

Harpers Ferry's busiest part of the tourist season. Local, State, and Federal officials were a constant and reassuring presence for the town.

The town council and the Historic Landmarks and Planning Commissions have worked together to streamline processes and enable property owners to quickly move ahead with the restoration of the burned buildings.

This past Monday I personally visited Harpers Ferry in Jefferson County, where I live with my wife and three children, to see the progress that is being made to repair the structures.

The mayor, Greg Vaughn, was kind enough to show me around the damaged buildings and introduce me to those who were impacted by the fire. I can't tell you how encouraging it was to see how the town has come together to rebuild after the fire.

Harpers Ferry is no stranger to disaster: war, fire, floods. This is a town that endures. Today, Mr. Speaker, Harpers Ferry is still open for business, still thriving, still an elegant and evocative journey into the formative years of our Nation. I invite you to come visit.

HEROIN EPIDEMIC

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a problem that is near and dear to my heart.

Cheaper than cigarettes and more accessible than alcohol, heroin has become a plague on communities all across our country. Heroin takes a life every 3 days in the Chicago suburbs. Unfortunately, a similarly deadly trend is taking place all over our Nation.

Although heroin is not often considered a serious suburban problem, statistics show the epidemic is quickly growing. Nearly one-quarter of the people who try heroin become addicted, and heroin deaths have literally quadrupled in the United States in less than a decade.

But the statistics don't even begin to tell the whole story. As the co-chair of the Suburban Anti-Heroin Task Force in the State of Illinois, I have seen firsthand the deadly impact of these drugs.

But I still can't even begin to fathom the pain of losing one of my children to a drug overdose. I can't imagine what families throughout the country have been put through because of this terrible drug.

There is hope. Thanks to the great work of the Lake County Opioid Initiative, Live4Lali, and many other organizations in the 10th Congressional District, we have already had tremendous success saving lives with an overdose reversal aid called naloxone.

□ 1045

When used properly, naloxone helps restore breathing that has been

stopped by an overdose. First responders in Lake County, Illinois, have now saved over 56 lives in just a little over 1 year. That is 56 families who won't have to experience the same type of unbearable pain as those who have lost a loved one.

With increased access, the World Health Organization predicts that naloxone could save an additional 20,000 lives each and every year. That is why I introduced a new bipartisan piece of legislation this week with Congresswoman KATHERINE CLARK.

Our bill, Lali's Law, will help States increase access to naloxone. The bill is named in memory of Stevenson High School graduate Alex Laliberte, who, sadly, passed away from a drug overdose.

Alex, like many high school students, played sports at Stevenson High School. He did well at school. He cared about his friends. He cared about his family. But during his sophomore year of college, he began being hospitalized for what was a mysterious illness.

Unknown to his family and to the doctors, Alex had an addiction to prescription drugs and was being hospitalized for his withdrawal. He would stay in the hospital until he received his fix, leave the hospital, and repeat the cycle again and again. He continued this pattern until he died of an overdose a few days after his final exams.

The primary purpose, Mr. Speaker, of this bill, is to help fund State programs that allow pharmacists to distribute naloxone without a prescription so that we can prevent the repeat of Alex's story.

Many States use these programs to allow local law enforcement officers to carry and use naloxone, just like the success we have already seen in Lake County.

The police officers in Lake County asked to be able to carry it because they would come to a scene often faster than the paramedics. They could respond within 5 minutes and refused to sit idly by and watch these people die of an overdose.

Lali's Law is an example of what is possible when we set aside partisanship and get to work for the people that we represent. Lali's Law will bring Alex's story to the United States Congress, here, and amplify the lifesaving benefits of Live4Lali's hard work and the work that they did to pass a similar piece of legislation in the Illinois State Legislature.

It is my hope that, through this bipartisan bill, Alex's lasting legacy will include helping countless people get a second chance at recovery and saving their families from unbearable heartbreak.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan initiative and join us in the fight against heroin and prescription drug abuse. Together we can truly save lives.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Bishop Perry Thompson, Freedom Chapel International Christian Center, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Emmanuel, the God of creation, presence, and power, we honor You, the true and only wise God, as Christ and Lord and decree and declare Your principles and patterns to be the common thread through these walls and this august assembly of Representatives.

We declare this day that the Lord has made a day of excellence and cooperation and decree it to be like no other day. We remorse of all sin and shortcomings and acquiesce to the unction of the Shekinah glory of the Most High.

With expediency, deliver us from our enemies, for we flee unto Thee to hide us. Teach us to do Thy will, for Thou art our God. Thy spirit is good. Lead us into the land of uprightness.

We declare these blessings in the name of the Lord and Savior.

Amen in Jesus' name.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Ms. HAHN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HAHN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING BISHOP PERRY THOMPSON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Bishop Perry N. Thompson of Richmond, Virginia, for offering the opening prayer.

A graduate of DeVry Institute of Technology and Norfolk State University, Bishop Thompson is the senior