

takes on even greater meaning as many are navigating isolation and distance from family and support networks.

National Recovery Month is personal for me and my family. My son, Harry, is in long-term recovery from opioid addiction. Now he is healthy, he is well, and he works now to help others who struggle with substance abuse disorder.

In his work, he reminds me that, during the pandemic, so many have it even tougher on the road to recovery. He reminds me that not all are as fortunate as we have been, and we recognize National Recovery Month for its importantly shining a light on this issue.

I call on us to dedicate more resources to support those suffering with addiction and substance use disorder to live happy, rewarding, healthy lives.

And for those suffering with substance use disorders: You are not alone. There is hope.

STAND UP FOR POLICE

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

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, no matter your political affiliations in 2001, there were no greater heroes than our first responders who risked their own lives to save their fellow citizens on 9/11. Republicans and Democrats thanked our first responders, while children across our Nation looked up to them as examples of what it meant to be heroes, to risk their own well-being in service to their fellow citizens.

Now, across the Nation, we see a stark contrast to that scene from almost 20 years ago. Radicals now seek to defund the police. They threaten the men and women who risk their lives in service to our community, and, at times, they target our officers with violence, which, in the most tragic of cases, means these officers who are also fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters never return home to their family.

I am calling on Members of Congress who have remained silent in recent months to now publicly oppose the violence against our law enforcement community so that we can put an end to the basic attacks against our first responders.

NATIONAL SUICIDE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Suicide Prevention Month.

Every year, close to 800,000 people die by suicide, leaving their family and friends to navigate the tragedy of loss. This is one death every 40 seconds.

Studies by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that sui-

cide rates are rising, and suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. for all ages.

This important month is a time to share resources and stories in an effort to shed light on this stigmatized topic. It is beneficial to learn and pay attention to the warning signs of suicide and periodically check in with friends and family members, especially during these challenging times.

Additionally, talking about suicide in an open and caring way can help those who are having suicidal thoughts. As the isolating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to grip our world, it is imperative we take our physical and mental health seriously.

I encourage everyone to educate themselves about suicide and the patient-centered resources available so we can help protect those in our communities, friends, and loved ones.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEAN). 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 yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), my good friend, great patriot, and veteran.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, as folks in the Chamber know, I have been taking some time to thank friends, family, and staff, for supporting me these 24 years as a Member of the House.

Today, before I go down the organizational chart and mention caseworkers, legislative assistants, legislative correspondents, staff assistants, schedulers, there are some outliers in my organization that I need to mention.

Mary Ellen, Mary Ellen Maxwell, and Maria Maxwell are all the same person. The Madonia family has strong roots in Springfield, Illinois, and in the Illinois Republican Party.

Mary Ellen was on the campaign staff with me in 1996. Upon our victory, she joined the congressional staff. She eventually moved away and then got married.

On returning to Illinois with Brad, she joined Team Shimkus as my campaign treasurer. Her family also grew, adding Zane and Lilly.

We continue to joke about how Governor Edgar pointed to her at an event one time and said: "Oh, you are the one who is going to go jail." Well, not only has she not gone to jail, she is a stickler for the law, keeping us both out of trouble.

Dora Rohan has spent 29 years working with me, protecting me, and being my friend. She started out as my executive assistant when I became treasurer of Madison County. As the only countywide elected Republican, I needed a confidential employee whom I could trust. Dora fit the bill and also

brought with her amazing secretarial skills, including shorthand.

Dora followed me to my congressional office and became a caseworker for the remainder of her professional career. Oh, the stories she could tell, and someday, I hope she will.

I also appreciated the times when we did travel together. These trips provided me a different perspective and insight to the goings on in my office, much to the chagrin of some of my other employees.

I have had two great legislative assistants who informally became part of my senior staff. Chris Sarley and Jordan Haverly rose to prominence on their ability to handle policy, negotiations, and the politics that arise from public policy.

They both were what we called shared staff. Because of my role as either chairman or ranking member of the Environment and Economy Subcommittee, they were my primary point person with the full committee. They also played key roles in negotiations with staff members of other offices, from Republican offices and Democrat offices.

Chris Sarley and I had a lot of legislative successes, and I could spend all my time on that. Another Illinois boy, but a Chicagolander, I was skeptical at first until I found out that he was a Sox fan, not a fan of that other team.

Chris' claim to fame is our success shepherding the Toxic Substance Control Act, commonly known as TSCA, through the legislative process and having it signed by President Obama. That piece of legislation took 5½ years.

This was the first rewrite of a major environmental law since it was passed in 1976. Praised by the chemical manufacturers and the environmental community, it is a perfect example of threading the needle to reform and update an old law.

Thank you, Chris.

Jordan is from Pennsylvania and is also in his second tour of duty with my office. He handles my subcommittee now. With Democrats in charge, we attempt to prevent overreach which is not scientifically supported and would hurt jobs in the economy. Many times doing nothing is better than doing something poorly.

Jordan has a gift for working with social media. He also has a great handle on who I am and how I would like to respond to most issues. He never lets me down.

Jordan, like my legislative director, seems to want to go down with the ship. That is loyalty, which I appreciate. He will be a great pick-up for any office.

Madam Speaker, as I have said numerous times, one is only as good as the people they have around them. These are some of the best, and I thank them.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. SHIMKUS for the wonderful tribute being paid. We will have to stand up here at some point and pay a wonderful tribute to Mr. SHIMKUS.