

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### MENSTRUAL EQUITY IN THE PEACE CORPS ACT

#### HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Menstrual Equity in the Peace Corps Act.

On March 1st, we recognized the 59th Anniversary of the Peace Corps. Established by Executive Order 10924, issued by President John F. Kennedy, and authorized by Congress, Peace Corps has been an enduring symbol of peace and friendship between the U.S. and our global community. Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) sacrifice over two years of their time, working side by side with local leaders to combat some of the most pressing challenges of our generation. This is a transformational time for many of our volunteers—and I am particularly proud of the many constituents from my congressional district of New York's Sixth who have served abroad in Peace Corps.

At the same time, however, I have heard from many PCVs around the world who struggle to access and afford menstrual hygiene products. These current PCVs and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV) note how menstrual products are not readily available, or these items are far more expensive than they would be in the U.S. So many of these volunteers are also placed in very remote locations. In fact, for one RPCV who served in an indigenous island, she had to travel by a combination of cargo ship rides (10+ hours), plane ride(s), small boat ride, several hour hikes, and hitchhiking to get to and from the capital, where the Peace Corps Country Office is located. Ultimately, for some PCVs, not only is there a financial hurdle, but a volunteer may have to travel extremely far distances to access menstrual hygiene products.

There is also vast inconsistency in the provision of these products for the volunteers. Some Peace Corps Medical Officers provide these products for free to their respective PCVs, while others are left to purchase the products out of pocket. Other country offices provide an additional stipend to volunteers to purchase these products, while other volunteers wait to receive these items in their care packages from loved ones back home. I also heard a U.S. Peace Corps staff equate these products to mere razors and shaving cream—ultimately disregarding the medical necessity for these products.

To address this inequity, I am introducing a bill—the Menstrual Equity in the Peace Corps Act—to require the enactment of a comprehensive policy that makes available free menstrual hygiene products to PCVs, or increase stipends to allow for these expenses. Menstrual hygiene products are not luxury or toiletry items. These are medical necessities; a health right and human right. And this is a simple matter of equality.

Madam Speaker, today, PCVs serve in over 60 countries around the world. Nearly 65 percent of PCVs are women, and more than 90 percent of these volunteers are under the age of 50. PCVs are already making both financial and personal sacrifices in order to represent the United States abroad, and they are a critical part of U.S. development power. Peace Corps notes that 'nothing is more important than the health, safety, and security of every single volunteer.'

Indeed, for the health, safety, and security of these volunteers, I urge my colleagues to support the Menstrual Equity in the Peace Corps Act. I thank my colleagues who have already joined me in introducing this critical legislation, and I urge the House of Representatives to join me in passing this critical legislation.

### HONORING KELSEY KRUSE AND DANE KRUSE AS IOWANS OF THE WEEK

#### HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing two outstanding young Iowans, Dane and Kelsey Kruse from Silver City, Iowa. These two, brother and sister, are young farmers in Mills County continuing the family tradition on the farm. They were recently featured in a national advertising campaign that focused on the challenges young farmers face.

Dane and Kelsey, or the "Kruse Kids," are sixth-generation hog farmers that sell to Niman Ranch. Both in their early 20s, Dane and Kelsey are young faces in a profession where the average age is nearly 58. As Kelsey said, "It's becoming very difficult for younger people to get themselves started" in farming.

I know many of my colleagues agree on how important it is to support young farmers like Kelsey and Dane. Nothing is more critical to the future of Iowa's rural economy than young people returning home to their community and carrying on the family tradition. Too often we see young Iowans moving away from their communities to seek opportunity elsewhere.

Not only are the Kruse Kids helping their community by returning home after college, they are serving as incredible ambassadors for rural Iowa as the focus of national attention. Earlier this year, Dane and Kelsey joined other young farmers and participated in the Rose Parade on New Year's Day to kick off Chipotle's "Cultivate the Future of Farming" initiative.

The Kruse family hogs are raised naturally with plenty of room, fed a vegetarian diet, and are antibiotic free. As consumers want to know more about where their food comes from, the Kruse Kids, along with their father

Jeff, are proud to show off their farm and how they raise their Iowa hogs.

I'm proud to honor Dane and Kelsey as our Iowans of the Week. As Dane shared to millions in the commercial, farming isn't easy. But why does he do it? "You can say it is in my blood, you can say I'm crazy, I don't know, I just like farming."

I hope you all will join me in recognizing Dane and Kelsey Kruse, along with all other young farmers across the country, and continue to work to ensure more kids have the resources they need to continue the family tradition.

DENNIS CULNAN, SR.

#### HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the Mount Laurel, New Jersey resident Dennis Culnan, Sr. for his 75th Birthday.

On Saturday February 22, 2020, family and friends will gather to celebrate and honor Mr. Dennis Culnan, Sr. on his 75th Birthday. Mr. Dennis Culnan, Sr. was born on February 14, 1945 and grew up in Northeast Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Throughout his childhood he often encountered challenging and adverse circumstances as his family struggled to make ends meet. However, life changed after he first saw the love of his life, Joan Plocharska. At the age of 14, Mr. Dennis Culnan, Sr. met Joan while attending Father Judge High School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Joan, as Dennis describes, was sweet, shy and as delicate as a snowflake. Dennis and Joan dated on and off for several years and eventually married in 1966.

Following his graduation in 1964 Mr. Dennis Culnan, Sr. honorably enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He quickly earned the rank of Lance corporal and proudly served his country before being medically discharged.

Thereafter he returned home and established himself as an award-winning investigative reporter, political writer and columnist for the Courier-Post of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, where he worked for nearly four decades. Furthermore, with his extensive experience in public relations and governmental affairs consulting, in 1993, Dennis founded the public affairs firm Phoenix Strategies, specializing in government relations, communications, lobbying and grassroots education.

During his time with the firm, Mr. Dennis Culnan, Sr. served in many capacities, including as the director of marketing and communications strategy for Siemen's Transportation while AMTRAK was introducing high-speed rail from Washington, D.C. to Boston, Massachusetts. Recently he led New Jersey's consulting and marketing messaging for Spectra Energy's successful 1.2-billion-dollar energy

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

infrastructure project and provided the marketing, media relations and communication needs for the South Jersey Port Corporation.

