

would her death be a tragedy or a crime?

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HONORING THE LIFE OF SANDEEP DHALI WAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sheriff Sandeep Dhaliwal who was tragically and senselessly killed in the line of duty last year, September 27, 2019.

Deputy Dhaliwal was the first observant Sikh to serve in Harris County Sheriff's Office and was the first Sikh American in Texas to receive a policy accommodation to wear articles of faith, including his turban and beard, while serving.

His story is an American story. Born in India, he moved to Houston, Texas, at an early age with his parents. He started a successful business but felt called to serve and build better relations and understanding between the Sikh and all greater-Houston communities.

He was a beloved husband, father, and son who selflessly served others and was a role model to all who knew him. Like many of the brave men and women in law enforcement who put on the uniform to protect and serve communities across our great Nation, Deputy Sandeep Dhaliwal is a hero.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT ERIC TWISDALE

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Clay County Sheriff Sergeant Eric Twisdale who passed away due to complications from COVID-19.

Anyone who knew Sergeant Twisdale said he was committed to serving the community. Throughout his 28 years of active service, he showed that commitment and was rewarded, receiving several awards, including the Lifesaving Award in 2014 for saving a person from drowning.

He was honored as the 2015 Deputy of the Year for displaying exceptional valor while helping stop two murder suspects during a high-speed chase through several counties.

There is a common thread that runs through our Nation's law enforcement community: courage, and selfless service to others.

Sergeant Twisdale most certainly possessed both in abundance. He is survived by his children, many grandchildren, and family members.

I thank Sergeant Twisdale for his service and for keeping our community safe. He will be missed.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF MIDDLEBURG VA CLINIC

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the critical work being done by our VA health centers in Florida's Third Congressional District, and specifically to congratulate the opening of the new Middleburg VA Clinic.

On September 15, the Middleburg VA Clinic opened to patients. The clinic is vital for the health and well-being of so many veterans who call Clay County home.

Before the state-of-the-art facility opened, I introduced a bill with the entire Florida delegation that would name this clinic after Naval Chief Petty Officer Andrew Baker, a former Clay County resident and American hero who lost his life while serving our country.

During these turbulent times, we must never forget to honor those who serve and protect our fellow citizens and the Constitution from enemies both foreign and domestic.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA ON NUMBER 6 RANKING FOR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud Florida Gator. In the last "Best Colleges" edition of the U.S. News & World Report, the University of Florida was named the number 6 public university in the country. That ranking marks the fourth—I want to repeat that, that ranking marks the fourth—consecutive year the University of Florida has risen in the rankings for public universities, jumping from number 14 in 2017 to number 6 today.

UF is one of the finest research universities in the United States, attracting the best and brightest from around the great State of Florida, America, and the world.

I want to congratulate President Kent Fuchs, his staff, the faculty, student body, and the board of trustees for their collective efforts in continuing to elevate the University of Florida to higher and higher rankings.

And I can't end without saying: Go Gators.

SUPPORTING FIRST RESPONDERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and show my support for our Nation's first responders and law enforcement officials.

On September 14, we witnessed the assassination attempt of two Los Angeles County sheriff deputies in Compton, California.

Just yesterday, we saw two more attacked in Louisville. As I speak on this floor, the 31-year-old female and 24-year-old male deputies who were brutally ambushed, thankfully, have been released from the hospital.

The officers attacked yesterday, hopefully, will survive also. The support from across the country for these heroes is inspiring, even as the leftwing radicals shouted obscenities outside the hospital and yelled they hoped the officers would die.

While the President pursues noble action through peace accords in the Middle East, the Democratic Party cannot find its voice in admonishing domestic terrorists targeting our brave law enforcement officers across the country.

I stand with the President, with our law enforcement, and with the foundation of this country—respect for life,

defense of liberty, and the protection of property.

SUPPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HORSFORD). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express support for our Nation's public school systems, particularly, our K-12 institutions that are grappling with a frightening reality.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has posed an unprecedented threat to our schools and without additional further assistance, they cannot afford to take necessary safety measures to reopen.

For example, according to a recent Government Accountability Office report, 4 of 10 districts need to update or replace HVAC systems in at least half of their school buildings. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified proper ventilation as a key consideration for schools seeking to reopen safely.

Today, it has been 6 months since New York City Public Schools and many others across the Nation were shuttered. The decision to close our schools was necessary and slowed the disease's spread, saving lives.

However, I understand this was a difficult decision for many families because of the vital support services that schools provide.

Not only is the school system where young people learn, but they also serve as a vital community anchor, providing nutritional assistance, special education, teacher support, and childcare. We all want schools to reopen for our students, but it must be done safely, and that requires additional Federal resources.

In March, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES Act, were signed into law. Both measures help address the urgent challenges facing every part of our education system. These funds help educators adjust to long-term school closures, fund purchases for online learning materials, and provide a lifeline for public schools.

While the relief bills enacted so far took steps in the right direction, the magnitude of this pandemic demands more. Four months ago, the House passed the HEROES Act which will go even further. Without the HEROES Act, budget shortfalls are projected to reach nearly \$500 billion for State governments alone.

The Senate's inaction has resulted in no relief for State and local governments, which are now being forced to make deep cuts to public education. Without significant Federal funding, our schools cannot upgrade buildings, provide PPE, continue virtual or blended learning, and, ultimately, safely reopen.

As the public health crisis has worsened since the passage of the HEROES