

why the farm show brings visitors back year after year.

REMEMBERING COMMISSIONER EL FRANCO LEE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this past week in Harris County, Texas, we lost a giant of a man in the name of Commissioner El Franco Lee, who served the Harris County Commissioners Court and the people he loved for 30 years.

One could never describe Commissioner Lee as a typical politician. As he walked through his district, I truly believe his giant footsteps touched everyone and everyone's heart. He was a lover of seniors and created opportunities for them to enjoy their life and swim in a fantastic pool at the Hester House. More importantly, he coddled and nurtured and created the Lyndon Baines Johnson Hospital that has served so many from all over the county and State. The Baylor Teen Clinic called him a guardian angel, providing healthcare services for vulnerable teens.

And, yes, he believed in something called the Olympics, not around the world, but right in Harris County; 10,000 children during the summer would have the opportunity to test their athletic prowess. And he was an athlete as well.

He was a friend of Mickey Leland and Craig Washington. More importantly, his beautiful family, wife, and children lived in his beloved community, Fifth Ward. He was a friend of the community.

He did so much as a county commissioner. He left behind wonderful parks and the opportunity for trails. He was a man in our community who knew about flooding. He was a strong, strong proponent of making sure that the infrastructure in Precinct 1 was the kind that would give a better quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, as I close on this wonderful public servant, let me say may he rest in peace, working until his tragic death, and offering to the people who were left behind our praise for him. May he rest in peace.

Thank you, Commissioner El Franco Lee, for being the giant of a man who reached low and touched all, loved us all, and brought us to a day in Harris County where we can be so proud of all that you have done.

IF TODAY WERE PRESIDENT OBAMA'S LAST NATIONAL SECURITY BRIEFING

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

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, over the holidays, I had the opportunity to read "Killing Reagan," another interesting book by Bill O'Reilly. In the book, he talks about the President's last warn-

ing. He had cleaned out the Oval Office, and he left a note in the desk for his successor. Then Colin Powell came in to deliver his last national security briefing. He simply said to the President: All is quiet in the world today.

Can you imagine if today were President Obama's last national security briefing? The gentleman or gentlewoman would say: Sir, we have a lot of problems in China, in North Korea, in Ukraine, in Yemen, in Syria, in Iraq, in Iran, in Afghanistan, in Saudi Arabia, and in North Korea. The Taliban is on the rise. ISIS is not contained. Israel is still mad at us. There has been recent terror activity in Munich, Paris, and Belgium. Sir, because of your leadership, all is quiet today in Greenland.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Senate amended Budget Reconciliation Act, a bill with several extreme provisions, including the repeal of the core of the Affordable Care Act for the 62nd time and the revoking of Federal funding for Planned Parenthood for the 11th time in this Congress.

It is a new year, but instead of bringing legislation to the floor that helps and makes Americans healthier, safer, and more secure, we are repeating the same old partisan fights.

Last year, many of my colleagues took advantage of a political stunt by an antichoice group that released falsified videos to damage the credibility of Planned Parenthood. There were congressional hearings, State-level investigations, and even a select committee formed to investigate the organization. The inquiries have resulted in no evidence of wrongdoing and have been a waste of taxpayers' money.

There are 2.7 million women in America who rely on Planned Parenthood for their basic healthcare services that they otherwise cannot afford and cannot access. There is no replacement for Planned Parenthood in many parts of the country, so taking away its Federal funds needlessly risks the health of millions of American women.

The CBO estimates that dismantling the Affordable Care Act will cause 22 million Americans to lose their health care. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 3762.

Thank you, Peggy Sampson, for your dedicated service.

PROMOTING CHARITABLE GIVING

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, one of our country's most treasured values is helping others who are less fortunate. We see it all the time in communities around the Nation, with Americans raising money for a worthy cause, do-

nating food, or volunteering their time to help their neighbors.

It is important that our Tax Code reflect these exact same values. It was gratifying last month to see Congress come together passing a new law that will promote charitable giving. One of the charitable provisions in the new law was a bill that I authored. It makes permanent a provision to allow a rollover donation from an individual's IRA to go to an approved charitable foundation.

In addition, the new law will encourage the donation of food to food banks from local businesses as well as promote environmental conservation through the granting of land easements.

Mr. Speaker, there are many Americans who want to give back and help others, and it is important that our Tax Code reflect these same values and doesn't punish them for wanting to do so. Each of these provisions help make that possible.

IN MEMORY OF WALTER MCCREARY

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of Mr. Walter McCreary, a former but longtime community leader and resident of Ohio's Third Congressional District.

Mr. McCreary was a member of the famous Tuskegee Airmen. He flew almost 100 combat missions over Europe in his red-tailed P-51 fighter plane during World War II. In 1944, he was shot down and spent 9 months as a POW. After the war, he was assigned to Lockbourne Army Airfield, now known as Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, Ohio.

In 2007, the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Their exemplary combat record and honorable service are rightfully credited as the driving force for the full integration of our armed services.

Walter McCreary lived his life with courage, bravery, and honor. I extend my condolences to his family, and honor the legacy of both him and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen.

Mr. Speaker, I am also here today to stand up for families, for women, and for preserving access to women's health care.

□ 1230

SUPPORT TODAY'S RECONCILIATION BILL

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

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of today's reconciliation bill.