Mr. Culnan's family are of the utmost importance to him. He is often known to refer to his wife Joan, his sister Tina and his mother Dorothy, as his "Holy Trinity". Although his beloved wife Joan, passed on in 2011, after 45 years of marriage her memory will always live on through their love and their family. Together, Dennis and Joan have two sons, Dennis Culnan, Jr. and Derek Culnan, two daughters-in-law Silvia and Genevieve, and two grandchildren Dillon and Kaitlin.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the life and career of Mr. Dennis Culnan, Sr. of Mount Laurel, New Jersey, on his 75th Birthday.

CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS  
AND RESPONSE SUPPLEMENTAL  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2020*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in strong support of the H.R. 6074, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020, which will provide \$8.3 billion in funding to combat the novel coronavirus.

The legislation includes \$950 million for state and local health agencies to conduct vital public health activities, including surveillance, laboratory testing, infection control, contact tracing, and mitigation.

My thoughts and prayers are with the 9 families who lost a loved one to the coronavirus, and the many others who have contracted the disease.

We owe a special debt to First Responders who will be the lifeline for many who will need medical care to overcome this coronavirus designated as COVID-19.

Earlier this year, when I saw news reports in early January on the novel Coronavirus's rapid spread and the numbers of infected expanding so quickly, I knew this was not something to be taken lightly and that time was not on our side to mount an effective defense.

On February 10, 2020, I held the first press conference on the issue of the novel coronavirus at Houston Intercontinental Airport.

I was joined by public health officials, local unions, and advocates to raise awareness regarding the virus and the implications it might have for travel to the United States from China and to combat early signs of discrimination targeting Asian businesses in the United States.

On February 24, 2020, I held a second press conference on the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declaration of a "public health emergency from the outbreak of the Coronavirus."

At that time, I formally requested the President of the United States by letter to immediately suspend any health-related cuts that impact efforts to contain and treat the coronavirus, including the \$3.3 billion in cuts to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and

the discretionary budget cuts for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of nearly 19 percent at \$678 million, severely threatening the CDC's ability to respond to this and other epidemics in the future.

Additionally, I requested the President to suspend cuts in both the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

On February 26, 2020, I sent a letter to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security seeking a meeting with Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf to gain insight into the Preparedness of the Agency to address a possible pandemic.

On February 28, 2020, I spoke on the Floor of the House and Announced plans to form a Congressional Coronavirus Task Force.

I thank Congressmen BRIAN FITZPATRICK, Dr. RAUL RUIZ, and Congresswoman LAUREN UNDERWOOD for joining me as co-chairs of the Congressional Coronavirus Task Force.

Today, March 4, 2020, the House of Representatives is giving a full-throated response to coronavirus by introducing an \$8.3 billion of new funding to help federal, state, and local public health departments meet the challenge of preparing communities for COVID-19.

Among its provisions, the emergency supplemental introduced by Chairwoman LOWEY includes:

More than \$3 billion for research and development of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics;

\$2.2 billion in public health funding for prevention, preparedness, and response, \$950 million of which is to support state & local health agencies;

Nearly \$1 billion for procurement of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, to support healthcare preparedness and Community Health Centers, and to improve medical surge capacity;

\$435 million to support health systems overseas to prevent, prepare, and respond to the coronavirus;

\$300 million to respond to humanitarian needs;

\$61 million to facilitate the development and review of medical countermeasures, devices, therapies, and vaccines, and to help mitigate potential supply chain interruptions; and

Allows for an estimated \$7 billion in low-interest loans to affected small businesses.

The emergency supplemental also contains other strong provisions to ensure a full response and keep Americans safe. The bill:

Requires that funds are only used to fight the coronavirus and other infectious diseases;

Allows seniors to access telemedicine services for coronavirus treatment;

Helps ensure that vaccines and treatments for coronavirus are affordable; and

Ensures that state and local governments are reimbursed for costs incurred while assisting the federal response.

Additionally, the bill includes a requirement to reimburse \$136 million to important health accounts, including mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention and heating and cooling assistance for low-income families, that was transferred by the Trump administration to support its response.

On Tuesday, March 3, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 60 cases of COVID-19 from 12 states. Twenty-two of these cases are travel-related; 11 are believed to be person-to-person spread; and for the remaining 27 the source of exposure is

still under investigation. Noteworthy developments in recent days include:

Florida announced its first and second presumptive positive cases of COVID-19, one in a person with recent travel history (to Italy), the other with no currently known travel or contact history.

Georgia announced its first and second confirmed cases of COVID-19, one is a person with recent travel history (to Italy), the other in a close contact of the first patient.

New Hampshire also reported its first presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in a person with recent travel history (to Italy).

New York state announced its first case of COVID-19 in a person with recent travel history (to Iran).

Rhode Island announced its first presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in a person with recent travel history (to Italy).

Washington state announced more cases of COVID-19 associated with an outbreak in a long-term care facility. Washington has announced it now has 14 cases of COVID-19, including 6 COVID-19 deaths.

The 12 states that have reported cases include: Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Today, the World Health Organization reports a 3.4-percent mortality rate for COVID-19.

The challenge with this new coronavirus is that it is highly contagious, and of those infected, 15-20-percent contract pneumonia.

And 5 percent of these cases may develop Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), which is a rapidly progressive disease occurring in critically ill patients.

The main complication in ARDS is that fluid leaks into the lungs making breathing difficult or impossible.

This virus is a potentially serious public health threat, but this does not mean that we should have a public health panic.

There are knowledgeable and trained virologists, public health experts, and physicians who are who need the funding provided by this bill.

I also organized a bi-partisan task force on the COVID-19 to help Congressional Members during this crisis to better serve their constituents.

I ask that my colleagues join me in voting in support of H.R. 6074.

HONORING CLAYTON COMMUNITY  
LIBRARY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MARK DESAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Clayton Community Library as it marks its 25th anniversary.

The effort to establish a library in the City of Clayton began in March of 1989 with the Clayton Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Having decided that their community needed a library, the AAUW partnered with other community organizations to create the Clayton Community Library Foundation. The foundation raised money and worked with the City of Clayton

and the Contra Costa County Library system to receive \$2.8 million in grant funding. In order to protect Miwok artifacts, the library was built on a floating foundation. On March 4, 1995, the Clayton Community Library celebrated its grand opening.

