

simply an extraordinary human being, activist, author, mentor, friend, and mother. She lives on in our hearts forever.

□ 1115

CONGRATULATING CARSON WENTZ

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

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, forgive me for being proud, but today my 750,000 fellow North Dakotans and I are standing a little taller as we celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of one exceptional young man.

Last night, every television in North Dakota was tuned in to the NFL draft to see who the lucky team would be who gets North Dakota State University quarterback Carson Wentz. The Philadelphia Eagles used the second overall pick to take Carson. Cheers and tears of pride and admiration for the most famous Bison football player ever expressed a sense of State patriotism.

NDSU's record of five consecutive FCS national championships took a backseat to one special Bismarck native, and rightfully so. Carson Wentz is more than a 6 foot, 5 inch superathlete. He is a man who takes God's incredible gifts and works them with an ethic of worship. His mind and heart are as big as his frame; and his pride is not in himself, but it is in his team, in his school, in his community, and in his State.

We are happy for the good people of Philadelphia, knowing that Pennsylvania is gaining much more than a great football player. They are gaining a great citizen. Congratulations, Eagles.

And God bless you in your new adventure, Carson Wentz. Thanks for being a great ambassador for North Dakota.

HONORING SERGIO KLOR DE ALVA

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergio Klor de Alva.

Sergio was a member of the Farr congressional team, and was taken from us in a tragic accident late Monday night. Sergio served as an intern in my office. He was engaging, kind, and ever helpful.

Upon leaving Washington, he returned to the University of California at Santa Cruz, and he won a place on the student council. He later volunteered his time to work in Congressman MIKE HONDA's reelection campaign. At 24, he had amassed a resume that spoke to the dedication and passion he had for civil service.

I was and continue to be impressed with this young man's incredible ambi-

tion. His future would have undoubtedly been one of public service.

Upon leaving my office, Sergio said in his exit interview:

I cannot tell the future, but I can see mine here. But until that day, know that I will miss this place.

Rest assured, Sergio, this place will miss you. God bless your short, but so meaning meaningful, life and your beautiful family who have to live in the tragedy of your death.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF COUNTY CORNER

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I grew up in a small town in Utah where I remember a Sinclair gas station that was situated where Route 39 intersects Route 134. It is a place where parents would stop to fill up their cars while taking their kids to school, and airmen would stop on the way to serve at Hill Air Force Base; where fathers would fill up the RV on the way to the family vacation, and I may have actually stopped to get a few Dr Pepper's as well. County Corner store is part of the Sinclair family, which is today celebrating their 100-year anniversary.

Today, there are 1,300 Sinclair-branded stations in 24 States. They operate the largest refinery in the Rocky Mountain West, they have their offices located in Utah, and they have 1,200 employees.

You may actually recognize the green dinosaur that is the logo. It is an apatosaurus, and its name is Dino. It debuted at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1933, has been a part of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, and is actually an honorary member of the Museum of Natural History.

In an era where it is sometimes en vogue to condemn the gas-powered engine, we have to realize that people drive to work, families drive to church, schoolbuses drive kids back and forth, as well as the fact that firefighters rush to help businesses that are threatened. The Sinclair Oil Corporation has a hand in making all that possible.

Happy birthday.

HONORING SAMUEL "BILLY" KYLES

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the city of Memphis and the United States lost a great clergyman and civil rights leader this past week in Reverend Samuel "Billy" Kyles.

Samuel "Billy" Kyles was born in Mississippi, moved to Chicago, but found his home and his purpose in Memphis, Tennessee, where he founded Monumental Baptist Church and served there for 55 years.

He was a courageous man who helped integrate the Memphis schools. One of his daughters was one of the 13 young children that integrated the schools. He got on a bus and refused to go to the back of the bus in 1964 with six others and helped integrate the buses in Memphis. His life was dedicated to civil rights, making Memphis better, and serving his church members.

He is well known and remembered for being at the Lorraine Motel on the day that Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968. On that occasion, he was near Dr. King and was a witness to the assassination, which he told people about throughout the country and is part of a documentary film called "The Witness."

He remembered Dr. King's work to all, witnessed what he did and what happened in Memphis. He lived his life as Dr. King would have wanted: trying to move civil rights forward and making America the country that it was supposed to be. A life well lived.

DEFUND NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration's foolish nuclear deal with Iran continues to get more troubling and damaging by the day.

Last week, we found out that the administration was spending \$8.6 million of our hard-earned tax dollars to buy nuclear material from Iran. That is right: the United States Government is borrowing money from China and the rest of the world to buy heavy water from Iran, water used in nuclear reactors.

This is insanely foolish. I thought that the goal of Obama's nuclear deal was to stop Iran's nuclear program, not subsidize it.

Iran remains the world's leading sponsor of terrorism. They have been directly tied to the deaths of thousands of U.S. servicemembers. Providing the Iranian regime with millions of tax dollars only gives them new financing to spread hateful ideology, terror, and death across the globe.

The Obama administration's payments to this terrorist regime further legitimize their growing nuclear ambitions. Is it any wonder that our allies no longer consider the United States a reliable partner?

Appeasement only emboldens bullies, terrorists, and dictators. Sadly, this is the path that this current administration has chosen.

VERIFYING OPTIMAL TOOLS FOR ELECTIONS ACT OF 2016

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, there is a grave threat that is facing the American electoral process in

2016, and that is the soundness and the dependability of our voting machines and the integrity of our voting process.

