

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS DURING DEPLOYMENT AND WHEN THEY RETURN HOME

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise to support H.R. 5314, the Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act, with my colleague, Congresswoman KATHERINE CLARK.

Our Nation's veterans deserve our support while they are deployed and when they return home, and one of the best ways to do that is to prepare them for the workforce outside of the military.

Our servicemembers have attained incredible skills during their service. Sadly, when they return to civilian life, finding a good-paying, family-sustaining job may be difficult.

H.R. 5314 helps streamline the process of attaining apprenticeships and reduces roadblocks for our veterans. The bill does four major things:

H.R. 5314 ensures programs are equipped to complete the expedited VA process for registered apprenticeships.

It clarifies that veterans are eligible for advanced placement and commensurate wage increases;

The bill instructs apprenticeship programs to account for a participant's competencies and prior experiences, including those gained during military service; and

H.R. 5314 aims to improve coordination between the Department of Labor and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I am proud to support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

DEMOCRATS ARE WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, when we go home, our constituents ask us: What is the Congress doing? What has the Congress done?

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly to let the American people know that Democrats are fighting for the people. In 2019, alone, we have passed nearly 400 bills, over 275 of which were bipartisan.

To name a few: a once-in-a-generation gun violence prevention bill, raising the minimum wage, protecting people with preexisting healthcare conditions, and keeping the United States in the Paris climate agreement.

I am proud that I have authored two bills that have passed the House: one to make home buying more affordable—we have a problem with affordable housing—another to make the financial system more diverse and inclusive, H.R. 281. In addition, I have three bills that were adopted as amendments into legislation.

Unfortunately, 300 bills are over there with Mr. MCCONNELL. Let's get

them out of the graveyard so they don't die on the vine.

SOUND THE ALARM ABOUT THE SALT DEDUCTION CAP

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

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm about an issue that is badly impacting my constituents in the Fifth District of New Jersey every single day: the cap on the State and local tax deduction, which led to a major tax hike on my district imposed by the "moocher States."

Right now, as congressional leadership considers year-end legislation in these last days of the year, why would they not fix the biggest tax problem of them all: the State and local tax deduction?

It is time to end double taxation.

I released this report last week on the impact of the SALT cap on the Garden State. It is clear, taxes in north Jersey are through the roof. People are leaving the State in droves, and our home values are plummeting because of the end of the State and local tax deduction.

It is time to end that cap, and I am calling on Congress—Democrats and Republicans—to come together, to reinstate the SALT deduction this year and give a real tax cut to north Jersey.

This Congress, I introduced bipartisan legislation to fully reinstate SALT, and I helped lead not one, but two bipartisan resolutions overturning the harmful Treasury regulations that kept us from deducting charitable contributions on our Federal taxes.

We have to fix this and reinstate SALT this year and cut taxes for New Jersey families, first responders, and small businesses that are the backbone of our community. We simply can't afford to delay and prop up the moocher States anymore.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LEONCIO VEGA CORREA

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Leoncio Vega Correa, son of Luis Correa Sotelo and Magdalena Correa. He passed away November 24, surrounded by his loved ones.

Leo was the hardworking child of immigrants. He was born in Watts, California, on April 24, 1926, but his family spent much of his childhood living in Zacatecas, Mexico.

Leo lived a hard life but an honest life. The devastation of the Great Depression followed him and his family from the United States to Mexico.

He never received a formal education. He worked as a migrant farmworker across the country, following harvests.

Despite all his hardships, Leo was a gentle giant and never met a stranger.

He was always ready to give a hug, a smile, a dollar, a meal, or even the shirt off of his back. He would always tell me: "Good deeds always come back to you." And he was known by his saying, "pura vida."

Leo lived a hard, great life. We celebrate his life today, and he will be missed by the community and his family.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT THROUGH A NEGOTIATED TWO-STATE SOLUTION

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 2 of House Resolution 741, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 326) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 741, the amendments to the resolution and the preamble recommended by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, printed in the resolution, modified by the amendments printed in part B of House Report 116-322, are adopted and the resolution, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the resolution, as amended, is as follows:

H. RES. 326

Whereas the special relationship between the United States and Israel is rooted in shared national security interests and shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas the United States has worked for decades to strengthen Israel's security through assistance and cooperation on defense and intelligence matters in order to enhance the safety of United States and Israeli citizens; including by finalizing in 2016 under the Obama Administration, a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding, reaffirming the United States' commitment to annual military assistance and cooperative missile defense programs, which is in the national interests of both countries;

Whereas the United States remains unwavering in its commitment to help Israel address the myriad challenges it faces, including terrorism, regional instability, horrifying violence in neighboring states, and hostile regimes that call for its destruction;

Whereas the United States, under Presidents of both parties, has provided bilateral and multilateral foreign assistance to promote the security, stability, and the humanitarian well-being of Palestinians;

Whereas the United States has long sought a just, stable, and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that recognizes the Palestinian right to self-determination and offers Israel long-term security and full normalization with its neighbors;

Whereas for more than 20 years, Presidents of the United States from both political parties and Israeli Prime Ministers have supported reaching a two-state solution that establishes a Palestinian state coexisting side by side with Israel in peace and security;

Whereas for more than 20 years, Presidents of the United States from both political parties