Close to the center of downtown, the library serves as a meeting place for organizations and individuals of all ages. The library holds numerous events and activities throughout the year including literacy tutoring, craft programs, all abilities play groups, and family story time. Having represented Clayton since 1994 and as an active library supporter, I am proud of the partnership between the county, cities, workforce, and volunteers.

Please join me in honoring Clayton Community Library's 25th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATT BURNETT, MONSIGNOR WILLIAM FARRELL DIVISION OF THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS' MAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Matt Burnett who will be named the Man of the Year by the Monsignor William Farrell Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Matt will be honored at their annual gathering on Saturday, March 7, 2020.

Matt is the son of Francis P. Burnett and Zita Lavelle Burnett. He is a member of Saint Rose Parish where he volunteers his time with the Altar and Rose Society. For the past several years, Matt has bravely battled Huntington's chorea, a rare, debilitating condition that affects the nerve cells in the brain causing a deterioration of motor skills, cognitive abilities, and speech. His grandfather and mother also suffered from this inherited disease. Despite his diagnosis, he has worked tirelessly to remain positive and active in his local community.

Enthusiastic about volunteer firefighting, Matt was often found at the fire headquarters on Main Street in Carbondale. In addition to responding to calls, he spent long hours at the scene of a fire cleaning and packing gear to be prepared for the next call. He was always willing to lend a hand to any volunteer company that needed additional assistance.

In 2006, prior to the onset of his illness, Matt and two fellow firefighters were honored for bravely entering a burning building to quell a fire which quickly turned into a heroic rescue mission. Their vision clouded with smoke, the three men advanced across the room, but the floor felt hot and spongy, threatening to give away at any moment. In their efforts to retreat, one of the firefighters fell to the basement as the floor between him and the exit collapsed. Alerted by their endangered partner tugging on the fire hose, Matt and his other partner went back into the building to pull him to safety.

Matt does not let his illness stop him from pursuing his passions, including volunteer firefighting. When a fire broke out earlier this year, Matt, undeterred by his physical limitations, responded in full gear, doing everything he could to assist his fellow volunteers.

It is an honor to join with the Monsignor William Farrell Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians to recognize Matt Burnett as Man of the Year. Throughout his life, he has embodied the virtues of friendship, unity, and Christian charity and has been selflessly dedicated to others through the volunteer fire service. I wish him all the best on this St. Patrick's Day.

RECOGNIZING AYDEN POLICE CHIEF BARRY STANLEY

**HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to longtime law enforcement officer Barry Stanley, who retired this past Friday as Chief of Police in Ayden, North Carolina. Chief Stanley attended Pitt Community College for his law enforcement training, graduating in 1993. He has served several Eastern North Carolina communities during his career including Grifton, Bethel and Ayden. His service actually began in his youth with the explorer's post at the Lenoir County Sheriff's Department.

Chief Stanley has long been passionate about helping those who are victims of crime, especially the elderly. He feels helping those who cannot speak for themselves is the most important part of his job. Chief Stanley is a great leader who leads with fairness and integrity, earning the trust of his team. He has the respect of the men and women under his command, but they also consider him a friend. He will definitely be remembered as a chief who made a difference.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the legacy of this brave and patriotic man who has served Eastern North Carolina for 27 years. May we always keep our dedicated police officers and service members treasured in our hearts and constantly in our prayers for their service to God and country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAN BISHOP**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on February 7, 2020, I was unable to vote because I was with constituents from my district to participate in an official event with the President of the United States in North Carolina. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 52, YEA on Roll Call No. 53, and NAY on Roll Call No. 54.

CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLIE CRIST**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 6074, Coronavirus Preparedness

and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, and commend my fellow members of the Appropriations Committee, particularly the Gentlewoman from New York (Chairwoman LOWEY) and the Gentlewoman from Texas (Ranking Member GRANGER) for their leadership.

The robust, \$8.3 billion package includes vital funding for research, local health departments, supplies, preparedness, affordable vaccines, and support for small businesses.

I was particularly proud to support including \$500 million to cover telehealth services for Medicare patients.

This provision will reduce the number of non-urgent cases who have to go to emergency rooms and doctors' offices, a win for seniors, health care workers, and the general public.

The resounding, bipartisan vote for the emergency funding shows that the People's House is taking this outbreak seriously.

We are committed to fully exercising Congress' Constitutional Power of the Purse in support of the fight against this disease.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 86.

HONORING ALAN WALTS FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED, 44-YEAR LONG CAREER IN THE FIELD OF BROADCASTING ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Alan Walts for his distinguished, 44-year long career in the field of broadcasting on the occasion of his retirement.

Alan Walts began his broadcasting career in Watertown in 1976 and has hosted Watertown's Morning News on AM radio station, 790 WTNY, for the past ten years. Glen Curry, General Manager at Stevens Media Group, said "Alan would arrive at the station at 4 a.m. every morning, rain or shine, through his entire decade-long tenure as the host." He has also been a consistent volunteer for many organizations including the Salvation Army. As host of the morning news show, Alan made himself a pillar of the Watertown community and his departure marks the end of an era.

Alan Walts demonstrates the hard working, community minded nature that the North Country is known for. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to thank Alan for his contribution to the community and wish him well on this next chapter in his life.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote due to extenuating circumstances. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 79; YEA on Roll Call No. 80; YEA on Roll Call No. 81; YEA on Roll Call No. 82; YEA on Roll Call No. 83; YEA on Roll Call No. 84; YEA on Roll Call No. 85; and YEA on Roll Call No. 86.

RECOGNIZING SERGIO PECORI FOR RECEIVING THE 2020 OUTSTANDING PROJECTS AND LEADERS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Sergio "Satch" Pecori, P.E., chairman and CEO of Hanson Professional Services Inc. in Springfield, IL for receiving the 2020 Outstanding Projects and Leaders Lifetime Achievement Award from The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). This prestigious award recognizes Satch's outstanding lifetime accomplishments, leadership skills, and long-term commitment to business and his community.

Mr. Pecori's accomplishments and positive impact on the community have been widely recognized over the years. He was presented with the Distinguished Alumnus Award from UIUC's College of Civil Engineering in 1999. He was a finalist for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2007 and was given the President's Award for Outstanding Leadership and Dedication by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he has received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service and the Boy Scouts of America Abraham Lincoln Council's Trailblazer Award.