Nationwide, authorities are tabulating crucial voting results using faulty, out-of-date electronic voting machines from the era that predated the smartphone. These outdated machines are prone to crashes and screen freezes that can cause unacceptably long wait times. Additionally, old voting machines remain vulnerable to being hacked and elections can be stolen.

My bill, the Verifying Optimal Tools for Elections Act of 2016, otherwise known as the VOTE Act, would allocate millions of dollars to assist States in replacing these aging voting machine dinosaurs. The VOTE Act would also allocate millions of dollars in grants to assist in developing new technologies to assure accuracy in the voting process, to protect voting machine source codes from being hacked, and to train election officials.

The aim of the VOTE Act is simple: the safeguarding of elections by ensuring the very integrity of the voting process, while protecting access to the ballot box.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following individual on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2017:

Mr. Daniel M. Slane, Ohio

HONORING BRAZOS VALLEY JEFFERSON AWARD RECIPIENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BABIN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Harper Cunningham, age 12, and Maggie Cunningham, age 10, from College Station, Texas, who are recipients of the 2016 Jefferson Award for the Brazos Valley.

The Jefferson Awards are presented annually to honor our unsung heroes, ordinary citizens who have done something extraordinary and that will have a lasting impact on the community. It is fitting that the Jefferson Award be presented to these two young girls, who not only exemplify what it means to serve, but who also share Thomas Jefferson's passion for reading.

Harper and Maggie Cunningham's passion for reading and for helping

those in need led them to create an organization to promote literacy and the well-being of our community students. Their Books and a Blanket program provides a basket of books and a blanket to elementary schoolchildren in need across the Brazos Valley during the winter months.

Their mission is simple and impactful: they want all students to have access to books so that they, too, can experience the joy that comes from reading. Since 2012, Books and a Blanket has given away over 1,200 blankets and distributed over 33,000 books to over 2,500 children in need.

Mr. Speaker, these two young girls have done a tremendous job helping others, promoting literacy, and being inspiring leaders in our community. As President Ronald Reagan once said:

The greatest leaders are not necessarily the ones who do the greatest things. The greatest leaders are the ones who get other people to do the greatest things.

It is evident that Harper and Maggie are models of true leadership, and their desire to serve and empower others is inspiring. Young Americans like Harper and Maggie provide confidence for all of us about the future of our great country.

I congratulate Harper and Maggie Cunningham for their hard work, selfless service, and for being awarded the 2016 Jefferson Award for the Brazos Valley. Gina and I look forward to hosting them in Washington later this year for the National Jefferson Awards ceremony.

I would also like to congratulate the other 2016 Jefferson Award winners from the Brazos Valley: Stephanie Sale, Alma Villarreal, and David Ruesink. Their selfless service to our community is inspiring and also worthy of these special recognitions. I am humbled to represent all of them in Congress.

As I close, I ask all Americans to continue to pray for our country during these difficult times, for our military men and women who protect us from external threats, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMERICA'S TO-DO LIST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, we all got elected. I have been here 5 years now. You are fairly new to this institution. Everybody comes with a dream. You don't come because you are looking for new business cards. You come because you want to make a difference for folks back home. We all have about 700,000 bosses back home, and they want us to make a difference. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about some of those differences today.

You can't see it from where you are sitting, but I have got a little America's to-do list down here. I didn't have enough paper back in the office to do the entire to-do list. There is a lot out there, as I know you hear every weekend when you go home as well, but I put a couple of the top things out there.

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I have "fix our roads and bridges" out there—just a terrible infrastructure issue. What separates America in terms of getting our goods to market around the globe is a world-class infrastructure. Investment in that infrastructure has waned in recent years as we have dangerous bridges and we have roads that are in desperate need of repair. That is one of those things—to maintain the postal roads—that the Constitution uniquely assigns to the United States Congress. That is on the to-do list.

Update our national WRRDA policy, Mr. Speaker. We are going to have wars on this planet—mark my words—not over oil, but over fresh water. Having a freshwater infrastructure, maintaining our natural resources, taking care of and being good stewards of those resources that we have been entrusted with are critically important. It is one of those things that the Federal Government has a dominant role in doing. We have to get on that.

Tax relief, Mr. Speaker. Where is that family back home who isn't trying to figure out how next month works and the month after that and the month after that?

I keep hearing about this economic recovery, and yes, the numbers are getting better slowly, but they are not improving nearly fast enough. The folks cannot afford to support an inefficient Federal Government. Tax relief is on that list.

Medicare, Mr. Speaker. There is not a man or a woman in this Nation who depends on Medicare who does not know it is in fiscal peril. There is not enough money in the Medicare trust fund to meet the promises that we have made to America's seniors. There is not enough money in the Medicare trust fund even though working age men and women begin paying in on their very first paychecks to meet the promises of this generation and the next. We owe America better than that. Fixing that is on the to-do list.

Improving veterans' care, Mr. Speaker. For Pete's sake, talk about something that is uniquely this government's responsibility. We ask so much of the young men and women in uniform who serve and protect this Nation, and they ask nothing of us. We make promises to them, and we must keep those promises. It is hard to open up the newspaper and not read a story of America's failing its veterans. We must do better, and we can do better.

Mr. Speaker, cutting spending. For Pete's sake, when folks back home do send a dollar's worth of taxes to Washington, D.C., they don't believe they