

□ 1200

And I don't know what those terrorists have planned when they come across the border, or when those people storm the gates. But I do know we have a responsibility—that I can't get everything I want—a responsibility that we find security, and that we protect our own border security at the same time.

I think there is a window that we can do this. I don't want to do it alone. So my plan was to do it with the gentleman. If he is saying to me he can't, then I am going to have to change my plan, just as we had to do when it came to the children's health insurance. We were not going to let that lapse. Just as it happened when you were going to shut the government down over DACA; we weren't going to let that happen.

We believe the government should stay open. So that is my plan. Will you join with us? Will you make sure that we don't shut down? Will you make sure that we make America stronger and safer for the future?

I don't want to leave work for the gentleman to get done. He is excited about his majority. I want him to be successful. I may smile for the challenge that he is going to have with some people I see coming in, and I will be right over here to debate where we disagree; but when we agree, I will be right there with him, and I will find compromise in every part I can.

I think this is a window to show—even to all those new freshmen, even to those who are leaving and these could be some of their last votes—that we did the very best with the moments that we had for the future of this country.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, what I hear is that the majority leader's plan is that we give up. Ninety-nine percent of the Homeland Security bill, I presume and believe, is directed at securing our borders. We have agreed with 99 percent of it, probably 99.9 percent of it. That is probably not true in dollar value.

But the plan is for us to give up because 99 percent is not good enough for us to agree with. It has got to be 100 percent. If that is the plan, it is not going to work.

The bill has not been brought to this floor, ever, this year. It is worthy of debate as to how we keep our borders most secure. As I have said, many Republicans, including, very frankly, the second ranking member of the Senate on the Republican side, have questions about the wall. He is from Texas. A lot of Texans think the wall doesn't make sense, Republicans and Democrats. Maybe not all, but some. But if the plan is we just give up after agreeing to 99 percent, that is no plan at all.

Unless the gentleman wants to say more, I am going to yield back.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of the season, I have a little gift for the gentleman from Maryland. It

comes from a little shop in my hometown, family-owned. They are excited about what we have been able to do this Congress. It is a little candy that might sweeten his spirit, and he might even be more likely to work with us to solve the problem.

Merry Christmas.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, I have a serious suspicion—I trust the majority leader, but I believe that gift was probably purchased by Judy, his wonderful, beautiful wife.

I yield back the balance of my time.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 3749. An act to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment, and for other purposes.

FINAL FLOOR REMARKS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is going to be my last time up here. You all are great, and it is a pleasure to talk to you.

Someone once told me that being at the House of Representatives was a different kind of hell. So, when I was sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives 27 years ago, I said that I had survived hell on Earth at the infamous Hanoi Hilton and the Texas House of Representatives, and that I guess I had gone from hell to hell to hell.

While there have been some hellish long nights here—and days—what I will remember is how thankful I am to have had the opportunity to serve America and defend freedom from the Halls of Congress.

I thank all of the constituents of my Third District of Texas, thank all of my colleagues and friends in this room, and thank my country. Serving in the Congress has been one of the highest honors of my life.

We live in the greatest country in the world, and don't forget it. If I leave any legacy behind, I hope that it is one of service above self.

God bless you. God bless America. I salute you and this great Nation.

PUERTO RICO STATEHOOD

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to stand today in solidarity with my sister, "mi hermana," ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, in calling for what is long overdue: statehood for Puerto Rico.

The residents of Puerto Rico, more than 3 million strong, have been U.S. citizens for more than 100 years, yet they continue to be denied equal rights, including voting representation in this body.

This inequality has consequences. As we saw so vividly in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico has faced injustices that no U.S. State would have to endure.

The Puerto Rican people have demonstrated their preference for statehood repeatedly, and they should be given a chance to cast a straightforward vote whose results will be respected: yes or no on statehood.

My departing colleague from south Florida will be greatly missed in this cause, and in so many others, but I know she will continue the fight as a private citizen. I will fight twice as hard in her absence to ensure equality for Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans once and for all.

I will miss you, friend. "Te voy a extranar, amiga."

SUPPORTING PUERTO RICO STATEHOOD

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague and good friend DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ's Spanish was perfect, "perfecto."

As she has pointed out, I have long supported the cause of statehood for Puerto Rico, but the lack of action on our part has kept Puerto Rico from having a voice and a vote on this very floor, which is imperative for our great democracy.

For over 100 years, the people of Puerto Rico have been proud American citizens. Plebiscite after plebiscite, Puerto Ricans have voted that they will no longer accept the territory status.

Statehood will promote economic development and jobs on the island so that these American citizens can have a better life and stop losing its people to the mainland after the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Congresswoman JENNIFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN—that is her proper title, that is what it should be—whom I am proud to call my friend, has made statehood for Puerto Rico her priority, urging Republicans and Democrats alike, as you have heard, to act. We must listen and we must do what is right.

As chairman emeritus of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I recognize that statehood will enhance our national security, serving as our Nation's third border in the Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, the status quo is simply unacceptable. I urge my colleagues to support statehood for Puerto Rico.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REBY CARY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a Black icon in the Fort Worth community, Reby Cary.

