

Sadly, yesterday, my Democratic colleagues blocked a vote on this resolution that expressed support of antigovernment protestors in Iran and condemned Iran's role in the downing of a Ukrainian civilian aircraft last week.

So what was in this resolution that motivated my Democratic colleagues to prevent consideration?

The resolution would have condemned the Government of Iran for killing 1,500 Iranian citizens who were protesting their government as well as condemned the Government of Iran for shooting down Ukraine International Airlines flight 752, killing 176 people.

In addition, the resolution, in section 3, "condemns the Government of Iran for repeatedly lying to its people and to the world about its responsibility for the downing of Ukraine International Airlines flight 752"; section 4, "calls on the Government of Iran to, A, refrain from the use of violence, and, B, protect the rights of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly; and," section 5, "supports the protestors in Iran, their demands for accountability, and their desire for the Government of Iran to respect freedom and human rights."

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disappointed that my Democratic colleagues would block a measure expressing support of freedom and human rights, principles that should be afforded to all persons.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ENEDINA CELIZ RAPAN

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember and recognize the incredible life of Enedina Celiz Rapan, who passed away this month at the age of 93.

I was raised in a farmworker community with farmworker parents in the eastern Coachella Valley, where, for many of us, hardship and injustice can feel like the norm; and if it weren't for women like Enedina Rapan, many of us would still believe that it is true, and we would not be standing where we are today.

Enedina came to America at a young age to work hard, earn her living, and give her children a better life. And while she was working away in the fields, sweating in 120-degree heat with calloused hands, she witnessed the mistreatment of her fellow farmworkers and she saw their suffering.

If there is one thing about Enedina, it is that, when she saw injustice, she would speak up and get to work to fix it. So, when she saw farmworkers laboring for hours on end with no bathrooms nearby, she fought to bring restrooms to the fields. And when she saw seniors in the community going hungry, she organized, asking for donations and cooking meals so they could have dinner to eat.

And Enedina devoted her life to standing up for people who were mis-

treated, discriminated against, and vulnerable. There was no voice too soft that Enedina didn't hear and elevate.

Enedina was a giant for our community, working with the United Farm Workers of America, Cesar Chavez, and Lideres Campesinas to stand up for the rights of farmworkers. She used her tireless will and unmatched strength to pick people up, fight for what is right, and make the Coachella Valley a better place for everyone who lives there.

I am better off because of Enedina's work. My family and the entire farmworker community of the Coachella Valley, we are all better off because of Enedina's work.

And she would not be happy with me for being up here talking about her, because she was so humble. A woman who elevated everyone's voice around her, she would never seek this type of recognition.

Mr. Speaker, today, I want to make sure the country knows Enedina's story. I want to make sure you know about her contributions to our community and her unrelenting pursuit of justice.

Enedina will be sorely missed, but her presence will be felt and her life, an inspiration for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PETRA RUIZ OF COACHELLA VALLEY

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the Nation about the life and legacy of Petra Ruiz of the Coachella Valley.

Petra Ruiz was an organizer, activist, and leader who used her life to stand up for farmworking women across California.

As the son of farmworkers in the eastern Coachella Valley, I am all too familiar with the social, economic, and political hardships the farmworking community faces on a daily basis. The struggles can often be so great that you have to have someone or something to look to for inspiration. For me, and for so many of us in the Coachella Valley, Petra Ruiz was one such inspiration.

Petra was a fierce and loving leader who was held in high esteem, even by the people who didn't agree with what she had to say. But it was hard not to agree with what she had to say. You see, Petra believed in helping farmworking women across California advocate for themselves, for their families, and for their communities in the struggle for equality and their basic human rights.

Petra got involved in the union movement in the 1970s and was a warrior for justice and equality within the farmworking community through her final days.

A phrase that I have heard repeatedly in talking with members of the community and with her family is "she was always there." Petra was always there.

Even as a mother and a grandmother to a big family, she worked with the United Farm Workers of America and as a member of Lideres Campesinas to

advocate for the rights of the farmworker community. Petra led marches; she attended meetings; she would even go door-to-door with flyers making sure that farmworkers knew their rights.

Petra was a remarkable woman, revered, admired, a mover and shaker, an effective leader who led with her actions as much as she did by her words. She inspired me to never say no to my dreams, to pursue justice at every turn, and to always believe I could make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, while she is missed dearly, Petra's legacy didn't end with her passing. Her impact is felt today and will continue in the lives of generations to come.

TIME TO BURN THE BEETLE IN NORTH DAKOTA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, this weekend will be time to burn the beetle. I am talking about the mountain pine beetle and the damage it has done to the majestic Black Hills National Forest. In recent years, that pine beetle has infected 430,000 acres in the Black Hills, leaving millions of dead trees.

Now, the pine beetle thrives in an overly crowded forest. It craves density. So to tackle this problem, Federal, State, and local governments and private citizens have set to work thinning the forest.

Initially, from the very beginning, it has been the State and local partners that have been most proactive and aggressive; but, in recent years, Federal policies have helped as well.

The Forest Service started utilizing the categorical exclusions in the 2014 and the 2018 farm bills, allowing them to more quickly utilize sound forest management practices like tree thinning and controlled burns.

This picture tells the story well. In areas where the forest has been actively managed, the trees live; in areas where they have not been, they die. And now, today, after years of battle, it seems as though we are nearing the end of this particular outbreak.

That is good news, but it is no time to take our foot off the gas. One key action needed is to continue working with the timber industry to set and meet good harvest targets so we can get that excess timber out of the forest.

Mr. Speaker, I started my comments by noting that it was time to burn the beetle, and in Custer, South Dakota, this weekend, that is exactly what they will do at their Burning Beetle arts festival.

