

law enforcement to the position. For the last 3 years, he was the deputy chief for the prosecutor's office; and in that role, he managed the daily investigation operations of the Criminal Investigation Division.

In the past, he has worked as a narcotics detective and for the U.S. Customs Service in their Financial Crimes Task Force.

He has done groundbreaking work to reduce gang and gun violence, as well as rehabilitate convicted criminals in Hudson County.

Also, he is a graduate of the prestigious FBI National Academy.

With these extraordinary credentials, I think Mr. Stith will be an exceptional chief of detectives in Hudson County.

POSTHUMOUS RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF CARLTON HAND

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I would like to posthumously recognize the heroic efforts of Carlton Hand, of Rio Grande in south Jersey.

Carlton Hand was a Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Cannon Company, 349th Infantry. Hand was recognized for his gallantry in combat. He stormed an entrenched German position in the face of heavy enemy sniper fire, grenades and mortar shells blasting all around them.

With snipers shooting at them, Carlton Hand abandoned his radio, secured grenades from one of his comrades, and killed two attacking Germans. He then seized a rifle in the face of continuing mortar and sniper fire, and killed two, and wounded one more German.

Germans then dropped grenades on his position, which he then proceeded to hurl back at the enemy. He then captured 20 prisoners in the seizure of the enemy position.

Carlton Hand was awarded the Silver Star Medal for Valor for his heroic efforts. Carlton Hand is the definition of an American hero, and we owe our future to the brave actions of Carlton Hand and the men and women like him who have shaped this great United States of America.

Our country was forged by the blood, sweat, and tears of brave men and women like Carlton Hand.

May God bless them as they look down upon us.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MICHAEL LECIK

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the selflessness, courage, and resilience of my constituent, Mike Lecik.

Mike served in the United States Air Force and deployed twice to the Middle

East as a military firefighter. After returning home to Powhatan County, he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a blood cancer linked to the carcinogenic conditions of his work.

The VA does not currently recognize the service connection between firefighting and diseases such as myeloma, leaving many veterans like Mike unable to get the care they need.

Since his diagnosis, Mike, and his wife, Tiffany, and their family have demonstrated incredible strength, and I am deeply inspired by his commitment to ensuring that no other military firefighters face these same challenges.

In his service overseas and through his advocacy at home, Mike represents the best of Virginia's Seventh District. Driven by his story and in coordination with Mike, I recently introduced the Michael Lecik Military Firefighters Protection Act. This bill would recognize cancer, lung disease, and other serious illnesses as presumptive service-connected disabilities for our Nation's veteran military firefighters.

I thank Mike for his tireless work on this issue, and I thank my colleague, Congressman BACON, for joining me in this effort to do right by the thousands of veterans and their families, people like my constituent, Mike Lecik.

THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, the opioid epidemic does not discriminate based on age, race, sex or socioeconomic status. It is a plague that affects Americans in all regions of the country, including Virginia's Sixth Congressional District.

In 2016, the United States experienced an astonishing 60,000 deaths related to drug overdose; nearly two-thirds of which involved opioids. That means that more than 91 Americans die from an opioid overdose every day, making it the leading cause of death for people under the age of 50.

This crisis is being fueled in part by a synthetic opioid known as fentanyl, a drug 80 to 100 times more powerful than morphine. In 2018 alone, more than 800 people died from fentanyl overdoses in Virginia.

I applaud my colleagues for voting to save lives this week by renewing the classification of fentanyl as a Schedule I narcotic.

Through commonsense solutions like this and support for first responders and treatment programs, I am confident we can help our fellow Americans struggling with opioid abuse and end this insidious epidemic.

REMEMBERING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

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

Mrs. MILLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

I grew up in a Jewish community, alongside children of Holocaust survivors. It was something that was so real and so close. Following the liberation of Auschwitz and the devastation of the Holocaust, we must never forget the tragedy that happens when religious persecution goes unchecked.

We need to remember the six million heartbreaking deaths of our Jewish brothers and sisters around the world to ensure that they are never forgotten. We must teach our next generation about the horrors of the Holocaust to ensure that it will never happen again.

We must speak out, now and forever, against religious oppression, against anti-Semitism, and against radical extremism.

We have all been taught the Golden Rule and we all should live by it.

WAR IS VIOLENT AND CATASTROPHIC

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, war is a violent and catastrophic act, and its impact on the people of any nation is one that is long-lasting.

Between the wars of Iraq and Afghanistan, close to 7,000 Americans lost their lives; families were broken. But yet, we honor them for their service, as we honor those who are now serving and who have put on the uniform unselfishly, just like the young men and women who were called immediately after the killing of General Soleimani.

Today, we made an important statement on this floor; that is that the Constitution prevails; the rule of law prevails, as we hope it will prevail in the other body in this proceeding.

We know that Congress declares war. If there is danger, the President can use the War Powers Resolution. But as we did not find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, we have an endless war.

We do not need to engage in a war with Iran. If we are attacked or there are hostilities, we can defend ourselves.

Let us deliberate on behalf of the American people and do it the right way.

To our military, we thank you for your service.