Mr. Pecori was also a recipient of the 2019 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Presented annually, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The Medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from diverse ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage and culture.

Mr. Pecori has risen to top of his profession through hard work and dedication. He is an example for all of us to emulate. Satch and his team have engineered numerous projects that have transformed communities and helped local economies thrive. He also leads by example and strives to improve the lives of those around him. Congratulations to Satch, the honor is well deserved.

## RECOGNIZING A SPACECOAST SYMBOL OF KINDNESS

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend kindergarten students in my Congressional district who have made it a priority and to remind us that kindness "is always possible."

Nearly a year ago, transition kindergarten teacher Ms. Barbara Wilcox inspired her class at Tropical Elementary on Merritt Island in Brevard County, Florida, to join an initiative they called "Together Kind." She shared, "I do a lot of service learning with them, talking about how to be kind to people."

Children often "get it" when adults are slow to respond. That certainly played out strongly in Ms. Wilcox's class. The children wanted to make a difference. They recognized the meaning behind common symbols like the peace sign, the happy face and the heart, for love. And, in their wisdom, they perceived the value of having a symbol to remind the world of the importance of just being kind to one another.

The class designed four candidates for a Symbol of Kindness and took their vision to the world. They shared their symbols on Facebook, through email, and a website they created called togetherkind.com. About 1,000 people from 25 states (and England and Ireland) voted and decided the winner.

The children use social media only through parents and their teacher. But, they learned the power of communication and how to engage people in a meaningful and valuable way. They sold \$1 magnets with the winning Symbol. "Every day we looked to see how many people had signed the petition, and we highlighted, on a map, all the states people are from," said Ms. Wilcox, who's been teaching for 22 years. So, showing a little kindness can teach geography and bringing people together.

Those are some of the things that kindness is about:

Reaching out beyond ourselves and showing respect and care for others. Their symbol builds on the heart as the symbol of love. The heart is enclosed in a circle of arrows and that reminds me that kindness is more than just a noun. Kindness is an "action" word. Kindness happens by doing.

I'm so proud that a class of young people in my district could remind us, "Kindness is always possible" in what they did and in the Symbol of Kindness they have given to the rest of us as a reminder.

I have introduced a resolution to recognize their work as the Spacecoast Symbol of Kindness. Hopefully, their symbol can be carried by our astronauts on some future mission into space to spread their message beyond even our planet. If the nation needs kindness today, we can surely look forward to taking kindness with us to the moon, Mars, and beyond.

Once again, I commend Ms. Wilcox and her class. They remind us that kindness is doing something for another person without expecting anything in return other than the possibility that others will pass on kindness to others. I thank the kindergarteners at Tropical Elementary, for this reminder.

## CONGRATULATING JEANNETTA POLITIS ON RECEIPT OF THE FNB COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

**HON. DANIEL MEUSER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to recognize Jeannetta Politis of First National Bank of Pennsylvania on receiving the FNB Community Spirit Award.

Each year, the First National Bank of Pennsylvania presents the FNB Community Spirit Award to an employee who provides excellent service to customers and contributes positively to their community through charitable endeavors. FNB selects two recipients from each region and donates \$4,000 to a charity of their choice.

Ms. Politis serves as one of FNB's Business Banking Relationship Managers and is also a dedicated community member with a commitment to volunteerism. She has focused her efforts on helping the next generation, serving as a board member for organizations such as the Harrisburg Young Professionals, Leadership Harrisburg, and The Joshua Group, a non-profit organization focused on the mentoring and guidance of at-risk youth living in the Allison Hill neighborhood of Harrisburg. Additionally, Ms. Politis volunteers with the Harrisburg Rotary Club and Hospice of Central Pennsylvania, caring for those who are most in need among us.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jeannetta Politis on this great honor and thank her for her dedication to the betterment of our communities.

## ABORTION RIGHTS

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, we are at a critical juncture for abortion rights in America.

Abortion is health care and a fundamental right. But, across the street from the Capitol, the Supreme Court appears ready to overturn precedent to go after reproductive justice. *June Medical Services v. Russo* is the first abortion case to be heard by anti-abortion Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. They could pave the way for states to ban abortion for 25 million people in the United States.

So, we are standing up. Because we will not be standing by.

Regardless of where they live or how much money they make, individuals deserve the right to control their own bodies and future, and to get the healthcare that they want and need. When women can make decisions about their own reproductive healthcare, including whether and when to have children, they have autonomy over their lives, and their economic security.

So, reproductive justice is about economic justice. That is what is under threat.

And, not just the courts. Opponents of abortion have launched a nationwide, full court press against abortion and women's health.

Last year, 300 bills were introduced across the U.S. to curb or ban abortion. Alabama passed an extreme and callous law that would force teenage survivors of rape and incest, as well as people of any age, to carry a pregnancy without their consent. Texas introduced a bill to make abortion a capital offense.

Then, there is the Trump-Pence administration. Its domestic gag rule insert Donald Trump and MIKE PENCE in between a woman and her doctor. More than four million women and men, including 45,000 in my state, go to Title X clinics for their health care services. Sixty percent of those women consider it their primary care. But, the domestic gag rule bans providers from even talking about abortion or abortion-related services with their patient, even if an abortion is medically necessary.

Americans want more health care, not less. And, abortion is safe and legal, and the law of the land.

So, as the chair of the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations Subcommittee, I am proud to fight for women and families and for reproductive justice. In our House Labor-HHS bill, we fought to block the domestic gag rule. But the administration and the Senate Republicans stopped us. We are not giving up.

Instead, the Democratic Majority of the U.S. House of Representatives is fighting for reproductive justice. We have legislation such as Congresswoman BARBARA LEE'S EACH Woman Act. The Hyde Amendment is a discriminatory policy that makes access to abortion dependent on your income. That is wrong, and I oppose it. We will continue the fight and we will win that fight in the near term to ensure that women of color, low income women and all women are on equal footing, with regards to reproductive rights.

Making the decision to continue or end a pregnancy is a complex decision and a very personal one. Throughout their pregnancy, a person must be able to make health decisions that are best for their circumstances, including whether to end a pregnancy, without interference from politicians. President Trump does not get a veto.

The Supreme Court should not forget that. The American people, and the voters, will not.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DENNIS HOOD

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my condolences to the family of my friend Dennis Hood, a man who liberated himself and believed in fighting for the rights of others.

