

age of 86 on Sunday in Paducah, Kentucky.

From 1952 to 1962, Bill served as a fighter pilot in France and Germany for the United States Air Force and Air Force Reserves. Bill proudly served in the 417th tactical fighter squadron and was awarded the Commendation Medal for his outstanding work with the United States military.

In 1962, he retired and returned home to Paducah to help with the family trucking company, Usher Transport. Bill became the manager of the company and eventually the owner for many years. Bill established the local Christmas Cop organization, was honored as a Kentucky Colonel and a Duke of Paducah for all of his contributions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life and legacy of Major William Amos "Bill" Usher for his many outstanding contributions to the community as well as his service to our country. God bless him always.

NATIONAL RARE EYE DISEASE AWARENESS DAY

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my resolution expressing support for the designation of February 28, 2016, as National Rare Eye Disease Awareness Day. In solidarity with those living with rare eye conditions and blindness, I am introducing it in braille.

Joining me today is the Smedley family from my district in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, whose sons, Michael and Mitchell, suffer from a rare eye condition which has caused them to lose their sight at a very young age.

But this has not stopped them from pursuing their dreams. Michael serves in his high school student government and is a member of the track team. Mitchell is on the wrestling team and performs in school plays.

National Rare Eye Disease Awareness Day will highlight exceptional individuals like Michael and Mitchell as they overcome challenges and show us true inspiration.

In doing so, this day will increase awareness for all rare eye diseases and conditions that lead to blindness as well as the need for increased funding for research and for accessibility of treatments.

As a member of the congressional Rare Disease Caucus and as a voice for the Smedleys and the millions more living with blindness, I am proud to introduce this resolution today. I urge my colleagues' support.

CLOSING GUANTANAMO IS A MISPLACED PRIORITY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act

prevents the President from closing the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay unless he submits a plan that receives congressional approval. He has not. This week President Obama submitted the plan to close the prison anyway.

There are currently 91 detainees at Guantanamo Bay. There were 242 when the President took office. His plan calls for transferring 35 of the remaining detainees to other countries.

These detainees have been cleared for transfer by the relevant national security agencies. Approximately 60 detainees will be transferred to facilities in the United States on our own soil. These are not even specified in the plan.

The Department of Defense has identified many potential sites, but again this has not received congressional approval. Construction for a new facility on American soil would cost nearly half a billion dollars.

With all these things going on, with the former GTMO detainees being re-arrested for recruiting new ISIS members and an expiration of the timeline for developing an ISIS plan to defeat ISIS, this is a misplaced priority by the President.

We need to stick to the business of what is going to keep our country safe, not fulfill some campaign promise.

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FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA WEEK

(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, as a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee, I rise today in recognition of Future Farmers of America, or FAA, Week.

Earlier this week, the Nation marked the birthday of our first President, George Washington. Since 1948, the week of Washington's birthday has also been FAA Week due to the President's legacy as an agriculturalist and a farmer.

Agriculture is a key to not only the history and heritage of our Nation, but also to Pennsylvania and to our Commonwealth's Fifth Congressional District. It is important that we help the future leaders of this industry continue to grow, ensuring that the future of agriculture is just as bright as its present and past.

"I believe in the future of agriculture" are the first words from the FFA creed. Earlier this year, I met with FAA members from across Pennsylvania, at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, where I held a forum focused on agriculture issues. I was impressed with their knowledge of issues currently impacting farming across the Nation and was inspired by their vision for the future. Echoing the words of the FFA creed, I am sure that, with the dedication of FAA members across the

Nation, the future of agriculture is in good hands.

GUANTANAMO BAY PRISONER TRANSFERS

(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, on November 25, 2015, our Commander in Chief made the 2016 National Defense Authorization bill the law of the land.

Section 1030 of that law states, in part, that no amounts authorized may be used to transfer or release, within the United States, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee.

On Monday, despite those clear words, our Commander in Chief announced that he would try to transfer Guantanamo Bay detainees to American soil. His reason? A political campaign promise he made nearly one decade ago is more important than keeping Khalid Sheikh Mohammed behind bars.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's last breath to be in prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. This House—their House—will grant their wish.

RESTORING ARTICLE I

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about legislation that my colleagues and I recently introduced that works to restore our article I powers of the Constitution.

We all learned about separation of powers in our grade school civics class. As you know, this separation protects that one branch of government doesn't overrule or overstep another. It also ensures that the power of the American people is never diminished.

Article I specifically grants legislative powers to Congress, as Congress was established to be the most direct voice of the people. We are the people's House. It seems the President simply chooses to ignore this.

I have consistently heard from folks in the 12th District who are sick and tired of this administration overstepping its boundaries and overstaying its welcome in their lives. Americans—myself included—are frustrated with an executive branch that goes around Congress to create new rules and regulations daily.

My biggest disappointment as a new Member of Congress is our lack of authority to carry out the will of the American people in this House. As an original cosponsor of H.R. 613, I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to join me in restoring and respecting the most sacred document in our Nation's history—our Constitution.