

While we mourn the loss of Sergeant Perez, we thank the good Lord that such men ever lived.

And that is just the way it is.

NATIONAL AUCTIONEERS DAY

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

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, first off, I want the folks in Texas and Louisiana to know that South Carolina continues to pray for the folks that live in the affected areas, and all of the States that are facing a potential hurricane.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express support for designation of the first Saturday of May as National Auctioneers Day and the preceding week as National Auctioneers Week. Auctioneering is one of history's oldest professions.

I was an auctioneer for 16-plus years before coming to Congress. As an auctioneer, I saw firsthand the purest form of buying and selling. Auctions bring buyers and sellers together where the highest price is established through competitive bidding.

Auctions continue to be the fairest, most transparent and effective means of establishing fair market value.

The National Auctioneers Association and its members strive to advance the auction method of marketing and uphold the highest standards of professionalism in serving the American public. These professionals are proud businessowners who support their communities.

For more than 40 years, National Auctioneers Day has been observed by State and local governments and private organizations across the U.S. The designation of National Auctioneers Day and National Auctioneers Week will heighten the public awareness of the contributions made by auction professionals to our Nation's history and economy.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the House of Representatives to support this designation and America's auctioneers.

□ 1015

GROWING OUR NAVY

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

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again emphasize the urgent imperative of growing our Navy to 355 ships. This body is now on record in support of a 355-ship Navy, and the recent tragedies at sea only serve to reinforce the inadequate capacity of our current fleet.

While the size of our Navy has shrunk from over 500 ships at the end of the Cold War to less than 280 ships today, the demand for deployed ships has remained relatively constant between 85 and 100.

This steady demand on the fleet, coupled with tight budgets and habitually

underfunded maintenance counts, has taken a serious toll on our sailors.

Growing the fleet is no easy task. It will take constant leadership and attention. In his confirmation hearing, Secretary Spencer rightly spoke about creative levers the Navy could pull to get to 355, including bringing ships out of the ready reserve, yet we need more urgency, we need that sense of urgency that Secretary Spencer talked about in his mission, vision, and priorities document. This must extend to growing the fleet as quickly as is practical. Every day, month, and budget year that goes by without significant progress towards 355 makes this urgent requirement that much less likely to materialize.

Mr. Speaker, there is not a moment to lose. We must make growing the fleet our number one priority.

RECOGNIZING GIANA ZAMBELLI AND OLIVIA CAMERON

(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 rise today to recognize Giana Zambelli and Olivia Cameron. These two 9-year-old girls from Bensalem, Pennsylvania, spend their free time running a local Kool-Aid stand which they call Kool-Aid for Kenny.

The proceeds from their sales benefit the Kenneth Hopkins Memorial Scholarship Fund created in 2016, to award students currently pursuing a career in emergency services.

Mr. Speaker, Ken Hopkins was an emergency medical technician with the Bucks County Rescue Squad and a volunteer firefighter with the Croydon Fire Department. He passed away in June 2016, after struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder from his time serving our community and saving lives as a first responder.

Mr. Speaker, the selfless acts of Giana and Olivia are truly inspiring to all of us. Their remarkable work continues to make Ken's dream a reality in the hopes that others continue to save lives and help those in need, just as Ken Hopkins did his entire life.

Ken, Giana, and Olivia are an inspiration to our entire community.

FREEDOM IN EASTERN EUROPE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong cold warrior promoting victory over communism, it was a dream come true to lead a bipartisan delegation to Eastern Europe in early August reaffirming America's commitment to our new NATO allies in the European Reassurance Initiative.

We know that peace through strength will be successful. The vision of Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan has been achieved.

Visiting with military and government leaders in Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Georgia, and Poland, we saw dynamic and prospering American allies achieving world-class defensive capabilities with their professional military fully equipped with the latest technologies.

In both Warsaw and Tbilisi, President Donald Trump and Vice President MIKE PENCE made it clear America will protect these new democracies.

I was inspired as an election observer in Bulgaria in 1990, and have seen this country evolve from totalitarianism to the now dedicated democracy led by Prime Minister Boyko Borissov.

I was grateful to be accompanied by my youngest son, Hunter, an Afghanistan veteran, as we witnessed freedom in these countries in stark contrast to the year Hunter was born in 1987, when all six countries were enemies to the United States and were suffering under communist dictatorships.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR HURRICANE HARVEY

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the hundreds of thousands of victims of Hurricane Harvey in Houston and Harris County and throughout Texas and call on Congress to immediately pass emergency funding to help victims with this unprecedented disaster.

Our district in east side, north side, and southeast side Houston, Harris County, is familiar with hurricanes and tropical storms. We were hit hard by Allison in 2001, again by Hurricane Ike in 2008.

Harvey's destruction is beyond anything witnessed in living memory in Texas, flooding over 100,000 homes in Harris County alone, killing at least 60 people, 12 innocent victims in our own district.

Countless lives in Houston and along the Gulf Coast have been on hold: families who cannot return to their flooded homes, children whose schools are damaged, mothers and fathers who can't get back to work.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this critical emergency funding bill today that will help the people of Houston and Harris County and Texas on the road to recovery.

RECOGNIZING GEORGIA MJARTAN

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Georgia Mjartan of Little Rock. She is the executive director of Our House and is stepping down after 12 years.