

MOURNING THE LOSS OF DUSTIN PARKER

(Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the tragic death of Dustin Parker.

At 25 years old, Dustin was a loving father, a hard worker, and a generous member of his community in McAlester, Oklahoma. As a man who happened to be transgender, Dustin helped found the McAlester chapter of Oklahomans for Equality.

Sadly, Dustin was shot and killed on New Year's Day. While we do not know who is responsible for Dustin's death, we do know that transgender Americans are disproportionately the victims of violent crimes. Last year, more than two dozen trans and gender nonconforming people were violently killed, that we know of. Every death underscores the Nation's need for urgent action to address this epidemic.

Mr. Speaker, our country lost a champion for equality. As we continue to search for answers following Dustin's death, we must continue to fight to ensure that all Americans are treated with dignity and respect.

My prayers are with Dustin's entire family for their loss, and my heart goes out to our communities bearing this pain.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since 2002, January has been recognized as National Mentoring Month. We all should recognize the positive impacts that mentoring has on young people.

From our servicemembers stationed at Cherry Point to the volunteers of the Greensboro United Way, the students and staff of Wake Forest University to the Journeymen of Asheville, North Carolinians remain actively engaged in mentoring opportunities across my State.

According to mentoring.org, at-risk youth who were paired with a mentor are 55 percent more likely to enroll in college, 78 percent more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities, and 130 percent more likely to hold leadership positions in their careers.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers speak for themselves. Mentoring is a cornerstone of the growth and development of young people across our country. I commend the individuals involved in being mentors.

ADDRESSING THE URGENT PRIORITIES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from overseas. I led a delegation of our colleagues, a bipartisan delegation, to visit our troops during the Christmas holiday; and, of course, we all were struck by the extraordinary service of these brave men and women who are serving our country.

One of the things they shared about was, of course, their concerns about things back at home with their families. It reminded me that the agenda that we develop to address the urgent priorities of the American people remains important: to drive down the cost of healthcare, to raise family incomes and rebuild the crumbling infrastructure of our country, to take on the corruption and self-dealing in Washington, and to get the government working for the people again.

That is what Democrats have been working on in a bipartisan way. We have passed over 400 pieces of legislation; 275 of those bills are bipartisan. Sadly, 80 percent of those bills are stuck on MITCH MCCONNELL's desk.

So, as we return from this trip, I am reminded that this is an opportunity to call on the Senate majority leader. We are working hard to prevent war with Iran. We are working hard to hold the President accountable for his misconduct. But our most important priority is to deliver on those promises we made to the American people: to drive down the cost of healthcare, to raise family incomes, to rebuild the infrastructure of our country, and to get government working for the people again.

It is time for the Senate majority leader to take those bills up and give them a vote. Our men and women deserve nothing less.

OUR MORAL OBLIGATION TO ERADICATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, so I rise today to renew my resolve to eradicate the horrific injustice that is human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, as it strips individuals of their freedom and dignity. It has absolutely no place in our society.

In my part of Minnesota, many of the women and children preyed upon by human traffickers are Native American. In fact, Minnesota currently ranks ninth in the Nation for missing and murdered indigenous women.

As a Member of Congress, I believe we have a moral obligation and legislative duty to protect the most vulnerable. That is why I proudly support Savannah's Act, a bill that will empower Tribal law enforcement to address this devastating issue.

I will also ensure that the recently created Federal task force on missing and murdered Native American women

coordinates with State, local, and Tribal officials to more effectively solve unresolved cases and prevent similar violence.

While these are steps in the right direction, our work is far from done. As a father, a former law enforcement officer, and a Member of Congress, I will not stop until human trafficking is eliminated and the criminals who have chosen to exploit others have been brought to justice.

UNITED STATES' RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, over the last week, our relationship with Iran has fallen to its most difficult period since 1979. The United States killed Major General Qasem Soleimani, a bad man whom we do not mourn, and yet it was a provocative and disproportionate event.

Iran responded with missiles on two of our military bases. I am grateful, thankful that none of our soldiers were in that attack and that tensions between our countries appear to be easing.

I hope we can use this moment to assess where we are, how we got here, and find the better path that lies ahead.

First, I call on the administration to share the intelligence with Congress about the timing and rationale for the strike.

Second, I urge continued de-escalation. We stand less safe in heightened tensions with Iran. It is essential that we emphasize diplomacy once again.

Third, I ask that we treat this moment as an opportunity to redefine our relationships with foes and friends alike and how we act as a nation.

We will always defend America's security, but we should never create needless provocation. As Matthew tells us: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called children of God."

HONORING VIC POWER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Vic Power, who retired as the owner of Kevin Barry's Irish Pub in Savannah on December 31, 2019.

Kevin Barry's Irish Pub was not only a stalwart of locally owned business in downtown Savannah, but also an excellent representation of Irish heritage in our city.

Although Irish individuals have been calling Savannah home since its founding, the Irish potato famine in the mid-1800s caused an influx of migration to Savannah. By 1860, one in three White households could claim Irish heritage.

Today, Savannah has one of the largest St. Patrick's Day parades in the