

schools safer, and to protect us from tyranny.

SAVING RURAL HOSPITALS

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, instead of this laser focus on impeachment, we should be doing the people's work and passing a bill to help many Americans across this country who live in rural areas. My bipartisan Rural Health Care Access Act, H.R. 2990, would do just that.

Between January 1, 2010, and March 19, 2019, 102 rural hospitals closed in America. We are facing a crisis for rural America. These closures are increasing almost every year.

While so many of our senior citizens must utilize Medicare, Medicare is not reimbursing all hospitals in rural areas at a sustainable rate. We need to designate all our rural hospitals as Critical Access Hospitals.

Currently, this designation does not apply to those hospitals in rural areas that are slightly less than 35 miles from another hospital. My bill would get rid of this distance requirement, while maintaining all other requirements. It would help stave off the rapid decline of healthcare and protect vital jobs in rural communities.

I urge the Speaker to give my bill a chance.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, pursuing the American Dream has become a daunting task for millions of Americans in need of a place they can call home. We must address affordable housing, as we are in the midst of an acute crisis, and it is sweeping across America.

From my district in Brooklyn, New York, to Portland, Oregon, families coast to coast are getting priced out of their communities and driven into poverty and homelessness. My newly introduced bill, the Affordable Housing and Area Median Income Fairness Act, will attack this crisis head-on.

My bill addresses the clearly flawed model that has been used to calculate area median incomes, which is the basis on which rental rates are set. This outdated model made it harder for our families to afford having a roof over their heads, meanwhile, lining the pockets of big developers.

The Federal Government cannot—must not—continue to be complicit in this travesty.

As cities grow and communities evolve, the ability to afford having a roof over one's head should not be relegated only to those whose incomes afford them luxury.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in this crusade for human dignity: affordable housing for all Americans, access to affordable housing.

FARMER OF THE YEAR STEVE KELLEY

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

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Steve Kelley of Carlisle County, Kentucky, for being named the 2019 Kentucky Farm Bureau Farmer of the Year.

It is with great pride that I can say this is the fourth year in a row that a farmer in Kentucky's First Congressional District has been recognized as Kentucky Farmer of the Year.

After receiving his bachelors and masters degrees in agriculture from Murray State University, Steve embarked on a decades-long career farming over 2,500 acres in Carlisle County. His solar farm, as well as his grain, livestock, and timber operations, sets Steve apart and highlights the ambitious future he sees for agriculture in the Commonwealth. He believes that it is his purpose to "leave his farmland in better condition than when he received it."

I am honored to congratulate the 2019 Kentucky Farmer of the Year, Mr. Steve Kelley, and his family on his unwavering work ethic, dedication to the Carlisle County Farm Bureau, and outstanding role in the agriculture community.

FOR THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, don't let anybody tell you that all we do here in the House of Representatives is investigate the White House. We have passed 275-plus bipartisan bills for the good of the people.

For hardworking families, we have passed legislation to increase wages and protect pensions.

For American women, we have passed legislation to promote personal security and ensure equal pay for equal work.

For American communities, we have passed legislation to improve public safety by strengthening background checks.

And for our American veterans, we have passed legislation to improve transition assistance and access to mental healthcare.

Rather than govern, Senate Republicans have chosen to play politics. This Congress, they have refused to consider more than 275 House-passed bipartisan bills. Those are bills that have Republican support sitting on the desk of the Senate leader not being passed.

Madam Speaker, I remind Senate Republicans: Do your job. Let's govern wisely and get these bills passed.

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RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize November as National Adoption Month.

This month we celebrate the life-changing act of adoption that has touched the lives of so many in our country. American families nationwide open their homes and their hearts to children in search of a stable environment and a forever home.

Despite the many parents that adopt, there are still so many children in the foster care system in search of a place to call home. In 2018, almost half a million children and teenage youth were in U.S. foster care. As a country we must always strive to help the most vulnerable citizens among us. All children in America deserve a permanent family that can provide them with the love, support, and encouragement needed to reach their full potential in life.

During this important awareness month, we recognize the unconditional love adoptive parents provide to their children, and we hope that all children will soon be welcomed into a loving family.

RECOGNIZING HEATHER GLEN FIRE FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, at around 3 a.m. on Sunday, September 22, a fire broke out and punctured the calm of an assisted living facility in my community, Pennsylvania Seven, at Heather Glen Senior Living in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters answered the call, rushing into the building as flames gained force and tore through the roof. With extraordinary skill, they got to work saving the 82 elderly residents as the fire raged, carrying these men and women on their shoulders out of windows on to ladders. They brought all of the residents, as well as the five staff members working that night, to safety swiftly, while containing and ultimately defeating the fire.

In total, 45 agencies across four counties participated in this operation, coming together as a single unit in complete dedication to the mission at hand. In their example we see the best of the Greater Lehigh Valley and of our Nation.

Today, I ask my colleagues from across our country to join me in recognizing and honoring the service, sacrifices, and everyday heroism of these first responders.

