

well as an exceptional employer of servicemembers.

Congratulations, Prairie Grove.

HEAD START

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 51st anniversary of the creation of Head Start.

In my home State of Rhode Island, Head Start serves 2,500 children, including 100 homeless children and 500 children with special needs.

Head Start is proven and effective. Young people who participate in Head Start have increased graduation rates, are less likely to become pregnant as teens, have improved economic opportunities, and are less likely to be involved in crime.

Every dollar invested in Head Start saves up to \$7 in future costs.

In the 20th century, the United States set the standard in education and had the highest graduation rates around the world. Today, we rank 12th in college graduation and 26th in access to preschool for 4-year-olds.

If we are serious about providing the next generation with the skills they need to be successful and to compete in a global economy, it is critical that we significantly increase our investments in Head Start.

Congratulations to Head Start on your 51st anniversary. Thank you for all that you do.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF OF POLICE CHARLES R. JONES

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Beaver Falls Chief of Police Charles R. Jones on his retirement after decades of outstanding service to his community and to our Nation.

After serving his country in the Air Force, which included time at the 911th Airlift Wing in Pittsburgh, Chief Jones embarked upon a career in law enforcement.

He is a graduate of both Municipal Police Officers' Training Academy and the Pennsylvania Deputy Sheriff's Training Program in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

He started with the city of Beaver Falls Police Department in 1994, and by 2008, he was chief of police. In October of 2011, the Pittsburgh FBI field office chose Chief Jones to join with other U.S. and international law enforcement leaders at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, for professional studies.

A recipient of numerous awards, a man of faith, and a true leader, I thank Chief Jones for his service. In thanking the chief, I would be remiss in not also recognizing his wife Regina, who has

also been a great advocate for her community.

Although the chief is retiring, I fully expect he will continue his service to his community in multiple endeavors in the years to come.

HOUSE LEADERS NEED TO LEAD

(Ms. ESTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor with a simple message for the leaders of this House: Do your job.

The majority has refused to even vote on a budget—our most basic duty—and has failed to address over \$3 trillion of needed infrastructure across the country.

This is National Infrastructure Week. Forty-one percent of the roads in my home State of Connecticut are rated in poor condition. Bad roads cost the average Connecticut driver over \$660 per year in unnecessary repairs and expenses.

A great nation does not respond to crises with duct tape. A great nation does not tell 110 pregnant citizens with the Zika virus that they should make do with one-third of the necessary funding.

For our infrastructure, for Flint, for the Supreme Court, for Zika patients, and for gun violence victims, the call to the leaders of this body is clear: It is time to lead. Do your job.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF SALVAGE TO FORESTRY

(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 Ninth Circuit Court is on a roll this week. First, they upheld gun rights in northern California. Now they have tossed out yet another frivolous lawsuit on salvage operations for forestry after a fire.

Operations in western Siskiyou County on what is known as the west side fire—a fire that occurred in the summer and fall of 2014—are now finally proceeding where the value of that wood can be still, perhaps, hopefully, salvaged almost a year and a half later. Though it is only a scant 4 percent that they are going after in this harvest project here, you would think with the number of frivolous lawsuits and wailing over the project that we were causing an environmental disaster; yet the disaster has already occurred with the devastating fire.

I am glad to see that the court ruled that some of the salvage operation can occur, because now the forest can actually recover. It can have an economic base to do so instead of merely coming out of the U.S. Treasury, and the people in the area can be employed in doing it in this forest fire recovery.

It will be a positive for the habitat, a positive for the spotted owl. This is what we need to do in the long term. Salvage is an important part of forestry after a fire and not reinventing the wheel every single time we need to do the salvage and have lawsuits over it.

IN MEMORY OF ERIC BRADLEY

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, like everyone who knew him, I was shocked and am still very saddened by the sudden passing of Eric Bradley.

Eric was so many things to so many people. He was a colleague, a friend, a mentor, a son, a husband, a father. For me, Eric was a dear friend who helped me in so many ways over the years, just as he helped so many others, but that was Eric. He gave of himself to everyone whom he met whether that be insight, advice, knowledge, or simple kindness. Behind all of his hard work, behind all of his efforts, there was a genuine passion for making life better for others.

Just like anyone who crossed his all too brief time with us, I am better for having known him. I will miss my friend.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EASTER RISING

(Mr. KING of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, this year is the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising in Dublin, Ireland, which was the seminal moment in the fight for Irish independence.

Since that time, the United States and Ireland have had an extremely close relationship in trade, business, and on so many other issues on which we work together, probably none more important than the Good Friday Agreement, which was achieved 18 years ago this year. It is working today, for, after centuries of fighting and strife, there is now a peace process in Northern Ireland which has succeeded, is succeeding, and is going forward.

I acknowledge this today, the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising, and the Prime Minister of Ireland, Enda Kenny, is in Washington today to help us commemorate this.

GALESBURG FORGIVABLE LOANS

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great news about the city of Galesburg, Illinois.

