

**SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM FOR THE PEOPLE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

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

Mr. WATKINS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of democracy and freedom for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the importance of protecting religious minorities in the region.

In August, the Indian Government rescinded article 370 of their Constitution, repealing autonomy of the region; and, since then, it has been cut off through widespread communications blackouts. There have been curfews, and some 4,000 people have been detained, which includes children as young as 9 years old. There have been reported human rights abuses and deaths resulting from inaccessibility to healthcare.

Madam Speaker, this situation cannot stand, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 745, which urges the Indian Government to uphold the democratic values upon which it was founded.

**MASS SHOOTING AT THE NAVAL AIR STATION IN PENSACOLA, FLORIDA**

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

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, last week, the Sunshine State was devastated by the 393rd mass shooting of 2019.

On December 6, a gunman opened fire at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida, killing three and wounding eight. One of the victims is Pinellas County's very own Mohammed Haitham.

Nineteen-year-old Mo, as he was known to his family and friends, was a track star at Lakewood High School in St. Petersburg and a shining example of all the best our community has to offer.

He joined the Navy to serve his country shortly after finishing high school, with a dream of graduating from flight school.

Our Nation was robbed of a sailor, and a St. Pete family was robbed of a son.

My heart goes out to Mo's family and loved ones as they try to make sense of the senseless.

Madam Speaker, we stand with the Haitham family. The entire community is behind them.

I pray for all those affected in Pensacola, and I pray for Congress to take action on gun violence.

**CONGRATULATING ST. TERESA'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM**

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Brad Dalton and the St. Teresa volleyball team on their first IHSA volleyball championship.

Last month, the Bulldogs played the Breese Mater Dei Knights for the Class 2A title and won the championship in two sets.

Although it was St. Teresa's fourth time competing in the State tournament, this was their best finish ever. The Bulldogs earned the school's first ever State championship title in volleyball—and first in Macon County history.

Offensively, the Bulldogs pulled off 21 kills and 3 aces in the first set, with an equally intimidating defense that racked up 32 digs, total.

In the second set, the teams tied 11 times, but an ace by senior Abby Robinson followed by a remarkable dig finished the match 26-24.

Coach Dalton said: "We fought and we fought. This is a big win for everybody in our program."

A historic win to cap off a whirlwind of a season. Congratulations to Coach Dalton and the entire Bulldog team.

**RURAL GREEN PARTNERSHIP**

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with you a framework of principles to give rural America a seat at the table as we work to combat climate change. I call it the Rural Green Partnership.

For generations, farm families in Illinois have worked hard to provide food for our country and for the world, but this year has brought a challenging growing season. Farmers have seen shifting weather patterns and severe flooding delay and even prevent planting and harvesting.

Rural economies in Illinois and across the country depend on a stable climate to survive. Weather chaos means it is more difficult to grow our crops and put food on the table.

I am proud to put forward the Rural Green Partnership, and if we follow the principles in this plan, we can lower greenhouse gas emissions and spur economic growth.

Madam Speaker, I say to my colleagues: It is our moral and economic imperative to address this climate crisis and its impact on rural America.

I urge them to join me in enacting the policies outlined in the Rural Green Partnership so we can provide our farming communities with more than just a path forward but, also, an opportunity to prosper.

**RECOGNIZING VETERAN OF THE MONTH JOHN THIES**

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to 30-year U.S. Army veteran Sergeant Major John Thies.

During his three decades of service to our Nation, mostly as a Special Forces Green Beret, he faced combat operations in Panama, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Among the many highlights of his illustrious career was his participation with the third Operational Detachment Alpha to infiltrate Afghanistan following the attacks on September 11, 2001.

As a servicemember in all of these conflicts, John and his fellow warriors helped to bring down dictators, defeat insurgencies, and create conditions for the establishment of democracy. More importantly, his sacrifices brought hope to the suffering and peace to those in need of relief.

I believe Sergeant Major Thies' former commanders and peers summarized his career and impact well in sharing that he was one of the finest noncommissioned officers they had ever served with. That is high praise from our Nation's finest.

Madam Speaker, I thank John. I thank him for putting us before himself. We and our families slept better knowing he was on alert.

**LIFT THE CAP ON THE STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEDUCTION**

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the taxpayers in my district and urge my colleagues to quickly pass bipartisan legislation to lift the cap on the State and local tax deduction.

Capping the deduction hurts homeowners and undermines State and local efforts to invest in our roads, schools, teachers, and first responders.

Setting the cap at \$10,000 for both individuals and joint filers unfairly punishes married couples.

Richard from Walnut wrote that while he and his wife are trying to plan for their retirement, "the net result of the cap was less money in my pocket."

Kyle from Yorba Linda wrote to me: "This new marriage penalty is a slap in the face to those of us who are trying to grow our roots in your district."

I introduced bipartisan legislation with my colleagues, Representative SHERRILL from New Jersey along with Republican Representatives PETER KING and ELISE STEFANIK.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this legislation before the year's end.

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**25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PENN STATE CREW TEAM**

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1