Unfortunately, I cannot be there with them because we are voting on a supplemental budget to provide money with which to fight the coronavirus, and I figured that I ought to be here to perform that duty. Therefore, I have asked one of my young staffers, Gerard Moorer, to read the following statement at his service:

Dennis Hood lived at ABLA and Lathrop. He was actively engaged and involved in the

activities of these developments. Dennis was a colorful character with an outgoing personality. He never went any place and you didn't not know that he was there. He made use of the section 3 provision in the Public Housing Act and developed a small construction company. Dennis argued, protested, marched, demonstrated, swore, drank whiskey, cussed and did everything under the sun to try and have his way, and if he could speak, I am sure he would say, I did it my way. "For what is a man, what has he got, if not himself, then he has naught, to say the things he truly feels and not the words of one who kneels. The record show I took the blows and did it my way."

Yes, it was Dennis' way.

He was my friend and supporter, and I was his friend and supporter.

CLAIRE "NELLIE" POOLE

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and honor the legacy of the Woodbury Heights, New Jersey resident Claire "Nellie" Poole.

On Tuesday, March 3, 2020, family and friends gathered to celebrate the life and honor the legacy of Mrs. Claire Poole a resident of Woodbury Heights, New Jersey, and a loving and caring woman who dedicated her life to her family, workers and public service.

Mrs. Claire Poole, "Nellie" as many called her, worked for the Camden County Board of Social Services as a Social Worker before her retirement. In addition to her service with the county, Mrs. Claire Poole was heavily involved with labor unions and worker's rights organizations and served as the President of Women of Labor, Chairperson of the Union Organization of Social Services, President of CWA Local 1084 Union, and served as the 2nd Vice President of Central Labor Union-AFL CIO.

Community and public service were Mrs. Claire Poole's life-long passions. She was a member of Woodbury Heights Borough Council and was very involved with the Woodbury Heights Democratic Club. She even served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1984, 1988 and 2000. In addition to her public service and political life, she served on numerous United Way campaigns, was a former President of the Woodbury Heights Senior Club, and was a member of the Gloucester County Senior Club. In her religious life, Mrs. Poole was also involved in St. Margaret's Church where she was part of the bereavement committee.

Mrs. Poole was the wife of the late Joseph F. Poole. She was a devoted mother to Valerie Dzindzio (Mark) of Clayton, Robert Clayton (Elizabeth) of Woodbury, Maureen Leo (Dominick) of Clayton, and step-mother of Joseph "Michael" Poole (the late Diane) of Deptford, James Poole of Woodbury and the late Frank Clayton, Jr., Russell Clayton (Theresa) and Kevin Clayton. She was the beloved sister of Edward Charlton (Theresa) of Collingswood and the late Frances Andrews, Teresa Logan and Hilda Minderjahn.

Additionally, she was a loving grandmother of 14 and great-grandmother of 11. "Nellie" leaves behind many nieces and nephews and her cat, Tabitha.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Mrs. Claire Poole of Woodbury Heights, New Jersey.

TAIWAN ALLIES INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE (TAIPEI) ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a strong believer in diplomacy and global cooperation, I believe it is vitally important for the United States to support Taiwan as they seek to gain membership in global organizations such as the WHA and Interpol. Furthermore, I believe that our nation should do what it can to allow Taiwan to foster and grow its diplomatic relationships around the globe.

Since 2016, the People's Republic of China has systematically been trying to undermine the diplomatic independence of Taiwan on the international stage, luring Taiwan's partners to change their allegiance from Taipei to Beijing under the "One China" policy. The People's Republic of China has also been blocking Taiwan's access to global organizations such as the World Health Organization. We have only recently started to see some of the negative impacts of these actions.

Mr. Speaker, the United States should continue to stand strong with our democratic partner and encourage other allies to strengthen their relationship with Taipei.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAN BISHOP**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on March 2, 2020, I was unable to vote because I was with constituents from my district to participate in an event with the President of the United States in North Carolina.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 79, and YEA on Roll Call No. 80.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF OFFICER DAVID KELLYWOOD

**HON. TOM O'HALLERAN**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Officer David Kellywood. Officer Kellywood was a White Mountain Apache Police Officer who was killed in the line of duty last month.

David Kellywood grew up in the White Mountain Apache community in rural Arizona.

He bravely protected and served his community for four years as a corrections officer, a detention officer, and then a police officer.

He was dedicated and hardworking, and those who knew and loved him appreciated his bright sense of humor and kind heart.

He gave the ultimate sacrifice at age 26 to protect the community he loved, and leaves behind two young sons.

As a former law enforcement officer, I know firsthand the dangerous, ever-changing circumstances law enforcement officers face every day, and the stress their loved ones endure.

My heart breaks for Officer Kellywood's wife and two sons.

Pat and I are keeping Officer Kellywood's family, friends, and the entire White Mountain Apache community in our thoughts as we continue to mourn his passing.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CASS-MORGAN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

**HON. DARIN LaHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor a remarkable organization, the Cass-Morgan County Farm Bureau. The Cass-Morgan County Farm Bureau in central Illinois is a vital organization in the area that promotes agricultural prosperity. After many years of success and service, the Cass-Morgan County Farm Bureau is celebrating their 50th anniversary.

The Cass-Morgan County Farm Bureau was chartered on March 2, 1970, to unite farmers in the area and advocate for central Illinois agriculture collectively. Today, the members of the organization work hard to support the community and economy throughout the county.

The Cass-Morgan County Farm Bureau provides a voice for farmers, promotes the development of agriculture, and educates and empowers future leaders in the industry. Additionally, Cass-Morgan County Farm Bureau coordinates with other associations and agencies to promote the well-being and interests of its members.

Illinois has become a major economic force within the agricultural sector because of farm bureaus like Cass-Morgan County that come together and enhance opportunities for farmers, their families, and the community. I extend my sincere congratulations to the Cass-Morgan County Farm Bureau for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions to Illinois.

HONORING PAUL DOWEN FOR RECEIVING THE ADIRONDACK REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE J. WALTER JUCKETT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Downen for receiving the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce J. Walter Juckett Community Service Award.

