

being the first secular parliamentary democracy in the Muslim world. Azerbaijan was also among the first states to grant women the right to vote. This stands as a testament to the Islamic world of the universal validity of democratic aspirations, and that self-government and the respect for individual rights is not inimical to their traditions.

Unfortunately, Azerbaijani independence was soon snuffed out by totalitarian USSR, which, not unlike Russia under Vladimir Putin, sought to spread values much different to those espoused by the fledgling Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan regained its independence and was recognized by the United States.

Today, Azerbaijan remains a close partner to the United States and our allies. Not only has Azerbaijan been an integral part of our efforts in Afghanistan, but it has also been an excellent partner in the wider war on terror. It is also noteworthy that as a Muslim country, Azerbaijan enjoys strong relations with the Jewish community and maintains a strong friendship with our ally Israel. Finally, Azerbaijan is a critical energy provider for Europe, playing an important role helping our allies there diversify their energy supply away from a domineering Russia.

With this partnership and Azerbaijan's commitment to our friendship in mind, I would encourage my colleagues to join me today in honoring Azerbaijan on its Republic Day.

IN MEMORY OF FORMER
CONGRESSMAN SAM JOHNSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life of a trusted colleague, dear friend, proud Texan, and true patriot, former Congressman Sam Johnson.

What impressed me the most is that, after serving in the Air Force during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, Sam Johnson did not disappear into what would have been a well-deserved retirement. His love for his country and affinity for public service led to a fruitful career in the House of Representatives. Known for his tenacity as a legislator and shrewdness as a statesman, Sam Johnson certainly left his mark on this institution. As senior members of the Texas Congressional Delegation, he and I made progress together on important issues that will benefit our home state for years to come.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Texas Congressional Delegation, I'd like to extend my sincere condolences to Sam Johnson's family, friends, and loved ones during these trying times.

NEW SCANDAL CONFIRMATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, every day new evidence is revealed

of the scandalous government spying on the Donald Trump Campaign and the rogue FBI and intelligence agencies conspiracy to sabotage the Donald Trump Presidency, I include in the RECORD today's revelations in the The Washington Times by Rowan Scarborough entitled 'Tail wagging the dog':

Not much was going on in the Michael Flynn probe until The Washington Post and a leaker reenergized the FBI, according to a newly disclosed transcript of closed-door testimony by former bureau Director James B. Comey.

The FBI had filled out the paperwork to end the Flynn-Russia probe, but Mr. Comey halted the closing in early January 2017. Transcripts emerged of the incoming White House national security adviser talking by phone with Kremlin envoy Sergey Kislyak.

The retired three-star Army general and Mr. Kislyak talked about not overreacting to economic sanctions that President Obama imposed on Dec. 31, 2016, in retaliation for Moscow's election interference.

Mr. Comey went to work. He provided top-secret call intercept material to Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper, who told Mr. Obama. At a Jan. 5 White House meeting, the FBI chief and Mr. Obama again discussed that Flynn had talked with Russians during the transition. There is no law, per se, against such communications.

And there things stood, Mr. Comey said in his most extensive narrative of what he did in the pivotal January time frame when the Obama team was leaving the White House to Donald Trump.

HONORING JUDY GEARHART

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and thank Judy Gearhart for her leadership at the International Labor Rights Forum. Judy, the executive director of ILRF since March 2011, will retire in June. While she will leave that position, I know that she will never leave the fight to protect the rights of workers around the world.

In 2013, 1,134 garment workers were killed and 2,500 injured as the 9-story Rana Plaza factory collapsed—the deadliest garment factory disaster in history. The vast majority of those killed and injured as a result of corporate neglect were women. Like the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in the United States, the disaster spurred activists to push for reforms. Judy Gearhart helped lead the fight and won agreements with the garment industry to make improvements—although much progress remains to be made. I had the privilege to work with Judy in the aftermath of Rana Plaza and have continued to support her and ILRF on international labor rights campaigns since then. Like so many others, I have relied on her expertise, her experience and her passion for improving the lives of working women, men and children around the world.

Judy has made it her practice not to promote herself, but she focused on lifting up the Labor Rights Defenders who are organizing and mobilizing every day, often at great risk to themselves. She has brought workers' leaders to meet with members of Congress, the Administration, the media and the public—making sure that they have the opportunity to tell

their own stories in their own words. She has spotlighted those who face violent attacks, jail and worse for their courage in speaking out, heroes like Tola Moeun in Cambodia, Mahmud Rajab in Uzbekistan and Gaspar Matalaev in Turkmenistan. Because of Judy and ILRF, there are networks of organizers and advocates around the world who are able to provide needed assistance to those fighting for labor rights.

