

Mr. Speaker, I along with fellow members of the Harris County Delegation stand together to honor and recognize the sacrifice of four fallen Firefighters who died last Friday, May 31, 2013 in the City of Houston, Texas serving in the line of duty.

We offer our heartfelt sympathy to the families and fellow firefighters of those who died.

We are united with the City of Houston in grief over the deaths of Captain EMT Matthew Renaud, Engineer Operator EMT Robert Bebee, Firefighter EMT Robert Garner and Probationary Firefighter Anne Sullivan who died on Friday, while searching a blazing hotel and restaurant for possible trapped victims.

In the 118 year history of the Houston City Fire Department this was the greatest loss of life of their members while on duty. Their heroism will not be soon forgotten nor their sacrifice dimmed by time.

EXCERPTS FROM THE FIREMEN'S CREED

I have no ambition in this world but one and that is to be a fireman . . . We strive to preserve from destruction the wealth of the world . . . We are the defenders from fire . . . But, above all, our proudest endeavor is to save lives of men, the work of GOD himself.

We ask that our colleagues join us in a moment of silence in their memory.

We wish a speedy recovery for all those firefighters injured during Friday's tragedy.

MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

(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. Mr. Speaker, today the White House held a conference on mental health and the importance of removing the stigma associated with seeking mental health treatment. The conference dovetailed with an announcement by the Department of Veterans Affairs that it had met its goal to hire 1,600 new mental health professionals.

Despite the positive news from the VA, the President appropriately stated:

It's not enough to help more Americans seek treatment. We also have to make sure the treatment is there when they are ready to seek it.

I could not agree more, for a major barrier for individuals seeking care is not just access, but the stigma that is oftentimes associated with seeking professional help—especially for our veteran population.

Thankfully, there is more we can do.

I encourage my colleagues to learn more about H.R. 2001, the Veterans E-Health & Telemedicine Support Act. This bipartisan, no-cost bill expands the number of qualified providers servicing our veteran population and also helps remove the stigma associated with seeking treatment through the expansion of telemedicine at the VA.

CONGRATULATING MARK CROGHAN

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I rise today to recognize Mark Croghan, the longest serving school administrator from Castro Valley Unified School District, which is in my district, who will be retiring this year after 27 years of service in the East Bay.

Mark was raised and educated in Hayward, California. After a swimming career at Hayward High School, he earned a swimming scholarship to attend the University of California at Berkeley, where he received his college degree.

Mark began a long teaching career after college. He taught kids both in and out of the classroom, coaching a variety of sports, including swimming, basketball, softball, and he even served as the advisor for the ski team.

After receiving his master's degree in 1993, Mark began his administrative career as an assistant principal of Canyon Middle School in Castro Valley. Since then, Mark has served as a principal at both Marshall Elementary and Canyon Middle School.

Over his career as an administrator, Mark has created a positive learning environment and has prioritized the needs of students and their families. His leadership surely will be missed.

But if Mark's past service is any evidence of what to expect of him in the future, surely we have a lot in store for what his public service will bring to our community.

I wish Mark the best in his retirement. It is well earned.

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LINE DANCING AT THE IRS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the taxman has gone wild. The IRS spent \$50 million on boondoggle conferences. At one conference, the agency declined the cheaper government group rate and instead opted for perks including stays at swanky presidential suites, free drinks, and high-dollar tickets to the L.A. Angels baseball game. Now, isn't that lovely?

The IRS spent thousands on touchy-feely speakers, including a \$17,000 lecture about "leadership through art." More like the art of wasting money.

The taxacrats-turned film-makers spent \$50,000 for videos, including spoofs of "Star Trek," "Gilligan's Island," and line dancing to "Cupid Shuffle." Cupid Shuffle? Are you kidding me?

Mr. Speaker, this is corrupt, contemptible behavior. Ironically, instead of tracking our tax dollars, the Internal Revenue Squanderers waste tax dollars.

The head of the IRS says the expenses were inappropriate. Well, no kidding.

When the revenue find inappropriate behavior by taxpayers, the taxpayers pay more taxes with interest.

The IRS should return the \$50 million with interest to the Treasury, and it's time it audited the taxman.

And that's just the way it is.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to urge the House to act on climate change.

Last month, scientists recorded atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide at more than 400 parts per million. The long-term consequences of this development are going to get worse in the future, but we're already seeing the immediate impacts today.

The Philadelphia Inquirer has recently reported on the sea level rising along the Delaware Bay and the spring season coming earlier to the Philadelphia region. I will insert these two articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

And just last month, the Natural Resources Defense Council released a report on the cost of climate change, showing that the Federal Government spent \$100 billion on disaster relief last year. That's more than we spent on education, transportation, or even non-discretionary spending on health.

And, yet, not only does the Republican majority in the House refuse to address climate change; they're actively pursuing legislation that is sure to make things worse. We must address this problem now.

ALONG N.J. BAY, RISING SEA DRAWS EVER CLOSER

[The Inquirer, Apr. 29, 2013]

[By Sandy Bauers]

The night Meghan Wren got stranded by floodwaters and had to sleep in her car, she knew it was time for a reckoning.

She had been driving to her waterfront home along the Delaware Bay in South Jersey. As she crossed the wide marsh in the dark, the water rose quickly. It became too deep—ahead and behind. She had to stop and wait.

To her, no longer were climate-change predictions an abstract idea. Sea level has been rising, taking her waterfront with it.

"This isn't something that's coming," she later told a group of bay shore residents and officials. "It's here. We just happen to live in a place that will affect us sooner."

Wren lives on tiny Money Island—more a peninsula of bayfront land with about 40 small homes and trailers in Cumberland County.

Just visible across the grassy marsh is Gandys Beach with 80 homes. Farther south, Fortescue with 250 homes. All three are steadily disappearing.

On the Atlantic coast, beach replenishment masks the effects of sea-level rise. But along the low-lying bay shore, veined with creeks, the problems are striking.

With each nor'easter, more of the beachfronts erode. More of the streets and driveways flood. Septic systems, inundated with salt water, are failing.

"We're seeing beyond the normal damage," said Steve Eisenhauer, a regional director with the Natural Lands Trust, which has a