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RECOGNIZING BILL GAERTNER

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

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill Gaertner for receiving the distinguished St. Dismas Award for his work through the Gatekeepers Re-Entry Program in Hagerstown, Maryland.

Gatekeepers is a program that addresses one of the top needs in our criminal justice system: support for returning citizens.

Today, 90 percent of incarcerated people get released into their own communities, but many struggle to find the resources and support to thrive.

A returning citizen himself, Bill was 70 years old when he was released from prison. He started the Gatekeepers organization when he realized the challenges those released from prison face as they reenter society.

Gatekeepers aims to provide a connection to resources so folks could be successful as they transition back into their communities.

We should all be working toward a more just criminal justice system.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Bill Gaertner on this much-deserved award for his work to support justice-impacted communities.

RECOGNIZING HEROISM OF ROBERT TARLETON AND EDWARD RYER

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

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroism of two New Jersey State troopers, Trooper Robert Tarleton and State Police Lieutenant Edward Ryer.

On March 2, Trooper Tarleton was stopped and talking with a driver on I-287 in Bridgewater, New Jersey, when a tractor-trailer ran off the road, hit a structure, and burst into flames.

Trooper Tarleton immediately ran toward the scene, where he met Lieutenant Ryer, who was off-duty but had stopped to help.

With no thought to their personal safety, they grabbed the incapacitated driver from the wreckage, dragging him to safety seconds before the truck exploded.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Trooper Tarleton and Lieutenant Ryer for their selfless actions that saved a man's life.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the everyday acts of heroism by our law enforcement officers that may not make the news or be captured on a body cam, as this one was.

We call them when we need help, and no matter how dangerous the situation, they always come. We are grateful.

TIME TO RAISE ENDOMETRIOSIS AWARENESS AND FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MALINOWSKI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Iowa (Ms. FINKENAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FINKENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

Ms. FINKENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent the great State of Iowa and the First Congressional District.

We have been getting a lot of great things done here in the House, working across the aisle and moving a lot of bipartisan bills forward since I got sworn in over a year ago. It has been an honor to get to represent my district and have its back every day.

In the middle of all of this, I happen to have gotten engaged a couple of months ago to my very kind and supportive fiancé, who is sitting up there in the gallery right now. He has been there through so much of it, and I am grateful every day.

You see, we are very much looking forward to one day starting our life together and are talking about raising a family and doing it in Iowa and how much that means to us.

So it would surprise most folks to know that just about 4 weeks ago, on a Friday after votes, I was back where I stay in D.C., sitting on my bed, doubled over in pain, googling hysterectomies.

It was a pain familiar to me, stabbing in my lower left abdomen, and a tight pain like two fists clenched together in a vise grip in my lower back.

I know this pain well because I have been experiencing it intermittently for over the past decade because I have a condition called endometriosis. I have had this most of my adult life.

I was diagnosed at a young age, luckily, at the early age of 18. See, a lot of women don't get an accurate diagnosis until much later in life.

Endometriosis is a very painful condition where the tissue that normally lines the uterus grows outside and can even attach to organs and nerves. Endometriosis is also the number one cause of hysterectomies for women ages 30 to 35.

I have already had two surgeries, laparoscopies, where they went in and cut off or burnt off the tissue. I have white-knuckled my way through more flights, events, and days knocking on doors than I can count.

There are so many women out there who have been told that the stabbing pain in your lower left abdomen is nor-

mal, or they are told that the tightness in their lower back that they are doubled over with in their beds is normal, but none of that is normal.

On this particular day, 4 weeks ago, I felt like I had enough. So I sat there, frustrated at the prospect of more delays in the airport in severe pain. I was looking at some of the most extreme options that are out there that would mean I couldn't even have children.

And to be honest with you, I just got frustrated because it shouldn't be this hard. It should be more well known, and there should be more options for treatment.

As I was looking up hysterectomies, I came across a place called the Endometriosis Foundation of America, and their website was full of information, some that I didn't even know as somebody who has been living with this for over 10 years, like the fact that endometriosis affects 1 in 10 women worldwide and an estimated 7 to 10 million in the United States alone, or that it is the leading cause of infertility, but there is no known cure.

You see, when I was looking up hysterectomies, the reason there are not more options, or options are slow to come by is because it is also one of the least-funded diseases and conditions by Congress, by the National Institutes of Health.

So once I decided to start talking about this, the number of people, whether it is their staff who has it, or their sister who has it, or possibly somebody they work with every day, or people they have met on the campaign, I mean, it just goes on and on, the number of people this touched, the women who have it and the men and women who love them.

I was also reminded, as I decided to look into this, how lucky I am. You see, I am lucky that I had a mom who believed me, who believed my pain, and good health insurance from my dad's union, where we could go to doctor after doctor after doctor until finally somebody said: "Hey, she might have this. We better take a look at it." That is when, again, I was able to be diagnosed.

I am lucky to have great support from my staff and others. But there are so many women across the United States who don't have that support.

When I decided to talk about this just a few weeks ago, I was actually getting my hair trimmed, and my hairdresser heard me say the word "endometriosis." She looked at me, and she said: Do you have it?

I said: Yes, I have it.

And she said: Well, right now, I am feeling like I am being stabbed in my lower left abdomen.

I said: Yes, I know that pain.

She was working three jobs, and she is dealing with it every day. It is something where she doesn't have the luxury to not show up. Many women don't. You just push through it, and you get through that pain day in and day out.

□ 1230

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STEVENS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the tribute of my colleague a few moments ago for law enforcement.