Paul grew up in Saratoga Springs and made his way up to the Adirondack region in 1976 to attend Adirondack Community College. Upon his graduation from Castleton State College in 1980 he returned to Glens Falls and started his accounting career with the CPA firm of Silverstein and Loftus. Paul now has over thirty years of public accounting experience and is the Managing Partner of Whittemore, Downen and Ricciardelli, LLP.

Paul joined the Glens Falls Rotary Club in 1982 and has continued his membership and commitment to the organization for almost 40 years. He has also volunteered in leadership positions for a number of other community and charitable organizations. He currently serves on the boards of SUNY Adirondack Foundation, the House of Grace of the Adirondacks, the Adirondack Hockey Coalition and Christ Church United Methodist.

Paul Downen demonstrates the hard working, community minded nature that the North Country is known for. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to congratulate Paul for this well-deserved recognition. I look forward to his future success.

HONORING DETECTIVE II SHAREN S. STALLWORTH

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Detective II Sharen S. Stallworth and the dedication to duty and professionalism with which she has served the City of Los Angeles for 32 years and 6 months.

Detective II Sharen S. Stallworth was appointed to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) on November 16, 1987, and upon completion of her time in the academy, reported to the Wilshire Division. She provided leadership on a variety of coveted assignments in the Division including the Mental Evaluation Unit, Burglary Special Section, and Youth Program Unit and Abuse Child Section.

Detective Stallworth was also a member of the board of the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators, the California Financial Crimes Investigators Association, and the Los Angeles Organized Retail Crime Association. With her immense experience, she is considered a subject matter expert (SME) regarding Pawn Brokers and Financial Crimes Investigations.

Additionally, over the past 15 years, Detective Stallworth served as a Peer Counselor for LAPD, giving back to her community by mentoring detectives and younger officers. Her devotion to the City of Los Angeles and beyond will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact.

Detective Stallworth is the daughter of the proud parents Luther Scales and Mary Stallworth of Pomona, California.

For her remarkable accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Detective II Sharen S. Stallworth on the House floor today. Her decades of commitment and contributions to the City of Los Angeles are worthy of admiration.

CONGRATULATING STEVE STAMAN ON RECEIPT OF THE FNB COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

**HON. DANIEL MEUSER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to recognize Steve Staman of First National Bank of Pennsylvania on receiving the FNB Community Spirit Award.

Each year, the First National Bank of Pennsylvania presents the FNB Community Spirit Award to an employee who provides excellent service to customers and contributes positively to their community through charitable endeavors. FNB selects two recipients from each region and donates \$4,000 to a charity of their choice.

Mr. Staman serves as a Regional Commercial Loan Manager serving Berks, Schuylkill, Lancaster and York Counties. A founding Board Member and dedicated volunteer for the North Museum of Nature and Science, Mr. Staman has devoted countless hours to the museum's governance and development. He has also been active in the Lancaster Rotary Club since 1996, most recently serving as their Paul Harris Fellow. As a community-focused employee, Mr. Staman often assists FNB's local efforts including wrapping gifts for Toys for Tots and participating in the Coats for Kids Telethon at WGAL. Whenever his community is in need, Mr. Staman answers the call.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Steve Staman on this great honor and thank him for his dedication to the betterment of our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW ST. JAMES HOSPITAL IN HORNELLE, NEW YORK

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the dedication of the new St. James Hospital in Hornell, New York.

St. James Hospital was founded in 1890 and has provided healthcare services to residents in the Hornell and surrounding communities for one hundred and thirty years. It has grown and changed over the years into the full-service hospital it is today.

The hospital is an affiliate of the University of Rochester Medical Center and provides a variety of services including a twenty-four hour emergency department, general surgery, orthopedics and rehab services, imaging and lab services and a walk-in clinic. The hospital has also partnered with various regional health care entities such as UR Medicine; Loyola Recovery Foundation and Oak Orchard Health in order to provide the best care for area residents.

During the long history of the hospital, we were glad to stand with the hospital to help with issues when they arose. We were proud

to be instrumental in keeping inpatient services here through cooperation with other stakeholders, and we are equally as proud to see this new facility come to fruition.

The new facility is a state-of-the-art hospital with emergency and surgical services, fifteen inpatient rooms, an infusion clinic, MRI services and other imaging services, a new cafeteria, gift shop and more. This eighty-seven thousand square-foot facility will be an asset and treasure in the Hornell community.

I cannot thank the doctors, medical professionals, board members, administration and other staff members enough for the work they do in the Hornell community. They have saved lives, provided excellent care for a plethora of years and we are all grateful in the Twenty-Third Congressional District of New York for the work they do each and every day. I congratulate St. James Hospital on the new facility and wish them many more years of extraordinary healthcare services.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body join me to recognize the dedication of the new St. James Hospital in Hornell, New York.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. KIM SCHRIER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I was traveling to Washington State to help officials and my constituents best prepare for and contain COVID-19 (coronavirus).

As a result, I missed Roll Call vote number 87 regarding the Cisneros Amendment to H.R. 1140. Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

I missed Roll Call vote number 88 regarding my amendment offered by Representative MUCARSEL-POWELL to H.R. 1140. This amendment would ensure that TSA officers have the proper guidance regarding prevention and protections against the coronavirus. I thank Representative MUCARSEL-POWELL for offering this amendment in my absence. Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

I missed Roll Call vote number 89 regarding the Republican Motion to Recommit on H.R. 1140. Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

I missed Roll Call vote number 90 regarding final passage of H.R. 1140. Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, on the night of March 2nd into the early morning of March 3rd, several tornadoes struck Middle Tennessee, inflicting severe damage and taking numerous lives. Most of the devastation occurred in my congressional district, the Sixth District of Tennessee, including my hometown, Cookeville, TN.

After careful consideration, my family and I returned home to Cookeville, TN, on March

3rd so that we could meet with local officials and first responders to assess the damage for ourselves and lend a helping hand to our friends and neighbors wherever it might be needed. Because of our decision to return home, I was absent for votes today.

I missed Roll Call vote number 87. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed Roll Call vote number 88. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed Roll Call vote number 89. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed Roll Call vote number 90. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

#### RIGHTS FOR TRANSPORTATION SECURITY OFFICERS ACT OF 2020

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2020*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in strong support of H.R. 1140, the Rights for Transportation Security Officers Act of 2020, which will create civil service protections for TSA employees that are long overdue.