CELEBRATING A NEW CHAPTER FOR MINNESOTA'S LIBERIAN COMMUNITY

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

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Liberian community in Minnesota and throughout the United States, as they celebrate passage of the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act. This act provides a lifeline to certainty for Liberians around the country, bringing relief and clarity to so many families and communities throughout my district and home State.

Adoption of this important legislation is credited to the hard work of the many advocates who lived in a constant state of limbo and under the threat of the unknown for many years. Thank you to all our community members who banded together to advocate for our Liberian American friends and neighbors.

I am pleased that Congress, the administration, and President Trump have finally provided our Liberian Americans, our neighbors, and our friends, the clarity and protection they deserve.

ATROCITIES IN IDLIB, SYRIA

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

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, there is another unfolding humanitarian crisis in Syria, this time in Idlib province. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has launched an all-out assault on the province, aided by Vladimir Putin's Russian forces.

More than a quarter of a million people, 80 percent of them women and children, have fled their homes to the northern part of Idlib into freezing desert and refugee camps, without adequate food, shelter, or medical care.

With the current death toll of the Syrian civil war estimated to exceed 500,000, along with six million people internally displaced, humanitarian groups are concerned that the siege of Idlib will result in the largest humanitarian disaster yet seen in the country.

This assault is a replay of the siege of Aleppo as the government again bombs civilian targets like hospitals, schools, markets and people's homes.

This disaster will only be compounded as a result of Russia vetoing a U.N. Security Council resolution allowing cross-border aid to Syrian refugees. Although a modified resolution was adopted, cross-border aid has been restricted and may come to an end this summer if Russia and Syria continue to push for its elimination.

As U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Kelly Craft said: "Syrians will suffer needlessly as a result of this resolution."

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SUPPORTING NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for National School Choice Week.

Every American enjoys choices, and, indeed, it is the American way; yet, when it comes to educating our children, one size fits all seems to be the norm—and is even forced upon families.

Every family, regardless of their background, should be able to choose an educational option that is right for the needs of their children, whether that is traditional public schools, charter schools, magnet schools, private schools, or other alternatives.

There is plenty of evidence to suggest that, when a family can choose a school based on their own children's needs, there is an increase in college readiness and success in life after graduation.

If we expect today's students to become tomorrow's world leaders, we should give them every opportunity to learn and grow and thrive, to have choices that work for them, not for the government and not for special interests.

Expanding school choice is the most viable option to prepare students for success.

COMMEMORATING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF DEATH CAMPS

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, last week, I went with Speaker PELOSI and some other Members of Congress to Jerusalem, where we had the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of the death camps. Many of our colleagues went to Auschwitz-Birkenau to look at the concentration camps.

Some of my colleagues have said this, but I think it is important that each one of us says it: We have to raise our voices loudly and clearly and monitor the situation so these types of things don't happen again to any people.

First of all, anti-Semitism is rearing its ugly head, and certainly we need to do everything we can to stop the scourge of anti-Semitism. We cannot treat people the way the Jewish population was treated during the Second World War, and America must always be in the forefront of equal rights and standing up against injustice.

I wanted to take the time to say that participating in that conference was really emotional for me, and I think that we should always say: Never again will we stand idly by and allow anti-Semitism to rear its ugly head. Never again will we stand idly by and allow any group of people to be killed and slaughtered.

So, never again.

DISCUSSING ECONOMIC DATA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH).

HONORING THE LIFE OF LORILEE WARD

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Madam Speaker, over the last few weeks, we have lost two Americans about whom I want to, here, speak.

Earlier this month, we lost a valued member of our southern Indiana community. Lorilee Ward from Clarksville died of cancer. All of us, her friends, her family, are devastated by her loss, and the outpouring of support from fellow Hoosiers shows just how large a legacy Lorilee leaves behind in her wake created by that strong dedication she always had to her community and the values she so fervently believed in.

Lorilee's warmth and enthusiasm was a staple of our Clark County community. Lorilee served on the board of southern Indiana's Clark-Floyd Counties Convention Tourism Bureau, a group dedicated to bettering our neighbors. She furiously believed in the prosperity and future of our towns all the way across southern Indiana, and she gave liberally of her time and of her energy to make sure that we are all the best we can be.

For Lorilee, the future of our communities of Indiana and of our country rests in preserving and promoting our conservative values in principles like the value of all life; supporting our troops and veterans, which she did so passionately through her involvement in Wreaths Across America; economic opportunity and job creation; and putting America and Americans first.

Lorilee always fought to make sure our voices and values were heard. She served adamantly as the president of the Clark County Republican Women, a reliable and relentless volunteer for her President, and a member of our Indiana GOP. She did it all on behalf of others, knowing that she was fighting for bettering the lives of future generations.

Southern Indiana will not be the same, both because of her work and because of our loss.

Lorilee's mighty spirit shown through in all she did. Lorilee has always been a fighter. At the age of 18, Lorilee was diagnosed with stage 4 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and she was told by her doctors that the end was near, that she should expect the worst. But Lorilee did not expect the worst. She fought for the best. She fought for her future and lived another 37 years.

Despite the challenges she faced, Lorilee had a smile on her face every day and went through life with a positive energy that inspired everyone around her. Lorilee was truly a force of nature, and her death is a great loss.

It was once said that success in old age is having a crowded table, knowing that your friends, your family want to gather with you on special occasions