

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, with you, to honor the heroes from the Aurora theater shooting in Colorado on July 20, 2012, and the everyday heroes who make sacrifices for their community, including those we have seen emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eight years ago today, 12 lives were taken, 70 were wounded, and hundreds more suffered emotional trauma. Yet, even in this tragedy, we saw incredible heroism that night—those who carried people to safety and cared for the gravely wounded.

We saw those who sacrificed themselves by shielding others, such as: Jonathan Blunk, John Larimer, Matt McQuinn, and Alex Teves. It is these four men who inspired you, Mr. Speaker, and me to introduce H. Res. 1051, to designate July 20 as National Heroes Day.

Today, we mourn JOHN LEWIS, another real national hero. During these trying times, everyday heroes have been particularly visible during the coronavirus pandemic where we have seen tremendous acts of selflessness and bravery.

Join me in saying thank you to the hero in your life, and let us exhibit their courage and service today and throughout the year.

PENNSYLVANIA DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize July 20 as Pennsylvania Day.

Since the inception of our Nation, Pennsylvania has played a transformative role in United States history.

In our foundational years, Pennsylvania was the site of many important battles and military milestones, like the Battle of Valley Forge in the Revolutionary War and the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War.

Pennsylvania is home to a lot of firsts, including: our Nation's first capitol, Philadelphia; the American flag sewn by Betsy Ross; and the first commercial oil well, in my district, giving birth to the modern petroleum industry.

Pennsylvania has a proud history of American craftsmanship and work ethic, from our steel mills and coal mines to farmlands and forests.

I am encouraged each and every day by Pennsylvania's rich history, and I am grateful for our industrious residents who continue to build a bright future for the Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Pennsylvania my home, today and always.

BANNING BURN PITS

(Mr. RUIZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, in 2017, my constituent, Jennifer Kepner, passed away due to pancreatic cancer connected to her exposure to burn pits during her military service in Balad, Iraq.

In her honor and the countless veterans who are sick, permanently disabled, or who have died from illnesses due to exposure to burn pits, I introduced an amendment to the NDAA to prohibit Federal funding for the military use of toxic burn pits.

My amendment was not included, but it is imperative to acknowledge the serious health risks that open-air burn pits have on our troops, yet our military still uses them to dispose of waste on the battlefield.

The EPA's website has a brochure discouraging burning household trash, because burning waste releases dioxin and other pollutants to the air and at the ground level, where they are most readily inhaled. In addition, many counties across the Nation have banned open-air trash burning because of air pollutants that pose a risk to our health.

If we can't burn trash here at home because of the health effects, why do we keep exposing our servicemembers to dioxin and other toxins and carcinogens that are released by burn pits?

We must address reducing the use of burn pits in our military.

ADDITIONAL JOBS RESTORED

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the world has been challenged over the past few months, we see success. As America recovers from the Wuhan virus pandemic, I am grateful to see job growth.

The June jobs report showed inspiring improvement. With 4.8 million jobs added, this job growth has exceeded expectations by nearly 2 million and shows the economy continues to recuperate.

In South Carolina, over 105,000 people have rejoined the workforce, and we now have over 2 million people employed in the Palmetto State. It is great to see the jobs return as small businesses work to fully recover for families.

America is resilient. I am confident, with President Donald Trump's business-savvy leadership and proven record of creating jobs, our citizens will come out of this stronger than ever.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Our sympathy to the family of Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

□ 1015

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN LEWIS

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

Mr. COHEN. Leader HOYER expressed, I think, everybody's feelings about JOHN LEWIS.

I lost a hero and a friend, a cohort in good trouble, and a colleague. It is said, when you come to the House, you sometimes walk with giants, rarely do you get to walk with a saint. JOHN LEWIS was a saint. He was heavenly. He embodied the spirit of Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi. He exhibited that in his work, his life, his votes, his advice to his colleagues.

There is no good time to die, but JOHN LEWIS lit a fire that has turned into a tremendous blaze, and I am fortunate that I have been able to feel the warmth and share it with him.

RECOGNIZING DRIVE BY HEROES IN PEARLAND, TEXAS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, over half the States in America have had a large spike in the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Sadly, my own State of Texas has had one of the highest increases in the past week.

There are lots of factors why. Most blame is laid upon youngsters age 18 to 30 because they know they have a small chance of dying, so they don't really care about social distancing.

I spent about an hour last Thursday with three amazing Pearland High School students, twins Isaiah and Stephan Torres and Jasmine Saenz. These kids care with spider webs and bracelets of submission.

On their own, they set up a nonprofit called Drive By Heroes. They dress up as Spider Man and Wonder Woman, and they have kids out of school prod their parents to drop by to see their superheroes.

The price? Food supplies for victims of COVID-19. In less than 2 weeks, these three youngsters raised 1 ton of food for the Pearland Neighborhood Center.

So, people of Pearland, southeast Texas, if you want to meet a real superhero, go to Facebook and find out where they are, or invite them to come to your home. Enjoy the pride of Texans being Texans.