One of the things that arose out of the evil hatred that brought about 9/11's attacks was people began to appreciate our military again and began to appreciate our first responders again. That was a very welcome development. And it seems that in recent years so much of that respect and admiration has been clouded by false allegations against some law enforcement. So it is great to hear other colleagues talk about the importance of our law enforcement and the role they play.

Unfortunately, what many consider to be the greatest law enforcement agency or department in the world has been badly clouded by bad actors within the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I know U.S. Attorney Durham is investigating. We haven't seen any results come from that at this point. We have just seen terribly inappropriate if not criminal conduct from FBI agents in recent years that resulted in no punishment.

We had Christopher Wray, the director of the FBI, before our committee recently. I questioned him about the FBI agent who falsified information to submit to the FISA court, in essence, changing the information that said Carter Page did work for our intelligence agency to saying he did not, and instead of the director punishing him, he was allowed to resign. That is not hardly cleaning up criminal conduct.

The people that swore to applications and affidavits before the FISA court in order to get warrants to spy upon Carter Page—Papadopoulos—the Trump campaign was obviously the goal. We haven't seen people punished, but the reputation of the FBI and those good FBI agents who do enforce and follow and properly investigate the law, they suffered. It is going to take, obviously, a different director of the FBI in order to clean up the FBI and get their reputation back.

Simply allowing people to resign or retire when from all appearances they have engaged in criminal conduct when they are supposed to be investigating criminals, that is not enough. To deny and to turn the other cheek when you find out about improprieties within your department, that is not enough.

As Christians, we believe in what Jesus taught about turning the other cheek or loving your enemy, but there is a different role for Christians when they are in government, and that does not mean ignoring criminal improprieties; it means, like Romans 13 talks

about, if you do evil, you are supposed to be afraid because the government was not given the sword in vain. It is supposed to punish evildoers. And that is one of the roles.

We are supposed to have good oversight in Congress, and the FBI had been allowed to devolve into great problems here in Washington, and not just in Washington, but even working for the District of Columbia. The agent, possibly agents, that helped cover up for the Awan brothers further cast great clouds over the reputation of the FBI, but here again, that is in Washington.

Across the country, around the world we have good FBI agents. But when my very dear friend, brother, Philip Haney was found with a gunshot wound to his chest out in California, I wish I were comforted when we got word that FBI agents were being sent to assist Amador County in the investigation. I don't know which agents were sent. I don't know if they were good FBI or FBI like Strzok and Page and McCabe and others who had no problem being political and being dishonest in their jobs.

I know Inspector General Horowitz has come out with more information about another investigation, but the manner in which he did a great job of finding so many improprieties and then came to conclusions completely opposite of what the fact findings were is a bit disturbing.

We need the FBI cleaned up. We need the reputation back. But it needs to come back not through cover-ups like it appears to me has been going on in recent years, but from actually cleaning out those who have been abusing their authority.

We are supposed to be taking up the issue of a couple of provisions. The PATRIOT Act section 215 is coming up, fortunately, for sunset. We should be taking up the issue of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act court, the FISA court. But when we address that, when it has come up, when we have had private discussions with Federal authorities, those of us on the Judiciary Committee in the past, going back to my first year here, 2005, we have been assured, this is FISA, this is the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The purpose is to help us go after foreigners who are known terrorists or are foreigners who have relationships with known terrorist organizations. That is who we are going after.

The only time we were assured years ago that we may pick up an American citizen is if they are in contact with known foreign terrorists or known foreign terrorist organizations, otherwise, we don't even pick them up. And we find out now years later, those were lies. The "F" in FISA stands for foreign, but what we have come to find out through the FBI dishonesty in pursuing the Trump campaign was that actually they go after American citizens on a regular basis. It is a regular thing. They use the FISA court to spy

I know there are so many women hearing this today who may be hearing their pain described for the very first time, and that is why I want to make sure that I give a voice to them today and say that it is okay to talk about this. That is why I decided to do what I am doing today.

See, I am in this position with a platform as a Member of Congress, and I can talk about this important issue that touches so many women across the U.S.

To be honest with you, I didn't say anything for years because I was afraid that people would think I was weak, that I couldn't do my job, but that is not true. I show up every day; I have done it for the last decade. I have represented my State and my District well, and it is not weak to talk about it.

In fact, the women who are living with it every day, they are strong as heck. It is time that people across the country know about what this is.

Every day, women are pushing through their pain and living their lives. They are not weak; they are strong.

And I am not standing here alone because once I started talking about this with my colleagues, I found out how many other Members of Congress are touched by this or know people who have this.

Again, we found out about sisters, comms directors they work with. In fact, even just this morning, after I started talking about it, there was another Congressman who came up to me and said his wife has it. As I talked about it more in my personal life, I have also met more women who struggle with endometriosis.

So I am standing here today with them and in support of them and their pain. And today, at the beginning of this Endometriosis Awareness Month, we are launching the very first Endometriosis Caucus.

Through this caucus, this bipartisan caucus, we are going to raise awareness with the public and in Congress to get more funding and the kind of support that this disease deserves. We need to end the stigma around endometriosis and bring more attention to this condition affecting millions of women, their families, and their friends.

Today, I ask my colleagues in Congress, and everyone watching, to join me in this movement, to join this caucus. We have to up endo funding, up endo research, and up endo awareness.

It is too important, and there are too many women across the United States and worldwide who deal with this every day to be ignored for far too long.

Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak here today about this important issue.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.