Mr. Speaker, before our Nation, I want to thank them for everything they have done. They are the pride of our community.

RECOGNIZING NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Native American History Month and the contributions of Native Americans in my congressional district in central Washington.

With 29 Federally recognized tribes across the State, Washingtonians live alongside Native Americans who serve our communities through entrepreneurship, military service, and sharing their rich and storied cultural history. They are our friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers.

While we recognize that one month out of the year to remember the historical and cultural contributions of our Native friends, we must support them as they face a crisis that has affected Native women for decades. That crisis is of missing and murdered indigenous women.

In Washington, Native Americans make up about 2 percent of the population, but indigenous women account for 7 percent of the State's reported missing women. This includes 31 open cases on or near the Yakama Nation Reservation.

During Native American History Month, I challenge this body to honor the heritage of our Native friends by taking up legislation that will help ensure that missing and murdered loved ones are not part of the history of another generation of Native women.

THANKING CONGRESSMAN HOYER

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise.

I rise today for a very special purpose. I rise because this House on Monday passed H.R. 3702, the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act of 2019.

I rise today, because in thanking people on Tuesday, I neglected to thank one person who was extremely important in the passage of this legislation. The majority leader Mr. HOYER not only worked to help us bring the legislation to the floor, Mr. HOYER also improved the legislation. When it left our committee, it was a good bill. It had the unanimous consent of the committee.

Some things bear repeating. One hundred percent of the people on the Fi-

nancial Services Committee supported this legislation.

Mr. HOYER helped us by infusing it with some additional language that deals with resiliency that will help us to rebuild better and stronger after there has been a disaster.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. HOYER for his leadership. Especially he is thanked for making a good bill a much better bill.

HIGHLIGHTING THE 7-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF KHALIL MAATOUK

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

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the 7-year anniversary of Christian human rights lawyer Khalil Maatouk's unconscionable disappearance at the hands of Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad.

The regime abducted Maatouk because he had been relentlessly defending Syrian democratic activists. He was last seen on October 2 of 2012.

Khalil Maatouk's ordeal serves as a stark reminder of the Assad regime's barbaric assault on religious and Christian heritage, blatantly violating international humanitarian law. According to a September report from the Syrian Network for Human Rights, the regime is responsible for targeting 61 percent of churches throughout the country.

The United States demands the immediate release of Khalil Maatouk, and I urge the administration to prioritize this case. We must stand up for those who fight for freedom, especially freedom of religion.

RECOGNIZING THE TAINOS AND CARIBS DURING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, November is Native American Heritage Month, and I would like to share with you a story, one unknown to most Americans, but one that Virgin Islanders learn at a young age. It is the Caribbean story of Europe's drive for conquest and the resistance of the Native Americans of the Virgin Islands, the Tainos and the Caribs.

In 1493, Columbus and his men landed on Ayay, known now as Saint Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. There they met a group of Taino people who had been taken captive by the Caribs. While en route back to their ship with these captives, Columbus' men encountered the fierce Carib villagers, and the first recorded violent conflict between Europeans and Native Americans of the Western Hemisphere ensued, killing one of Columbus' men.

Men and women fought with bows and canoes against gunpowder on ships.

It is our story of Native pride of resistance, of remembering what is yours.

However, the Taino and Carib peoples have left us with so much more. When you use such words as barbecue, guava, canoe, hurricane, potato, maze, savannah, you are connecting with indigenous people who centuries ago journeyed from South America to settle in the archipelago that has given, and continues to give, much to this country and the world.

A STEPPING STONE FOR PEACE IN KASHMIR

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to share the facts and give an update on what is happening in the Jammu Kashmir region. Jammu Kashmir was given special treatment in the Constitution of 1947 in India. It was created by the "Temporary Provisions with Respect to the State of Jammu Kashmir." It is known as article 370.

It was supposed to be a stop-gap measure because the government had not been formed yet. For 70 straight years, this temporary article has forced citizens of Jammu Kashmir to live under different laws than all other Indians; different rules for citizenship, property ownership.

Earlier this year, the Indian Parliament confirmed that article 370's temporary status should end. It ended. It gave the people of Jammu Kashmir the same rights as all Indians. It was a landslide, 125-to-61 in the Rajya Sabha and 370-to-70 in the Lok Sabha. This action is solely about equality for all Indians.

Hopefully, this can be a step toward peace in Kashmir.

IN FAVOR OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of the American Dream; in favor of the bedrock of what has made America: capitalism.

Yesterday, while every cable news channel was transfixed by the Intelligence Committee, the Financial Services Committee was discussing a bill that strikes at the heart of American capitalism.

H.R. 3848, the companion legislation to Senator ELIZABETH WARREN's Stop Wall Street Looting Act, would add regulatory costs and harm job creators. It has a pithy title that is, unfortunately, misleading in purpose. I prefer to call it the stop entrepreneurship act.

This bill would curb private investments in Main Street companies, which would kill jobs, stifle innovation, harm consumers, and strike a major blow to the hallmark of capitalism.