

and deserve. That's what these young girls are: victims. The second bill improves data systems that track missing children because better information will help us find better solutions.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to end sex trafficking, and there's bipartisan support for action.

□ 1915

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER ROBERT DECKARD

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this first day of our 2014 session to pay tribute to a husband, a father, a son, and a San Antonian.

Bobby Deckard was a San Antonio police officer who died on Friday, December 20. He had come in on his day off to substitute for a colleague. He was shot in the line of duty. He was only 31 years of age.

This past Saturday, San Antonio and its citizens came together to honor Bobby's life and bid him a final farewell. Thousands of people lined the streets, and thousands of police officers from throughout the country were present as police helicopters flew in formation above the burial service, in remembrance of someone who spent 7 years of his life helping the citizens of San Antonio.

During the ceremony, San Antonio Police Chief William McManus instructed police dispatchers to retire Bobby's badge number, 0582, and every officer throughout the city heard the retirement of that badge number.

In a November email, ironically, Bobby Deckard had aspired to join the honor guard, the honor guard that, in fact, escorted his flag-draped coffin. In an email to his supervisor, he wrote that was the highest position of honor inside the department. That tells us so much about him, so much about him even as we mourn his loss. He had a positive outlook and a great personality. His humor could win anybody over.

Mr. Speaker and Members, I ask that we all take a moment to remember Bobby Deckard, police officer from San Antonio, Texas, whose name will now be added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial, the only memorial in Washington that has never been completed.

SUPPORT FAIRNESS TO VETERANS ACT

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 2906, the Fairness to Veterans Act, because I believe if anyone deserves a leg up in America, it is those who have served on our behalf.

The Fairness to Veterans Act is straightforward. It says that if any

business receives a contracting preference, then a veteran-owned small business should receive that very same preference. I call this bill Fairness to Veterans because I believe it is only fair that if we are going to be singling out certain businesses to receive special consideration for government contracts, then that same benefit should be extended to veteran-owned small businesses.

More than 250,000 servicemembers are transitioning each year from military to civilian life; 2.4 million veterans own a small business of their own. Overall, one in four veterans say they want to start a business. This bipartisan bill makes sure that we are tapping into the most highly skilled workforce in history and utilizing their unique skills to get our economy moving again.

Mr. Speaker, whether my colleagues believe there should be contracting preferences or not is not at the heart of this legislation. The question here is: Do Members believe that veterans deserve to be on a level playing field with anyone when bidding for government contracts? I believe the answer to that question is a resounding "yes." I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 2906.

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, it is cold outside, and for too many Americans who have been unemployed for too long because this Congress has failed to act, it is now a little bit harder for those Americans who are actively seeking work to get the emergency unemployment benefits that they need so that they can keep their homes warm for them and their families as they continue to seek employment.

For the 1.3 million Americans that we left behind by failing to extend emergency unemployment benefits before we left, this is the week when the check stops. This is the week when it becomes more difficult for them to keep a roof over their heads, to keep a warm environment for their families as they continue to seek employment.

Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to move forward and make sure that those benefits are continued. It is the right thing to do. It is time for this Congress to act.

CONGRATULATING FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

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

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate this year's BCS national champions, the Florida State Seminoles.

In one of the greatest championship games of the BCS era, head coach Jimbo Fisher and Heisman Trophy win-

ner Jameis Winston led the Seminoles to a thrilling, come-from-behind victory last night over the Auburn Tigers, to a 34-31 victory. With 1 minute and 11 seconds left, the Seminoles drove 80 yards to score the game-winning touchdown, thereby capping an undefeated season.

As the Representative of Florida's Second Congressional District, I could not be more proud. As the Bowl Championship Series comes to a close, the Florida State faithful can forever take pride in knowing that the last BCS title will forever reside in Tallahassee, Florida.

On behalf of the people of north and northwest Florida and Florida's Second Congressional District, I extend my congratulations to the coaches and players who helped us provide a wonderful year for the fans and such an exciting season.

Mr. UPTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. UPTON. I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman have an additional 2 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot entertain that request.

Mr. UPTON. In the gentleman's remaining time, I would just say congratulations to Florida State. We from Michigan would love to see a unanimous consent that perhaps the Seminoles could play the Spartans for a national championship, and see that occur in the next couple of months. But, congratulations. It was a great game. It kept us up watching it.

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. I thank the gentleman very much for those sentiments and that offer. We will contact the coaches and see what we can do.

Mr. UPTON. We will be ready.

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Go Noles.

VISITING NORTH KOREA IS TERRIBLE IDEA

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Dennis S. Rodman of NBA fame has announced that he and 10 or so other basketball players are going to North Korea, he said, to visit his friend, the notorious butcher and dictator, Kim Jong Un of North Korea.

Bringing American basketball to North Korea, a rogue state which has nuclear weapons, which starves its own people and imprisons them and throws them in jail, bringing American basketball there and sitting down with a dictator like Mr. Kim would be the equivalent of taking Adolf Hitler to lunch. This is really a terrible thing, a terrible idea, and it makes us gloss over the terrible suffering of the North Korean people and just ignore it and say, Well, we are going to play basketball and we are going to make this guy look legitimate.

In a rambling discussion today on one of the networks, Rodman said that