

We send remittances back home, becoming the first and most important column of the Dominican economy, and we continue to contribute in many, many ways to that island nation and the United States of America.

Last Saturday, we witnessed an unprecedented event where young people convened in Washington Heights to protest the failed municipal elections back home.

Last weekend, the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan, which I am honored to represent in Congress, witnessed thousands of young people who came to protest against the most recent failure by the Dominican Republic's electoral board to properly execute the country's municipal elections on February 16.

Tais Garcia Heredia, Emely Curiel, Andres Gonzalez del Rey, Candido Santana, Alberto Valentin, Albelis Reyes, and others, particularly a young man by the name of Felipe Batista, led these young people—thousands. Close to 10,000 of them descended on Washington Heights.

Their initiative to fight for their people's future will probably not go down in the history books; you may not be able to find them in a Wikipedia page in the future; you may not be able to even Google their names; but their names will be echoed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and their patriotism will forever be remembered.

They are fighting to strengthen democracy. They are fighting to strengthen the best values of any democratic system and process. That is why I am here; to exult their names and to tell all that know them that we are very proud of them.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Today we are fighting for Dominican Independence, wherever there's a Dominican there's homeland. God, homeland and freedom.

Hoy en día estamos luchando por la Independencia Dominicana, donde está el dominicano esta la Patria. Dios, Patria y Libertad.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York will provide a translation of his remarks to the Clerk.

EFFORTS TO FIGHT ASIAN CARP

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, last week, I had the opportunity to travel to Kentucky Lake, alongside Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL and other local leaders, to observe progress being made to remove Asian carp from our west Kentucky waterways. Senator MCCONNELL and I took a boat out on the water to observe the new Modified Unified Method for removing this invasive species from our lakes.

Thanks to Federal funding we have secured, efforts are in progress that will improve the fishing industry and

our overall tourist economy in the First Congressional District of Kentucky. The Federal resources that have been steered toward this problem are instrumental in fighting the war on carp.

It has truly been a team approach, with local leaders like Lyon County Judge-Executive Wade White doing a tremendous job of advocating for action.

While there is certainly work left to do to eradicate Asian carp, we are moving in the right direction. I pledge to continue working with State and local officials and to be an effective Federal partner moving forward to rid our waters of this harmful species.

HONORING UNION COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT PATRICIA SHEFFER

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Union County Schools Superintendent Patricia Sheffer for winning the F.L. Dupree Outstanding Superintendent Award. This prestigious honor is awarded annually by the Kentucky School Boards Association to a leader who has demonstrated a high level of accomplishment within their school system.

Serving as superintendent comes with a variety of steep challenges and responsibilities. Based on this award, Patricia has gone above and beyond to excel in this critically important role.

She has committed her career to working with community leaders to improve opportunities for the next generation, including placing a heavy emphasis on improving career and technical education opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, her impact on Union County and public education cannot be overstated. I have seen firsthand the great work Ms. Sheffer has done there in Morganfield, and I join with all of my constituents in the First Congressional District of Kentucky in congratulating her.

HONORING NATIONAL FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA WEEK

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National FFA Week, an event that always brings back fond memories and is very special to me. Not only am I a proud farmer and former commissioner of agriculture, but I was also very active in FFA and had the high honor of serving as Kentucky FFA president.

FFA had an extraordinary influence on my life, as I know it does for many young people today. I proudly display my blue and gold jacket here in my congressional office.

While I will admit to being biased, there is no better way to learn, grow, and excel than being part of FFA. This quality organization uses agriculture education to empower students and put them on a lifelong path to success.

The leadership skills that students gain through FFA are extremely valuable, and I know that it makes a positive difference in the lives of young people every day.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent so many high-quality FFA programs,

and students here in Washington, and FFA will always hold a special place in my heart.

ONE YEAR SINCE WE VOTED TO PREVENT UNNECESSARY GUN DEATHS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the anniversary of the House passage of H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act.

It is has been 1 year since we stood together in this Chamber, Democrats and Republicans, and voted to pass a commonsense bill that will help save lives; 1 year since we voted to prevent unnecessary gun deaths and keep guns away from those who should not have them; 1 year since we acted to protect our children, to protect our communities, and to protect our families.

One hundred Americans die every single day from gun violence. In 2020, there have already been more gun deaths in the United States than our peer countries will experience in an entire year. That is unconscionable, and it is why 90 percent of our country supports universal background checks.

Yet, we are told that, instead of changing our laws, we must have more active-shooter drills; more first graders coming home with tears in their eyes, 6-year-olds asked to decide for themselves whether they are more likely to survive by hiding in a closet or if they should rush the gunman; more mother's reading messages from their children locked inside a school that plead: Mom, if I don't make it home, I love you, and I appreciate everything that you have done for me.

Too often we are told that we must accept these tragedies, but millions of Americans refuse to accept that, and I stand with them.

Today marks 1 year since we passed the Bipartisan Background Checks Act.

Tomorrow marks 1 year since the passage of the Enhanced Background Check Act, which would close the Charleston loophole.

I introduced a bill that would give loved ones and law enforcement more tools to keep guns away from those who are a danger to themselves or to others, tools that would help people like Mary Miller-Strobel, whose brother, Ben, was a combat veteran suffering from depression and PTSD.

Mary and her family worried about his mental health, and they drove to every gun store in their area pleading with the store owners not to sell her brother a gun. Ben Miller died by suicide. He used the gun he bought at his local gun store.

