a team, dedication, and sportsmanship. All these skills help mold our children and will help mold our children into the leaders of tomorrow.

I commend the accomplishments of these amazing kids and their coaches.

RECOGNIZING BRISTOL TOWNSHIP POLICE OFFICERS CJ WINIK AND KURT LEACOCK

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two police officers from Bristol Township.

Officers CJ Winik and Kurt Leacock were promoted to the rank of sergeant in front of family, friends, and colleagues. Both officers serve on the Bucks County Homicide by Vehicle Task Force.

Sergeant Winik has been a part of the Bristol police force since 2006. He has worked as a field training officer, accident reconstructionist, firearms instructor, community response unit officer, and on the SWAT team. He will serve in the administrative division, supervising professional standards, accreditation, and training management.

Sergeant Leacock has been part of the department since 2007. He has served as a field training officer, drug recognition expert, and on the crisis intervention team. He will share duties with shift commander Sergeant Tom Gaffney on patrol.

Mr. Speaker, the role both of these officers play in keeping our community safe is admirable, and I want to wish the best to both of these men in their new positions and thank them for all their service to our community.

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support National Vet-

erans Small Business Week, which will take place from November 4 through November 8.

Our veterans are some of the most highly skilled workers in our Nation. They are the product of rigorous training, an ironclad commitment to teamwork, and the remarkable ability to succeed where others might fail.

Veterans not only fight for and protect this country but are trained with the skills and leadership qualities that are needed to own and operate successful businesses.

Our veteran small business owners are job creators, entrepreneurs, and heroes, and I am proud to recognize the important role that veteran-owned small businesses play in our community, and we thank all of them, from a grateful Congress, for their service.

THE SUBSTANCE UNDERLYING THE IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, President Trump urged his Republican defenders in this House to focus on substance. That is exactly what House Democrats have been doing from the very beginning of this impeachment inquiry.

We will continue to proceed in a serious, solemn, and somber fashion. That is what the Constitution requires at this moment.

House Democrats will continue to follow the facts, apply the law, be guided by the Constitution, and present the truth to the American people.

President Trump said focus on substance.

What is the substance underlying this impeachment inquiry?

Well, Congress, on a bipartisan basis, allocated \$391 million in military and economic aid to Ukraine at a time when Ukraine is under attack by Russian-backed separatists.

Ukraine is in a vulnerable state.

Ukraine is a friend; Russia is a foe.

Ukraine is a democracy; Russia is a dictatorship.

The United States is probably the only thing standing between Vladimir Putin and Ukraine being completely overrun as part of Putin's fantasy to reconstruct what he views as the glory days of the Soviet Union.

We allocated that money because it is in the national security interest of the United States of America.

What happened to it?

In February, the Trump administration wrote to Congress and said the aid is on the way. But it never showed up.

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And then in May, Trump's Department of Defense wrote to Congress again and said the aid is on the way and all necessary preconditions to release the aid have been met, including the implementation of anticorruption protocols. That was a letter written by

the Trump Department of Defense in May. That is the substance.

Twice MITCH MCCONNELL during this summer called up the Trump administration and said, "Where's the aid?" Mr. MCCONNELL couldn't get a good answer.

And then on July 18, we know that the Office of Management and Budget in the White House held a meeting where it was made clear that the reason the aid had been held up is because of a directive from the President of the United States.

A week later, on July 25, the President made a phone call to the Ukrainian leader and pressured a foreign government to target an American citizen for political gain and solicit foreign interference in the 2020 election.

That undermines our national security. The American people have a right to ask: Is that an abuse of power?

That is what the impeachment inquiry is all about, Mr. President. That is the substance. It doesn't look good. No one is above the law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

ADDRESSING THE BROKEN REFUGEE SYSTEM

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

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address our broken refugee system and its very real effect on families in my hometown of Columbus, Ohio.

Our Nation has always been a beacon of hope and light for those who face violence, persecution, and oppression, but in recent years we have not been living up to that standard. And our failure has a severe impact on good, hardworking people that would make our Nation stronger.

Take, for example, Bashiya, who currently lives in Columbus, Ohio. Bashiya, in many ways, embodies what we know to be American. She is the wife of a man who served our military. She loves her family. She is hardworking. And she has built a life for herself and her family in Ohio. In many ways her story is much like ours.

Unfortunately, one piece of her story is missing. Her husband, Hamad, lives on the other side of the world in Australia. Hamad served alongside the U.S. Army as an interpreter in Iraq, and the repayment for his bravery was repeated and sustained threats against him, Bashiya, and their two young children. The danger they faced ultimately drove the young family apart.

The refugee process, and particularly the Special Immigrant Visa process that was designed to protect people like Hamad failed him. The application and vetting process was dragging on with no end in sight, and the continued threats convinced Hamad that he needed to flee for his life, so he fled to Australia. That was in 2012.