Reby lived a monumental life, and as the former Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnist Bobby Ray Sanders expressed: "He was an activist from the heart, and he was not afraid."

He was among the first African Americans to graduate from the U.S. Coast Guard radioman school in New Jersey and the first African American to be elected to the Fort Worth Independent School District. He shared many of the successes of Black pioneers in the community, many of whom didn't receive the accolades they deserved in what was then a segregated society.

After serving multiple tours in World War II, Mr. Cary came back to Tarrant County, where he started teaching history at Dunbar High School when it was a new high school.

He later became the first Black instructor at Tarrant County Junior College. He went on to serve three terms in the Texas House of Representatives, continuing to serve his Carver Heights community and all of Fort Worth.

Mr. Cary was a proud member of The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Worth. He credited God for the many blessings that came his way and his mother for keeping him on what he called "the straight and narrow."

He wanted to tell Black Fort Worth's story, and he wanted to ensure that the history of the African American community was documented and remembered for generations to come. He became a Black historian and authored 20 books about the history of African Americans in north Texas.

My condolences go out to his family and friends. His presence will be missed but never forgotten.

I also want to let all of his friends know in Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, his church, and all of the organizations that he volunteered for in Fort Worth just how important that legacy was for him.

RECOGNIZING MELVIN PHILLIPS

(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, I rise to recognize my dear friend Melvin Phillips, a full-blooded Oneida Indian, who is facing eviction from his ancestral land by the illegitimate CEO of the Oneida Indian Nation, Ray Halbritter.

Mr. Phillips currently resides on ancestral land in Vernon, New York, which his family has possessed for centuries, long prior to the last treaty signed by the State of New York in 1842, of which all of his ancestors signed all of the treaties with the State and were codified into State law thereafter.

Melvin Phillips is an 82-year-old leader of the Orchard Party Band of Oneidas. Virtually all the elected officials in my region, including the Governor of New York, my 2018 opponent, and all of my predecessors who held this seat, overtly or tacitly, wrongly support the eviction of this genuine Native American and his family from their ancestral lands, in spite of all the laws in place to protect Mr. Phillips.

I have represented Mr. Phillips and his family pro bono because of his amazing story. He is the epitome of the American hero, albeit the Native American hero.

Mr. Phillips refuses to compromise his integrity. He is a fighter for the truth. He will not cash in to this corrupt casino leader or anyone else to protect his land or his culture.

Regardless of any official position I hold, I will not stop fighting for Mr. Phillips and his family no matter how many millions are spent to defeat me at the ballot box by Mr. Halbritter and his skills or how difficult the odds may be for this great American.

For more information, please go to www.melvinphillipsstory.com.

□ 1215

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN STEPHEN GRACE

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Captain Stephen Grace, a young, beloved father, husband, son, brother, and U.S. airman who died unexpectedly before his time.

Stephen grew up in my hometown of Cincinnati. From an early age, he dreamed of being an Air Force pilot. He had a competitive spirit, a calling to service, and a love for life. It all came too easily for Stephen.

He excelled in the swimming pool, a gifted swimmer who emphasized self-improvement and self-accountability. He helped lead my alma mater, St. Xavier High School, to the high school State swimming titles.

St. Xavier has a motto: "Be Men for Others." Stephen lived that motto in his time with us, and it was no surprise to those who knew him when he was accepted and attended the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

He went on to pilot the F-16 and recently became an F-35 instructor, a remarkable feat that stands as a testament to his leadership and his ability.

Stephen Grace represented everything you want an American to be:

hardworking and selfless. Stephen was well-loved and looked up to. He lived his dream. He served his country. He embodied a higher ideal, one of service above self.

While he is gone far too soon, few can claim the extraordinary legacy he leaves behind for all of us. We pray for the family of Captain Stephen Grace; for his daughter, Georgia; his wife, Kelsey; for his parents, Robert and Christina; and for his sisters, Shannon and Kathleen.

Stephen, a grateful Nation salutes you.

CONGRATULATING EDUCATOR JENNIFER ALBERT

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Jennifer Albert from Fernandina Beach, Florida, for winning the Milken Educator Award.

This award recognizes innovative teachers, principals, and education specialists around the country who have made exceptional contributions to their profession.

Ms. Albert teaches science and math to fifth graders at Emma Love Hardee Elementary School in Nassau County, and was the only teacher in the State of Florida chosen for this prestigious award.

Our educators are tasked with the awesome responsibility of teaching the next generation of Americans, and Ms. Albert has inspired all of us with her creativity and commitment to student achievement.

Her use of small groups, project-based learning, and games even, has elevated her class to 81 percent proficiency in science, and 79 percent proficiency in math. These are impressive numbers to speak to the success of her positive and innovative techniques.

On behalf of the Fourth District of Florida and the students and parents of Emma Love Hardee Elementary School, I want to thank Ms. Albert for her lifelong dedication to excellence in the classroom, and congratulations on receiving the recognition she so well deserves.

RONALD V. DELLUMS MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight my new bill, the Ronald V. Dellums Memorial Fellowship for Women of Color in STEAM and National Security Act.

I am thrilled to introduce this forward-looking bill which will create a pipeline for women of color working in the STEAM fields through new national security fellowships.

This bill is named after a great statesman and former chair of the