Judy's work exemplifies the concept of intersectionality. She has seen that there are many different forces used to oppress the rights of workers, and she has worked to bring together those fighting them. Laborers in the fields don't just face poor working conditions but live in societies rife with poverty and racism. Children in the tobacco fields are not just being exploited for their labor but are subjected to environmental and chemical hazards. Women in sweatshops are not just subjected to poverty-level wages, they are often the target of gender-based violence and harassment. As a result of Judy's leadership, last year, the International Labour Organization adopted a convention and recommendations on violence and harassment in the world of work.

Judy Gearhart has done the work, at UNICEF's monitoring and evaluation office, working on women's rights and democratization efforts in Mexico, with the ILO's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor in Honduras, on developing research and training programs for workers at Social Accountability International, and, of course, at ILRF. Not only does she put her knowledge to work, she shares that knowledge through her teaching. She has served as a tutor for many of us, not just on labor policies but, more importantly, about the facts on the ground. And, more formally, Judy is a long-time adjunct professor at Columbia University's School for International Affairs, where she teaches students about international human rights and development policy.

Judy Gearhart and ILRF have stood with cocoa workers in Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana, cotton workers in Uzbekistan, garment workers in Bangladesh and fruit workers in Honduras. Judy has provided guidance and inspiration to those struggling for fair pay and just treatment for their labors. For all she has done, and for all she will do in the future, I want to express my deep appreciation and gratitude.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF SAM
FELTON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the extraordinary life of Samuel "Sam" Felton, Jr., one of Lorain County's most honored, visible, and tireless veterans, and a valued father figure for his entire community.

Sam Felton was the only person from Lorain County to win the Navy Cross in Vietnam. He never rested on his laurels and built a legacy of service to Lorain, Ohio. He served three tours of duty during the Vietnam War with the U.S. Marine Corps from December 1968 to August 1971. While serving in Vietnam, he received both the Navy Cross for heroism and

the Purple Heart for being wounded in combat.

The Navy Cross is the second-highest decoration for valor in combat in the Marines and U.S. Navy; fewer than 500 were awarded during the Vietnam War. Sam earned it in June 1969 by valiantly rescuing three wounded Marines during an 11-day battle near An Hoa, Qung Nam Province.

Fifty years later, in 2019, Sam was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame for his contributions to fellow veterans, the community, and our nation.

Sam owned a karate academy and billiard parlors and worked at U.S. Steel, but his heart and soul was in assisting fellow veterans. In 45 years of veteran advocacy, Sam supported fellow veterans as Commander and Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans Lorain Chapter 20; Ohio Chairman of the Advisory Committee of Valor Home (a nonprofit organization providing services for homeless veterans); delegate to the Lorain Veterans Council; member, First Marine Division Association; member, National Association of Black Veterans; co-founder and three time president of the Lorain Veterans Council and past commander of AMVETS. Sam received the 2006 Vietnam Service Multiple Medals Award, the Ohio Secretary of State's 2007 Outstanding Veterans Award and was named the Lorain Ohio Veteran of the Year in 2010.

In addition to dedicating himself to veterans, Sam advocated for the youth of Lorain County. He founded the Sam Felton Athletic Club and Youth Center, the Jackie Jones Felton Scholarship Fund for college-bound students, co-founded the Samuel Felton Jr. Community Development Program, and worked with kids and veterans interested in musical outreach.

In 2018, the Lorain City Council named a section of East 36th Street "Sgt. Samuel L. Felton Jr. Blvd." to honor Sam for his service to the City of Lorain and its people. For all these awards and acclamations Sam received, he will be remembered admirably by the thousands of people to whom he ministered by providing peer support to fellow veterans, getting them Veterans Affairs services, or even just driving veterans to their appointments. Truly, Sam was a national hero, and a hero of Lorain, Ohio.

We offer Sam Felton's family and friends our prayers and deepest hopes that they find comfort in the wonderful memories and lasting deeds of his precious life. May they find joy in understanding what his legacy meant to each person he touched and his deep dedication to building the people of Lorain forward.