About a month ago, I spoke on this floor, and I urged the city to apply for low-interest, federally funded loans

through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund. Many officials expressed legitimate concerns about the impact that might have on their budgets, so I worked with the city as well as with the U.S. and the Illinois EPA to see if those loans could be forgiven.

Today I am so proud to announce that I have received assurances that up to \$4 million in Federal funding will be forgiven. That will happen as soon as the city completes its application and receives formal approval.

Mr. Speaker, all communities face challenges. What separates the great ones from the rest is whether communities can come together and solve these challenges. We still have work to do to protect children from lead exposure, but Galesburg is a great city, and I am proud that we are taking this important step together.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Cedar Bluff, Alabama, November 16, 2015:

Sylvia Duffy, 71 years old.

Clara Edwards, 68.

Pamela O'Shel, 48.

Tennessee Colony, Texas, November 15, 2015:

Carl Johnson, 77 years old.

Thomas Kamp, 46.

Nathan Kamp, 23.

Austin Kamp, 21.

Kade Johnson, 6.

Clarksburg, West Virginia, July 26, 2013:

Freddy Donald Swiger, 70 years old.

Fred Swiger, 47.

Todd Russell Amos, 29.

Christopher A. Hart, 26.

Springfield, Missouri, November 15, 2014:

Lewis Green, 44 years old.

Trevor Fantroy, 43.

Danielle Keyes, 29.

Christopher Freeman, 24.

Shreveport, Louisiana, May 5, 2016:

Tyrone Coley, 37 years old.

Randy Brown, 36.

Robert Baukman, 30.

Joey Caldwell, 29.

Richard Baker, 29.

Platte, South Dakota, September 17, 2015:

Nicole Westerhuis, 41 years old.

RESTORE FUNDING TO THE OVERSEAS WAR ACCOUNT

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, the annual defense bill before the House today removes \$18 billion from the overseas war account to fund activities that are not related to war. It is unfortunate that the Republican majority, which claims to be fiscally responsible, is raiding OCO in order to blow past bipartisan spending agreements. This budget gimmick would require an \$18

billion supplemental next April—only halfway through the fiscal year—to restore overseas funding for America's troops.

This is no way to govern the Pentagon, and it is doing a disservice to our men and women in uniform by pushing for this. Defense Secretary Ash Carter has said that removing overseas funding during wartime is "objectionable on the face of it."

It is my hope and the hope of many others on the committee that funding for the overseas account will be restored on the House floor before the bill is voted on.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the defense bill until these funds are restored.

HEAD START'S 51ST ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today is the 51st anniversary of Head Start.

Fifty-one years ago, in 1965, President Lyndon Johnson announced the groundbreaking program. In that year, a shy little girl and the daughter of Mexican immigrants enrolled in Head Start, and it changed her life. That little girl was me.

In this Chamber, when we fiercely debate funding education, we are sometimes too removed from the reality of the everyday struggles that are facing America's children and just how wide that opportunity gap is.

Even though I stand before you here as a Congresswoman, I also stand before you as a child of Head Start. Universal, early childhood education is the best investment we can make to close that education gap. I know this because I am living proof of it. Head Start was not merely something that helped me; it has helped 32 million children and their parents to prepare for school. It has prepared them for life.

PROTECTING AND DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF LGBT EMPLOYEES IN THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, today and this week we will debate the national defense authorization. This is part of our most fundamental obligation as Members of Congress, to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.

However, there is a provision that is inserted into this bill that doesn't protect and defend—it discriminates. It is a provision in this bill that would effectively stop an executive order that says that Federal contractors cannot discriminate against employees be-

cause they happen to be LGBT. I want to say this again. In the defense authorization, House Republicans have inserted a provision to empower and enable the discrimination of LGBT employees. That is not protecting and defending. That is discrimination. That is divisive. It is disgusting.

Our job is to protect and defend the American people and not inject the defense budget with ideologies that are based on protecting a political base, Mr. Speaker. It is a disservice to our troops, and it is a disservice to our national security to inject such poisonous language into a defense budget that is meant to protect and defend the constitutional rights of the American people.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, which is the largest caucus in the Congress, I rise in advance of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the National Volunteer Fire Council on May 20 so as to recognize its hard work and dedication to protecting our communities. The brave men and women who volunteer their time are professionals who put their lives on the line every day.

Founded in 1976, the NVFC came together in Chicago to provide a unified voice for volunteer firefighters across our Nation. With this guiding vision, the NVFC has grown its ranks to a board comprised of 49 State fire service associations and with a membership of nearly 20,000 individual and department members. Today, volunteers have a strong voice at the table when it comes to critical fire and emergency service issues thanks to the NVFC.

The organization has been there to meet the challenges that volunteers face and to address critical issues every day. From groundbreaking programs and innovative resources to legislative and regulatory advocacy, the NVFC continues to serve the volunteer in meaningful and significant ways. I look forward to continuing to work with them to advocate for our volunteers.

COMMEMORATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1916 EASTER RISING

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 716) commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, a seminal moment in Ireland's journey to independence, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.