

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Johnson worked as the “mother of the environmental justice movement” to address racial injustices and improve environmental protections fundamental to this action.

Therefore, I take pride in introducing legislation to celebrate the month of April as Hazel M. Johnson Environmental Justice Month.

□ 1445

HONORING JAMES RING

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Army veteran James Ring.

After graduating high school, James enlisted in the Army and served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He later joined the Reserve Forces and, at the same time, began a 13-year career as a City of Lakeland police officer.

Now, in addition to serving as CEO for his own small business, James is active with the Lakeland Chamber, promoting issues important to the small business community.

Very soon, James will be returning to Active Duty and deploying again. Now, that is commitment.

People like James make me proud not only to be an American, but proud of my district. The spirit and the drive that propel him to serve our community as a small business owner and our Nation as a uniformed servicemember are unique and invaluable.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you, James. And thank you Ring family for your service and your sacrifice. I know I speak on behalf of the entire district when I say that we are so very proud of you.

WE ARE GETTING THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE DONE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I am here in the House of Representatives. I have had the honor to have been elected to this incredible body for, now, four terms. But I just want to report to you, Madam Speaker, that we have, in fact, passed 275 bipartisan bills in the last 12 months in these Chambers.

Madam Speaker, I thank my Republican colleagues, my Democratic colleagues, and, yes, the one Independent colleague who is part of every single one of those votes.

I just want to say, that is the business of the House of Representatives. I just want to remind you, Madam Speaker, that we are serious here, from all parties, to make sure that we adhere to the needs of the entire Amer-

ican people and, in some cases, to the world.

We have addressed issues such as reducing drug pricing to all Americans. We have addressed issues when it comes to making sure that children have a safe place to go to school.

We have many issues that we are faced with here in the House of Representatives, and I am proud to say that, although the media says that we just can't get along, and, yes, we disagree at times, but, at the same time, we are, in fact, getting the work of the people done in the House of Representatives.

I pray that we see the same go on in the Senate and, in addition to that, see many of those bills get signed by the President of the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANNON LODGE 104

(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 recognize Cannon Lodge 104, which, on February 26, will be celebrating 150 years as a chartered Masonic lodge.

Cannon Lodge had its first outreach on October 27, 1869, from Henry Cannon, whom the lodge is named after. On February 26, 1870, a Masonic charter was granted, and Cannon Lodge 104 came into existence.

In January 1960, through the generosity of Brother Elmer Smith, the present location of the lodge was donated and dedicated to his father, Captain Charles S. Smith.

In 1995, Sea Isle City Lodge No. 280 was merged with Cannon; and, in 1999, Arbutus Lodge No. 170 of Cape May Court House did the very same thing.

I am a proud member of Cannon Lodge 104, and we live by the motto: “Making Good Men Better.” These men around me there have made me a better man. We are dedicated to the betterment of ourselves, our community, and giving to charity.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to the continued work we will do in the community, and I thank them all for the work my fellow brothers do. They are truly heroes in south Jersey.

REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE'S GEAR TASK FORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MCBATH). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to hold this Special Order on the Republican Study Committee's GEAR Task Force.

I thank MIKE JOHNSON, chairman of the Republican Study Committee, for his leadership to make this task force possible.

We started GEAR, which stands for Government Efficiency, Accountability, and Reform, to develop a play-book of commonsense, nonpartisan solutions for improving our government. We came up with more than 100 improvements. They are all recorded in our report, which is now available, and I am excited to yield to my colleagues to talk about them here today.

We will start with my good friend from North Dakota, Representative KELLY ARMSTRONG, who was a member of the task force and really led our efforts to find these areas where we could reform.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG).

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman JOHNSON and Congressman GIANFORTE for their efforts to make our Federal Government more efficient and accountable with these commonsense reforms.

The Republican Study Committee's GEAR Task Force report is a solutions-based plan to reduce the government's size and inefficiency.

Anyone who has dealt with the Federal Government knows the frustration that the bureaucratic process can bring. Unnecessary government delays to infrastructure projects have a particularly damaging effect on economic growth and job creation.

Madam Speaker, I thank the Republican Study Committee for including my bill, H.R. 3671, the Federal Permitting Reform and Jobs Act, in the report. This bipartisan bill will streamline and modernize the Federal infrastructure permitting process.

The Federal Permitting Reform and Jobs Act will build on the reforms that were included in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015, otherwise known as FAST-41.

My bill would make permanent the FAST-41 provisions and enact additional reforms, such as a 2-year deadline for the permitting process.

FAST-41 ensures coordination among several Federal agencies to streamline the permitting process for the largest infrastructure projects.

The Federal Permitting Reform and Jobs Act would expand these types of projects that would qualify for this streamlined process: simply put, more projects completed in a shorter period of time at a reduced cost.

This is a win for jobs; this is a win for infrastructure improvements; this is a win for reforming the Federal bureaucracy and providing Americans with a more efficient and effective government.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. ARMSTRONG for his work. Permitting is an area where we can really make advances to make the process more deterministic so we can get projects on the ground going. I thank the gentleman for his leadership there.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan's Seventh District, Representative TIM WALBERG,