

Guru Nanak was born in November of 1469 in present-day Pakistan. According to Sikh traditions, the birth and early years of his life were marked with many events that demonstrated that he had been marked by divine grace.

He traveled far and wide, teaching people the message of one universal creator and that God is good and that God is everywhere. Guru Nanak also preached the universal message of justice and equality for all women's empowerment, service to others, and a devotion to nature and the environment.

Every year, Sikh pilgrims travel to his birthplace to remember his life and his message of love, compassion, and kindness, these values that we hold true every day.

I know from personal experience in my interactions with the Sikh leaders across my district and throughout this country that these values are instilled in each and every one of us and them.

Unfortunately, one such Sikh leader tragically passed away a week ago, and her loss is heavily felt by so many members, not only throughout California, but in India.

HONORING JASBIR "GUDDI" SIDHU

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate a beloved member of the Sikh community in my home of Fresno, California: Ms. Jasbir "Guddi" Sidhu.

Guddi lived an admirable life and made so many, countless contributions to our communities. For 25 years, she produced a weekly television show and was a founding member of KBIF 900, a local radio station.

Her weekend programming featured interviews with community members and cultural figures. She was a role model and a leader to all, especially young girls and women. It not only aired in Fresno, but also halfway around the world, in India. It was also streamed by thousands on social media.

Guddi was a member of numerous local organizations and worked hard to preserve the Punjabi culture and Sikh religion for children and families in her community and helped those assimilate who came from Punjab.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of Jasbir "Guddi" Sidhu, a beloved member of our community, who had a passion for people and made a difference.

SYRIA CRISIS

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the recent events transpiring in northern Syria.

Turkey's continuing actions against the Kurds in northern Syria is not only appalling, but it is unjustifiable, and it is not right.

The Kurds have courageously fought side by side with our troops and deserve better, losing over 10,000 of their soldiers in defeating ISIL as the caliphate, but yet ISIL could come back. They are also guarding thousands of ISIS prisoners.

The Kurds have been our partners. The United States must immediately

impose sanctions on Turkey for their irresponsible and outrageous behavior.

This White House's actions, I believe, have made the situation possible; and now Congress must act to confront this unfolding humanitarian disaster, which is also a threat to our national security and damaging to our international reputation.

I will be supporting bipartisan legislation to confront the administration and Turkey on this matter later this week. I support H.J. Res. 77, which expresses the Congress' opposition to the administration's abandonment of our Kurdish allies.

Though Turkey is a NATO ally, we cannot stand by and let this happen in the face of reckless and irresponsible behavior on Turkey's part. And this isn't the first time Turkey has acted in this way.

This action has become necessary because of the unilateral actions that the President took without consulting Congress or our European allies. It makes no sense.

It is critical that we maintain our friendships and our alliances. America needs to have our alliances. We need to have friends.

When there is no longer a priority for this administration to embark upon maintaining our relationships with our allies—our friends—we go down a perilous path, mark my words. The United States needs its friends, and actions like this undermine our global image and risk us being seen as an unreliable partner in international affairs. We don't want to be seen as an unreliable partner in international affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in calling for responsible leadership, on a bipartisan basis, on this issue.

#### RURAL BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that is incredibly important to me as a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee.

My vision for the future of rural America includes rebuilding the communities that provide much of our food, fiber, and energy, and to provide support for a robust rural economy. Of course, this is virtually impossible without reliable, high-speed, 5G broadband connectivity.

In the late 1800s, Thomas Edison created the first practical incandescent lightbulb. By 1925, half of all homes in the United States had electricity. Today, we take electricity for granted. We don't think twice when we flip a switch.

As we continue to experience today's modern technical revolution, it is my goal to see 5G broadband just as commonplace. Twenty-four million Ameri-

cans still do not have access to broadband, and the vast majority of these people live in rural areas.

A 2017 study by the United States Department of Agriculture discovered that 29 percent of American farmers did not have reliable internet access, despite the fact that agriculture is all about technology today. Without reliable broadband access, we are leaving money on the table, and the American economy is failing to meet its fullest potential.

Connectivity and competition go hand in hand, and we can continue to invest in rural communities with 5G. Agriculture, healthcare, energy, education, and so many other industries demand this level of service.

In 2018, we ushered in a new farm bill that underscored the importance of broadband in rural America. Under broadband guaranteed lending programs, larger rural communities are permitted to build infrastructure for telecommunication networks.

The farm bill also supports broadband development where it is most needed by prioritizing funds to rural communities that are at least 90 percent unserved.

We can also encourage innovation on this front through opportunity zones. Established by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Mr. Speaker, opportunity zones incentivize long-term investments—private-sector investments—in rural, underserved, or economically distressed areas across the Nation through public-private partnerships.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, there are 300 opportunity zones—there are 18 congressional districts—and I am proud that 31 of these are in my district.

To tackle broadband development head-on, the FCC has introduced the idea of gigabit opportunity zones, and the proposal has a promising future ahead of it. Gigabit opportunity zones are designed specifically to address underserved areas by incentivizing State and local governments to foster connectivity, ultimately streamlining regulations, supporting job creators, and strengthening our neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, with continued investment in 5G broadband development, the future of rural America looks bright.

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#### LOW-INCOME SENIORS DRUG COVERAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4669, the Maximizing Drug Coverage for Low-Income Seniors Act.

This past week, I joined my colleagues, HALEY STEVENS, JAHANA HAYES, and TERRI SEWELL to introduce this commonsense legislation that will