H.R. 1140, mandates the conversion of all covered employees and positions within the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to the provisions of title 5, United State Code.

The bill represents a longstanding priority for Chairman THOMPSON, the bill's author, and my own as a former chair of the Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation Security to extend the rights and protections afford to all federal government employees to TSA personnel.

Several versions of the bill have been introduced over the past decade, but this Congress is the first time the bill has received overwhelming, bipartisan support, with 236 cosponsors including 10 Republicans.

The legislation curtails TSA's broad authorities to create and control its personnel systems, instead requiring TSA to abide by the provisions of title 5 which regulate personnel systems for most Federal agencies.

The bill would provide TSA employees with the workforce protections and benefits available to most other Federal workers.

The bill sets forth transition rules to protect the rate of pay and other rights of TSA employees during a transition to title 5.

The bill also requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to consult with the appropriate labor organizations to carry out the transition.

This bill does not affect prohibitions against disloyalty and asserting the right to strike against the federal government.

The bill also extends the timeline for the transition from 60 days to a more realistic 180 days, and it contains language to protect employees with grievances or disciplinary actions pending during the transition.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 people were killed in a series of coordinated terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The attacks resulted in the creation of the Transportation Security Administration, which was designed to prevent similar attacks in the future by removing the responsibility for transportation security from private entities.

The Aviation and Transportation Security Act, passed by the 107th Congress and signed on November 19, 2001, established TSA just 2 months following the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The urgent need to provide a response to the available security threat was facing meant that much of the work to provide administrative structure and integration measures that would have woven in the civil service protections now be added did not occur at that time.

The TSA's mission is to protect the nation's transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce.

The work of the TSA is a frontline Department of Homeland Security and it is not easy—it can in fact be very dangerous.

Like many of my colleagues, I recall the shooting incident at LAX that killed Gerardo Hernandez, who became the first TSA officer killed in the line of duty; and the machete attack at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport that resulted in injuries to Senior Transportation Security Officer Carol Richel.

These incidents only highlight the difficult work that the men and women of the TSA must perform each day to keep our nation's airports and flights safe.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) supports several key parts of the U.S. coronavirus response.

The TSA is responsible for: enforcing the travel restrictions for all flights that are carrying individuals who have recently traveled from China; notifying passengers and travelers of risks of contracting the virus; and coordinating with air carriers and airports to discuss government actions and seek input (TSA).

Allegations about mismanagement, wasteful procedures, retaliation against whistleblowers, low morale, and security gaps within the Agency are causes for concern.

TSA has consistently struggled with low morale across the workforce, ranking 303 out of 305 government agencies in 2016.

Low morale has a nexus to the high turnover rate within the ranks of Transportation Security Officers (TSOs).

TSOs represent 70 percent of the TSA workforce, yet have been denied full collective bargaining rights, whistleblower protections, and opportunities to effectively raise issues in dispute to an independent third party, such as the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Additionally, TSOs are subject to a pay and performance system that does not track with the General Services (GS) wage system, the primary wage system for Federal workers.

It is past time to make the changes provided by H.R. 1140, so the TSA workforce is treated equally to other federal employees with the power to advance and expand their opportunities as government employees.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 1140.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, with yesterday's storms in Texas, my early morning post-election day flight to Washington was delayed, preventing my arrival before the

coronavirus bill vote. Had I been present, I would have voted for H.R. 6074, which I strongly support. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 86.

HONORING THE BALLSTON SPA  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
POST 358 ON THEIR CENTENNIAL  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Ms. STEFANK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ballston Spa Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 358 on their 100th anniversary.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) is a nonprofit veterans service organization that traces its roots back to the Spanish-American War of 1898. Veterans returning home following the war in 1902 found themselves with little or no support from the government, even those with severe wounds and permanent disabilities. From this vacuum emerged the VFW, whose membership now stands at more than 1.6 million. The VFW made significant contributions to the establishment of the Veterans Administration and continues to advocate strongly for veterans to this day. At the local level, each post makes a positive impact on the broader community. Post 358 sponsors and contributes to many local charitable events and organizations including elementary school literacy programs, Memorial Day Parades, junior baseball leagues and the Brookside Museum. They maintain strong friendships with annual barbeques and outings for members, while supporting each other in times of need.

The VFW's vision is to ensure "veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country." I echo this sentiment and will continue to work with all veterans' groups to realize that vision. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate President Karen Shea and all the members of VFW Post 358 on this milestone and thank them for their century-long tradition of service to North Country veterans.

TRIBUTE TO CONSTANCE  
SEYMOUR ULRICH

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Constance Seymour Ulrich, who passed away at the age of 87 on February 29, 2020. Connie, as she was known, was a loving wife and mother and she will be deeply missed.

Connie was born in Eugene, Oregon on March 22, 1932, the first daughter of Darle and Vada Belle Seymour. Her parents owned the iconic Seymour's Cafe in downtown Eugene by the University of Oregon Campus. She grew up in Eugene, attending grade

school near the MacKenzie River in Vida, Oregon where her father owned Heavens Gate Cabins. After the war, she and her family moved back to Eugene and she attended Roosevelt Junior High and then Eugene High School, graduating with the Class of 1950. Connie attended the University of Oregon, majoring in Music and was a proud member of the Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority.

After college, she moved down to San Francisco where she ultimately joined American Airlines as a Stewardess. It was while working for the airlines that she met her future husband, Edward "Duke" Ulrich. They soon married and immediately transferred to Kansas City, Missouri and subsequently to Chicago, Illinois. She was then excited to return to California where they settled in Sunnysvale, the heart of Silicon Valley. They raised their two children, Gregory and Linda and resided there for 47 years.

Connie, blessed with a beautiful soprano voice, loved music and would frequently burst into an operatic solo. She enjoyed horseback riding as a young girl, and loved all animals, especially cats and dogs. I had the good fortune of getting to know Connie through Linda who was an integral part of my DC staff for many years. I can tell you that Connie had an infectious zest for life and a sparkle that drew people to her. I will long remember her sense of fun and humor which so clearly live on through her daughter.