It is a good opportunity for us to remember the damage that has been done—430,000 acres—but also to remember the importance of good management, of good stewardship, and of good

Federal policy when it comes to protecting great resources like the Black Hills of South Dakota.

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AMERICAN HERO RETURNING TO INDIANA'S SIXTH DISTRICT

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, PFC Louis Wiesehan, Jr., of Richmond, Indiana, and celebrate his return home to the Sixth District of Indiana.

PFC Wiesehan was a fellow marine who gave the ultimate sacrifice while fighting on the island of Betio in the Pacific Ocean during World War II. After 77 years, PFC Wiesehan is finally coming home. His remains will be buried in his hometown.

Thank you, PFC Wiesehan, for your service and sacrifice. You will never be forgotten. Semper Fi.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my wholehearted support for the upcoming March for Life rallies taking place across the Nation next week.

I am a passionately pro-life American and I will always fight for unborn children. It is our duty to protect the most vulnerable and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

As millions of Americans march across the Nation next week, I pledge to always stand with their cause.

GREENFIELD-CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL RADIO STATION

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Greenfield-Central High School Radio Station WRGF for being on air for 20 years. The high school station was established in 1999 and is now a 24/7 on-air public radio station run completely by students and their teacher, Jonathan Hudson.

Greenfield-Central's radio/TV classes draw 70 students a semester who are able to learn and gain professional experience before they enter college or the workforce. I was able to witness the advantages that these students are able to gain while visiting the facility last fall.

Happy anniversary to WRGF and all the students who participate in the program.

CONGRATULATING NEW PALESTINE COACH KYLE RALPH

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate New Palestine football coach, Kyle Ralph.

Coach Ralph is among the list of only 32 coaches nationwide who are finalists for the 2019 Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award. In his 7 years as head coach at New Palestine, Coach Ralph has built a program that has become a statewide powerhouse.

Throughout his tenure, Coach Ralph has amassed an amazing 88-4 record and has brought three State championships home to New Palestine.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Coach Ralph the best of luck during the ceremony at the NFL Pro Bowl.

NEPA UPDATE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Trump administration for proposing to update the totally outdated National Environmental Policy Act regulations.

These policies haven't seen reform in over 4 decades. As a result countless infrastructure projects have been backlogged for years.

It is time to roll back burdensome regulations that stifle growth.

Modernizing NEPA regulations will allow schools, bridges, and other vital projects to finally move forward safely and efficiently.

I pledge my support for these updates and look forward to the continued improvement of America's infrastructure.

TRADE WITH CHINA

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

I come to the floor today to raise the issue and be thankful of the progress that we have made with regard to trade. We have been through a year and a half or more of intense trade negotiations. I have watched as our markets took a hard hit and tailspinned down for a couple of days, down the limit awhile back, and slowly creep back in again.

We produce a lot of corn, soybeans, cattle, hogs, eggs, and renewable energy in the Fourth Congressional District of Iowa. In fact, it is the number one egg-producing congressional district in all of America.

We saw a publication on the part of Bloomberg that when the tariffs were put onto Chinese goods coming into the United States by President Trump, the Chinese retaliated with tariffs on products like pork and soybeans. Bloomberg just showed a map of the United States where that hit the hardest and it happened to hit exactly over the red counties in America that produce a lot of corn and soybeans, and you could add to that the other products I mentioned, Mr. Speaker.

The situation that we are dealing with now is that we have gotten a long way through these trade negotiations, and we are coming around to the other side of it with China. In spite of all of this difficulty in all these markets that have been suppressed over this period of time, we found some new trade outlets.

For one thing, instead of having one big pipe going to China, we have got multiple, smaller pipes going to other locations in the world. And today the President signed phase 1 of the trade agreement that will increase by about \$16 billion a year our egg product exports to China. That includes a lot of

soybeans, it includes a lot of pork, and it fixes that component.

It also addresses the intellectual property issue that has been a big barrier for the trade negotiations with China. The value of U.S. intellectual property—the creation that comes out of the minds of Americans—is pirated by the Chinese somewhere between \$500 and \$600 billion a year. That gets addressed to a degree in this agreement and it gets addressed again in the next phase of the agreement.

U.S. Trade Representative Lighthizer has spoken on that issue to me, and he seems to be, I will say, fairly confident that we are going to get at least a reasonable beginning to something that is awfully hard to fix.

I would add also that it isn't just China. We are waiting now for the U.S. Senate to pass the USMCA Agreement. It is only the impeachment trial that stands in the way of getting that done. That will happen soon, within about a month or so, or perhaps less.

Further we have Japan, we have South Korea, and by the end of this month the United Kingdom will be out of the E.U., and the door is open for a bilateral trade agreement with the British.

If we could get that all done, as I said to the President the other day, we may find ourselves in the very best position we have ever been in, at least in our lifetime, with regard to trade in multiple locations, so that we are diversified in our markets so that we can send out to multiple countries and at the same time have a strong relationship with China and other countries.

We are moving into an excellent position here. We have got a strong economy, and we have got a strong Dow. This really is a great time to make investments in America, and they are doing that from around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the President today.

2020 RESOLUTION

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the new year and a new decade, let's all commit in this House to doing the job that the people sent us to the people's House to do. Let us remember the words of Alexander Hamilton: "Here, sir, the people govern; here they act by their immediate Representatives."

Let us commit to working every day 9 to 5 on delivering real results on the issues that matter to our constituents and our country.

These include working to reduce the cost of healthcare, including ending surprise billing, decreasing the cost of prescription drugs, ending prohibitions on association health plans, and ensuring there is no loss of insurance for preexisting conditions.

Also, continuing to ensure that veterans receive the care they deserve and