While it is true we have voted to repeal ObamaCare before, there is a reason why we continue to do so. We are

actually listening to our constituents. Every one of us has heard ObamaCare horror stories, including freshmen like me who have been here just for a year.

I continue to be inundated by grave concerns raised by families and businesses in my district. One individual wrote to me and summed it up this way: "Mr. BISHOP, the Affordable Care Act is anything but." He explained that his family of four went from an overall \$5,000 deductible to having the same deductible per family member in addition to having his premium doubled. "Where is the affordability?" he asked.

Another small-business owner from the small town of Fowlerville in my district called the other month to say that her rates for her family had more than doubled in just the past 2 years.

I could go on, but we know the story all too well. Simply put, Mr. Speaker, the President's healthcare law is crushing our families and local communities. I urge my colleagues to heed their concerns and support this reconciliation package.

OPPOSING CUTS TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3762, the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act of 2015. It really does just the opposite.

Not only does this bill represent Republicans' 62nd attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act, but it is yet another ideological attack on women's health care. It would defund Planned Parenthood for 1 year, preventing millions of women from accessing critical healthcare services, such as cancer and STI screenings and contraceptive care.

In 2013 alone, Planned Parenthood provided healthcare services to more than 800,000 Californians and provided more than 93,000 pap tests and 97,000 breast screening exams.

Although Planned Parenthood centers make up only 10 percent of all publicly funded family planning centers, they serve, mind you, 36 percent of clients who obtain care from the family planning center network.

Denying access to healthcare providers such as Planned Parenthood will harm the communities that need these services the most, including low-income women and women of color.

Enough is enough. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon will mark the 11th vote to attack women's health care this Congress. It is past time for Republicans to end their attacks on Planned Parenthood and recognize that they are really harming women by denying them these badly needed healthcare services.

I hope my colleagues will vote "no" on H.R. 3762 and really begin to look at what they are doing in terms of the freedom of women to make their own decisions and to really access the vital healthcare services that they need.

Again, this reconciliation act does nothing to reconcile healthcare services, which women desperately need in our country.

HOUSING UNDOCUMENTED CHILDREN

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

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I was informed last week that the Department of Health and Human Services is considering temporarily housing unoccupied minor children at military bases throughout the United States. Six bases are under consideration to house up to 5,000 of these undocumented children. One of the bases under consideration is Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot stress strongly enough my opposition to this plan. The reasons are numerous, but let me emphasize two of the most obvious: military bases are not appropriate for housing unaccompanied children, and unaccompanied children are not appropriate residents of a military base.

The last Congress clearly expressed our opposition to housing unoccupied minors at military installations through the passage of H.R. 5230. Additionally, funding sufficient to meet the needs at the southern border was provided just a few weeks ago in the passage of the fiscal year 2016 omnibus spending bill.

Mr. Speaker, it is neither compassionate to the children, nor in the country's best interests for national defense, to house these children at Grand Forks or any other military installation. I urge the administration to find a more appropriate solution to the crisis at our southern border.

POLITICAL THEATER

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we closed the last year of Congress with some very productive work on both sides of the aisle: we passed a transportation bill; we reformed No Child Left Behind; we passed the tax extenders bill; and we passed an omnibus bill. I thank Speaker RYAN and the Republicans for working in a bipartisan fashion.

But we are back here in 2016, and as President Reagan would say: There they go again.

Yes, they are trying to repeal the ACA for the 62nd time, and for the 11th time to try to defund Planned Parenthood. These bills are not going to become law. The President will veto them.

It puts us back in a situation where this House isn't being used for America's priorities of putting people back to work, dealing with the crisis in the Middle East and maybe having an AUMF passed, and dealing with criminal justice reform and passing a bill.

The idea, as I understand it, is to pass the bill; the President will veto it; it won't become law; and have the first veto override on the day that the March for Life is here in Washington. This is being done for political theater, to appeal to the March for Life people, and not for what America needs: to put people back to work and protect our people from terrorism in the Middle East.

I wish we would get back to the way we finished up 2015.

THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS IS NOT UP FOR DEBATE

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a voice of warning for all Americans.

This administration's recent executive orders designed to further restrict Americans' Second Amendment rights is a dangerous move. Make no mistake, this administration will not be satisfied until all Americans no longer have the right to possess firearms.

This latest round of executive orders serves only to harass and intimidate law-abiding citizens. Nothing the President has proposed would have stopped a single tragedy. Americans have as much right to the protection of their homes and their families with firearms as the President does while sitting in the Oval Office.

As a firearm owner myself, from a family of firearm owners, and a defender of the Second Amendment, I want to remind the administration that the right to bear arms was settled in 1791. It is not up for debate.

PREVENTING GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Lucy McBath from metro Atlanta stood behind the President when he announced his actions to reduce gun violence.

In 2012, her son, Jordan Davis, was killed simply for playing loud music. I could see the pain of her loss and the anguish on her face. It broke my heart. Jordan Davis is one of the 100,000 Americans killed in the last decade who are no longer with us due to gun violence.

It is our duty to do all we can to protect all Americans. Every year mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, families and friends beg their government to act. Mr. Speaker, are we deaf to their cries? Are we blind to their suffering?

President Obama is listening, and he is leading. A leader must be a headlight and not a taillight.

Members of this House, we are not leading. His proposal is common sense and constitutional.