Connie's husband, Duke, predeceased her in death, as did her son Gregory, and more recently her sister, Kathryn Seymour of Eugene. Connie is survived by Linda and son-in-law John "JY" Yeagley of Vienna, Virginia. A celebration of her life will be held in McLean, Virginia. She will make Alta Mesa Memorial Park in Palo Alto her final resting place and will join her husband and son. I extend my heartfelt condolences to my dear friend Linda and to all those who knew Connie. Although she may no longer be with us, she will continue to have a lasting impact on the lives of her family and community.

RECOGNIZING THE PLEASANT  
PLAINS GIRLS BASKETBALL  
TEAM ON WINNING THE ILLINOIS  
2A STATE TITLE

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the Pleasant Plains High School girls' basketball team on winning the 2020 Class 2A state title.

Last Saturday, at Redbird Arena in Normal, Illinois, the Pleasant Plains Cardinals defeated the two-time defending champion Chicago Marshall Commandos in a performance dominated by Pleasant Plain's defensive efforts. The Cardinals held Chicago Marshall to 32 percent shooting and forced 12 turnovers in the game, winning by a final score of 43-37. The Cardinals victory was not without drama, as the Cardinal's allowed a 13-point fourth-quarter lead dwindle to just 1-point, but on the strength of strong senior leadership, the Cardinals were able to seal the game and bring a state championship home to Pleasant Plains.

For the first time in program history, Pleasant Plains girls' basketball won the IHSA state championship. Pleasant Plains' newfound success on the hardwood is a testament to the leadership of Coach TJ Fraase and the determination of the young women he coaches.

The Pleasant Plains girls' basketball team has made all of central Illinois proud with their accomplishments this season, finishing with a 28-3 record. Each girl's commitment to their team and their community is truly inspiring. Congratulations to Coach Fraase and the Pleasant Plain's Cardinals for their remarkable state championship win.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY AS-  
SISTANCE ACT

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO  
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Northern Mariana Islands Coronavirus Emergency Assistance Act which would provide \$100 million to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to respond to the severe loss of revenues for government operations resulting from the coronavirus' impact to our tourism industry. The funds will help avert the disruption of essential health and other public services to the people of my isolated district.

The coronavirus outbreak has resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and disrupted commerce worldwide but its impact has hit tourism-dependent jurisdictions like the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands particularly hard. Major hotels have less than 30 percent occupancy. Airlines serving our islands have cut routes. As a result, less funds will be available to provide health and other public services for the people of my district. Our Commonwealth's governor, Ralph Torres, declared a state of significant emergency on January 29 and implemented across-the-board budget cuts and austerity measures including a 20 percent cut to teachers' salaries and a 4-day school week. Last week, Acting Governor Arnold Palacios extended the state of emergency for another 30 days. Today, Governor Torres declared a price freeze on food, water, clothing, emergency supplies as well as fuel. Due to forces beyond our control, the people of my district are facing an emergency that requires me as their sole representative in Congress to act now and provide emergency assistance measures to ensure their health and safety.

Yesterday, the House passed an \$8 billion emergency supplemental funding bill that will help every part of our country respond to the coronavirus. However, these funds cannot be used to support general government operations such as public education. This is why I am introducing the Northern Mariana Islands Coronavirus Emergency Assistance Act to provide \$100 million in fiscal support to ensure all members of my community, especially our seniors and children, can continue to access the care and education essential to their health, safety and families' well-being.

The bill is fully paid for using sales from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve which was valued at an estimated \$42 billion according to the Government Accountability Office.

I urge my colleagues to support Northern Mariana Islands Coronavirus Emergency Assistance Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, on March 5, 2020, I was unable to be present for Roll Call vote number 87 on agreeing to the amendment offered by Rep. CISNEROS of California to the “Rights for Transportation Security Officers Act of 2020” (H.R. 1140). Had I been present, I would have voted “YEA.”

I was also unable to be present for Roll Call vote number 88 on agreeing to the amendment offered by Rep. MUCARSEL-POWELL of Florida [on behalf of Rep. SCHRIER of Washington] to H.R. 1140. Had I been present, I would have voted “YEA.”

Additionally, I was unable to be present for Roll Call vote number 89 regarding the Motion to Recommit on H.R. 1140. Had I been present, I would have voted “NAY.”

Finally, I was unable to be present for Roll Call vote number 90 on agreeing to final passage of H.R. 1140, “Rights for Transportation Security Officers Act of 2020.” Had I been present, I would have voted “YEA.”

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF  
ATTORNEY STEVE FARBER

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Congressman ED PERLMUTTER, Congressman JASON CROW, and Congressman JOE NEGUSE, to recognize the life and achievements of Steve Farber who passed away on Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

Steve’s life was the quintessential example of the American dream. Raised in North Denver, he overcame humble beginnings in order to found one of the city’s most renowned law firms, along with the help of his childhood best friends Norm Brownstein and Jack Hyatt. Steve’s influence is seen everywhere in Denver, from helping negotiate with the City of Denver to make Denver International Airport a hub for United Airlines to securing funds for major highway projects. Steve represented some of the city’s most popular sports teams, and was the key influencer who secured a new stadium for the Denver Broncos.

However, even as Steve built a successful business, he never forgot the importance of helping others. He supported innumerable charitable organizations and philanthropic work. In fact, one of his special causes was educating the public about the life-saving benefits of organ donation. Many years ago, when Mr. Farber was diagnosed with kidney disease that required him to undergo an organ trans-

plant, he realized the devastating toll that patients faced while waiting on transplant lists. With the kind of single-minded grit and determination that he was well known for, Mr. Farber started the American Transplant Foundation in Denver to help save lives and support transplant patients and their families. A decade later, the organization is credited with bringing together almost 500 organ donors and recipients.

Steve was an open and accessible friend to all. An active Democrat, he was an integral force in the party for years. But countless Republicans also called him friend. On a personal note, Steve was one of the first political activists to support me in my career, and has been a trusted friend and confidant throughout my career.

Steve was a one-of-a-kind Denverite; everyone knew him and respected him. He worked alongside national leaders, local mayors, corporate executives and everyday citizens just the same. His friends and colleagues remember him as a “legend” and a “giant.” He was all that and more. He was a beloved husband for 48 years as well as a devoted father to 3 sons and grandfather to 6 precious grandchildren.

Steve Farber’s hands have left an indelible imprint on the state, and his legacy will live on. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family, his friends and colleagues in Denver’s legal community and all Coloradans who mourn this terrible loss.