CONGRATULATING ST. ANDREW
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL
2068

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate the St. Andrew Knights of Columbus Council 2068 on reaching its 100th anniversary. The council was founded on May 23, 1920 under the leadership of Grand Knight FJ Foley and chaplain William J. O'Callahan. For a century, the St. Andrew Knights of Columbus Council has

served its religious community and the Waynesboro region at large.

The council's community service includes participating in annual golf tournaments that benefit Waynesboro Human Services, sponsoring monthly "Bring Your Mug to Church" Sundays to foster fellowship among parishioners and support parish activities, as well as providing college scholarships to children of council members. Additionally, the council has participated in the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Adopt-a-Highway program for more than 30 years.

The St. Andrew Knights of Columbus Council 2068 has made an indelible mark on the Waynesboro community. On behalf of the 13th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I thank this organization for its steadfast commitment to our region and congratulate the council on reaching its 100th anniversary.

PROXY VOTING LAWSUIT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I was grateful to be added as a plaintiff in the important lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of proxy voting initiated by Republican Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY, Whip STEVE SCALISE, and Conference Chair LIZ CHENEY. Congressman MORGAN GRIFFITH, a graduate of Washington and Lee University Law School, of Virginia presented the extraordinary legal arguments clearly documenting proxy voting as unconstitutional.

Allowing Congress to vote remotely is simply irresponsible. Although we are currently in a crisis, this Wuhan Virus pandemic is no excuse to forget our Constitution which clearly says that we have to have a majority of Members present for a quorum to do business.

If Congress was able to vote on the House Floor over these last few months without putting lives at risk, surely Members can conduct official business in a safe manner that follows guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control going forward. During the War of 1812, the Capitol Building itself was burned, but Congress members still met in Washington.

The constitutionality of this new rule must be questioned. Our constitution says that we must have a majority to vote and yet this new rule would allow a few to vote for all, that is simply not right. Many Americans are getting back to work as we recover from this Wuhan Virus pandemic, Congress should be no different.

GOOD SAMARITAN MENSTRUAL
PRODUCTS ACT AND PERIOD
POVERTY AWARENESS RESOLU-
TION

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce two pieces of legislation in recognition of this week being National Period Poverty Awareness Week, and today being Menstrual Hygiene Day.

Madam Speaker, more than half of the U.S. population will likely menstruate every month for decades of their lives. Unfortunately, studies have shown that 1 in 4 women and girls report that they struggle to afford menstrual products. This lack of menstrual products is often called "period poverty," and it can adversely affect a person's health and well-being. It is further heartbreaking that 1 in 5 women and girls report missing work or school due to a lack of access to menstrual products. Period poverty, in fact, is linked with self-perception and mental health. It also exacerbates the cycle of poverty by further marginalizing those who menstruate, causing them to withdraw from daily life, forego pay, or miss educational opportunities. It also impacts one's physical health, as the risk of infections increase with use of substitutes, such as paper towels or toilet paper, or because of an inability to change products as frequently as recommended.

This is unthinkable and simply wrong. Menstrual equity—one's equitable access to menstrual products—is not a luxury; it is a health right, and a human right.

Of course, this period poverty existed long before the COVID-19 pandemic; but today, with over 40 million Americans now out of work due to the pandemic, the socioeconomic and health challenges of individuals facing period poverty is further enhanced and heightened.

Madam Speaker, periods do not wait for pandemics. Ultimately, menstrual products are essential to the health and economic well-being of individuals in both overcoming and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

My resolution raises awareness regarding period poverty. It also urges local, State, and Federal agencies to ensure free access to menstrual products for individuals in need during the COVID-19 response, including for essential frontline workers; students; low-income families; individuals experiencing homelessness; and incarcerated and detained individuals.

Additionally, to encourage greater donation and distribution of menstrual products to individuals who need such products, I introduced the Good Samaritan Menstrual Products Act. In times of tragedy and need, Americans have always come together in the spirit of generosity. But alas, due to certain menstrual products like tampons being considered "Class 2" medical products, such designations deter the donation of such products—out of fear of liability issues. As such, liability concerns, even for products donated in good faith, limit both the supply and availability of menstrual products, as well as individuals' choices in how their menstruation needs are met.

As such, my bill—the Good Samaritan Menstrual Products Act—would provide the liability protection for donated and distributed menstrual products that are given and received in good faith. As we strive to expand one's ability to access these products, my bill would support the generosity of those who donate and distribute these products.

Madam Speaker, as I continue to fight for menstrual equity for all, I urge my colleagues to support both pieces of legislation so we can end period poverty—once and for all.