□ 1015

There is injustice in this year without action. I know that sense of injustice. On black Friday in November 2012, my son Jordan was sitting in the back seat of a car at a gas station with his

friends. A man pulled up next to them and complained about the loud music that they were playing.

He pulled out a gun and he fired 10 shots into that car hitting Jordan three times, killing my only son.

I lost my son. But I am still his mother and I am on a mission to help protect the lives of children like him all over America.

I made a promise to my community that I would act in Washington.

I promised that I would take that sense of protection, that love a mother has for her only son, and use it for my community, use it for the American people.

I promised I would dedicate my life to families like mine in Marietta, Georgia, who are terrified that they will send their kids to school and never see them come home. They are terrified they will be me.

I pray that on the 1-year anniversary of H.R. 8, that we remember that this is in our hands. We remember families like Mary's. We remember children graduating from high school. We remember Florida. We remember communities all across this country. Their lives are in our hands.

I want to thank my colleagues, survivors, and volunteers, and advocates across America that are here with us today for your tireless work to pass this landmark legislation and protect our families.

I pray that God bless us all in this fight to save American lives.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

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 the 75th anniversary of the battle for Iwo Jima. I had the privilege of joining Senator YOUNG at a ceremony last week in Indianapolis to commemorate this fateful battle that led to the allied victory in World War II.

With us at the Indiana War Memorial was Wayne Saucerman, a World War II marine veteran of Iwo Jima and a true American hero.

Seventy-five years ago Wayne found himself thousands of miles away from home in the midst of a fierce 5-week battle that would help change the course of the war and history itself.

To Wayne and to other patriots who fight for the freedom and liberty we hold so dear, thank you for your service.

Next month I will have the honor of returning to the island as part of a congressional delegation invited to participate in the 75th Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima. We will be joined by the commandant of the Marine Corps and dignitaries from Japan to renew this commitment by remembering and honoring those who fought 75 years ago.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PUTS FARMERS FIRST

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend President Trump's leader-

ship on the Waters of the United States issue and support his repeal of the burdensome Obama-era regulation.

As a result of this decision, our farmers can worry less about government overreach on their own property and instead focus on building and growing their farms and small businesses. We finally have an administration that puts our farmers first, and for Hoosiers in my district, that is a big deal.

I pledge my commitment to farmers and families in my district to continue working with the Trump administration on this very critical issue.

RECOGNIZING AHAUS TOOL AND ENGINEERING

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ahaus Tool and Engineering in Richmond, Indiana for their effective apprenticeship program.

While recently visiting Ahaus, their leadership told me about their nationally accredited apprenticeship program, which has been helping Hoosiers for over 30 years.

Ahaus offers a full-time job while their employees attend school to gain hands-on learning experience with peers in the company.

I wish Ahaus continued success and I thank them for their investment in the community of Richmond.

RECOGNIZING THE GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD PANTRY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Good Samaritan Food Pantry of North Vernon and its wonderful manager, Ginger Miller.

The Good Samaritan Food Pantry served over 29,000 Jennings County residents last year, including 1,000 veterans. The Good Samaritan Food Pantry is run by an all-volunteer staff and runs completely on donations.

Not only does this organization help feed those in need, but it also provides clothing and household items for families in need.

God bless those that help the Good Samaritan Food Pantry run, and God bless all the volunteers involved.

CONGRATULATING SILAS ALLRED

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Silas Allred of Shenandoah High School for winning the 195-pound weight class Indiana Wrestling State Title.

This is Silas' second straight wrestling State title, and he joined an elite group of only one of five Indiana high school wrestlers in history to win the title by pin.

Silas is ranked fourth in the Nation for his weight class and qualified for Team U.S.A. to compete at the Pan Am Cadet Games.

I congratulate Silas and wish him the best of luck in his future.

TAKING STRONG ACTION TO STOP THE EPIDEMIC OF YOUTH TOBACCO USE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, this week the House is taking strong action

to stop the epidemic of youth tobacco use.

We have watched as the use of tobacco and vape products by kids has exploded in our community over the past months. It has become a full-blown public health crisis affecting more than 5 million kids.

More than 200 Illinoisans have suffered respiratory illness from dangerous vape products since last year. Eight of them have died. This shouldn't be happening.

Thanks to decades of public health work and education, youth tobacco use was actually going down until the introduction of sophisticated vape products.

Let's be clear, these products are targeted at kids. They are made with flavors like cotton candy and gummy bears. They are marketed directly to children, and they are designed to keep children hooked.

This is a crisis that we will be dealing with for decades because 95 percent of adult tobacco users started when they were kids, and there is still so much that we don't know about how the high doses of nicotine and other chemicals in these products affect kids' bodies and their minds.

Given the FDA's failure to effectively regulate these products, Congress needs to act now before it is too late. It is time to stand up and refuse to let our kids be hurt. It is time to pass the Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019.

RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bucks County Community College, which recently received a \$200,000 grant to raise awareness and promote its metal working apprenticeship program.

This 12-week program provides entry-level training, forklift certification, and other skills necessary to begin a career in manufacturing. The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development grant will be used to promote Bucks County Community College's manufacturing preapprenticeship training programs.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I partnered with Bucks County native, Congressman RO KHANNA, to introduce the Student Apprenticeship Act, a bill that would close the gap between higher education and labor by modernizing workforce training and catalyzing the growth of registered apprenticeships nationwide.

Apprenticeship programs provide skills and education for high-paying jobs and vital careers, and we need to be sure we give them the attention that they deserve.

RECOGNIZING AILEEN TORRENTE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Aileen