

device excise tax was intended to spare taxpayers healthcare costs. Instead, it burdens those taxpayers, and innovators are the backbone of our economy.

According to the Tax Foundation, the medical device tax cost approximately 21,800 jobs from 2013 to 2015. Furthermore, the tax is hidden from consumers at purchase and passed off to them in higher prices.

Congress has suspended this tax twice before, and as an original cosponsor of this legislation, I urge my colleagues to vote for its permanent repeal with the Protect Medical Innovation Act this week.

MARIJUANA DATA COLLECTION

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, for decades, bad data and misinformation have fueled the failed war on drugs that has wasted billions of taxpayer dollars, incarcerating Americans for nonviolent marijuana charges.

Our outdated marijuana policies have turned everyday Americans into criminals, strained our criminal justice system, cost taxpayers tremendously, and torn families apart, all for a substance that is proven to be far less harmful and dangerous than alcohol.

Our Federal policy should be based on actual science and fact, not misplaced stigma and outdated myths. However, the fact that marijuana is currently classified as a schedule I drug, the same category as heroin and cocaine, restricts and even discourages scientific research on marijuana, limiting our ability to create science-based policies.

I will be introducing the bipartisan Marijuana Data Collection Act with my colleague Congressman CARLOS CURBELO so that we can get studies to set the record straight. Our bill would authorize a nonpartisan evidence-based report that analyzes current marijuana policies across the country and their effects on our communities.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

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MILITARY SPOUSES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, families who are veterans also sacrifice a great deal when their loved ones have been deployed and even when they come home. Current law, unfortunately, doesn't allow a spouse to be recognized by the VA-provided grave marker after that spouse has passed away.

Some veterans in the north State in my district recognized this issue and brought it to my attention. The VA even requested this change in this year's budget request. The budget requires a change in law by Congress.

That is why I introduced the Honoring Veterans' Families Act in order to correct this problem. Under the legislation, the VA will have the ability to replace the marker of a veteran to add an inscription about their spouse following the loss of that spouse.

Veterans certainly should have the option of including their spouse on their own tombstone if they so choose. This is a bill that, unfortunately, is needed to once again honor our veterans and the sacrifices of their families. Let's hope we can pass it.

THE AMERICAN DREAM IS ALIVE AT TONY'S PIZZA AND GRINDERS

(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, the American Dream is alive and well in Texas-22. It is alive in the south loop Ellington area, and it is alive and thriving at Tony's Pizza and Grinders.

Tony's is a walking, talking American Dream. In 1996, the Canolli family left war-torn Kosovo. They started their life here in Michigan. But shortly, they saw the bright light of the Lone Star State and moved to Texas. That is where they started Tony's.

The Canollis are special because they care more about others than about making dollars. Through Hurricane Harvey, they gave free food to the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department so they could keep saving lives.

If you want the freshest and the best pizza in America, try the Mrs. Marie's. That is amore.

CELEBRATING LIEUTENANT TIMOTHY COREY

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, sometimes we don't even realize that we are surrounded by heroes. Today I rise to celebrate the courageous actions of a Yorkville resident, Lieutenant Timothy Corey from my district. He was recently honored with the New York State Senate Liberty Medal, one of the highest civilian honors in New York State.

While on vacation in North Myrtle Beach, Lieutenant Corey discovered a young boy stuck in an outdoor pool intake pipe. In an instant, he jumped into the water and rescued the young man and for 8 minutes breathed air into the drowning boy, ultimately saving his life. The young boy was released from the hospital just 6 days later.

The bravery displayed by Lieutenant Corey often goes unrecognized, so, Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to now recognize Lieutenant Timothy Corey as a true hero in our community.

A BETTER WAY AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, House Republicans made a promise to the American people that there was a better way forward under our leadership. Our Better Way Agenda outlined a pathway toward safer communities, a stronger military, and a robust economy. Since then, House Republicans have compiled a record of results, not rhetoric. Thanks to this progress, the American people are better off now.

Republicans started by moving bills that address some of the biggest issues plaguing cities and towns across the country:

We have passed over 50 bills to put an end to the opioid epidemic in our communities.

FOSTA, which will dismantle the online sex trafficking industry, was signed into law.

We are also keeping our children safe by providing additional funding and resources for school safety programs.

We are rebuilding our military, ensuring our troops have the tools, training, and equipment they need to carry out their missions and keep us safe both at home and abroad. Our brave men and women in uniform received their largest pay raise in nearly 10 years.

We are keeping our promise to provide our veterans with the care they have earned by overhauling the VA and ensuring that they have access to reliable, quality care.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has undoubtedly had the most significant positive effect on the daily lives of Americans. Tax reform has led to unprecedented economic growth across our Nation. Americans are keeping more of their hard-earned paychecks, while companies in all 50 States are creating jobs and opportunity for all.

At home in Orange County, the unemployment rate has dropped to a near 20-year low, while pay and benefits continue to rise. Nationally, jobless claims have fallen to their lowest levels since 1969, and economic confidence is soaring.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on about the numerous accomplishments House Republicans have achieved in the last 18 months, but the American people don't