

HEROIN OPIOID CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, the growing heroin and opioid crisis has especially hit home in my district in Suffolk County, New York. There was a 2015 report issued in New York State that showed that, out of all 62 counties in New York, it was my home county that was hit the hardest by the rise of heroin and opioid abuse. We had the highest number of heroin-related overdose deaths of any county in New York.

As a member of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic, I have spoken with affected families directly. Addiction is a truly devastating disease that shatters lives, families, and communities. It is a disease that only continues to spread at rapid rates, and more can and must be done to counteract the damage it has done and prevent its rapid advancement.

Working closely with my local community, I have been pursuing a more localized solution to address this crisis. Hosting multiple drug task force roundtables in Suffolk County, I have been able to bring together local elected officials, law enforcement, health professionals, community groups, parents, concerned residents, and those in recovery to discuss various ways that we can work together to combat this epidemic. Over the past year, working with both local residents and my colleagues in Congress, I have been pushing to advance legislation in the House that would help provide us with the resources we need to end the growing epidemic crisis on Long Island.

Just last week, joined by my local community, I was proud to announce that there has been progress made to pass several important bills this week aimed at improving and increasing access to treatment, enforcement, and education. The House is now passing many of these critically important measures over the course of the next few days.

While I have been dedicating the most amount of my time advocating for the passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, CARA, H.R. 593, many other important proposals are also moving forward.

One other bill that I cosponsor is H.R. 4641, which will be passing today, which would improve the guidelines for prescribing opioids and pain medication by creating a Federal interagency and stakeholder task force that would review, modify, and update best practices for pain management in prescribing pain medication. While there are many legitimate reasons and needs for some to be treated with pain medication, those highly addictive pills pose a serious risk. This critical bill would help ensure that all parties, from prescribers to patients, have access to the most up-to-date information so that lawful prescription use does not become addicting.

Just a few of the other bills include the Examining Opioid Treatment Infra-

structure Act of 2016, H.R. 4982, which would require Congress receive a report on substance abuse treatment availability and infrastructure needs in the U.S., and legislation that would task a Federal agency to create a plan on how to deal with the opioid and heroin epidemic, H.R. 4976.

Legislation is passing to help stop the flow of illegal narcotics into our country, to keep drugs out of our communities and off our streets, such as legislation to help law enforcement officials identify and target drug traffickers, H.R. 3380, and to allow for easier prosecution of these criminals, H.R. 4985.

There is not one piece of legislation that will completely solve this overwhelming crisis, but finally Congress is taking a big step forward in the fight against drug abuse. We must always do everything in our power to provide our local communities with the resources necessary to help stop and prevent drug abuse through treatment, enforcement, and education, which is why I will continue pushing these efforts in the House.

I have spoken to parents of those recovering, parents of those who are unfortunately lost. It is impacting lives. It is devastating families.

Have a conversation in each of our districts, all 435 congressional districts, and we all hear the story all too often. It is not any race, gender, or socioeconomic status. It is not one particular school district. It is impacting all of our children.

As the father of two 9-year-old girls, I visited their class last week. I think of their generation, and it is important that this generation in Congress today does everything in our power this week and beyond to combat this epidemic.

WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SELMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a hidden jewel in Alabama's Seventh Congressional District: Wallace Community College Selma. Wallace Community College Selma is a stellar 2-year institution that provides incredible educational opportunities to the students of Dallas County and across the Black Belt of Alabama.

Now, more than ever, America needs greater innovation in our educational system to meet the demanding needs of tomorrow. Outstanding higher education institutes in the State of Alabama are producing some of our State's and our Nation's best and brightest who will lead us into the next era of American innovation.

Wallace Community College Selma is leading that charge in my district through its dual enrollment program, which allows high school students to complete college courses and graduate with a high school diploma as well as

an associate degree from this junior college.

In 2008, Wallace Community College Selma graduated 31 students from the Selma Early College High School, which was the first of its kind on a college campus in the State of Alabama. The 2016 graduating class will include 22 dual enrollment students, including 20 students that participated in a special partnership with Tuskegee University.

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute program with Tuskegee allowed Wallace Community College Selma to increase the participation of underrepresented minority students from Alabama's Black Belt counties in the important fields of science and research. This dual enrollment program with Tuskegee offers high school students an opportunity to take classes at Wallace Community College Selma as well as Tuskegee, and to graduate with their high school diploma as well as an associate degree in science.

Mr. Speaker, the dual enrollment program at Wallace Community College Selma is accomplishing what it set out to do: to give Dallas County high school students a head start in college. The benefits of this important opportunity are immeasurable: cutting the cost and the time spent in college while providing high school students significant exposure to the types of classes and fields of interest that will give them an important advantage and jump start on their peers.

Collaborations like these are so critically important to our youth gaining important and invaluable educational experience while obtaining college credit through dual enrollment. America must encourage more of these types of programs as we seek to lead the world in educating our people and attracting new generations of high-tech and high-paying jobs.

As a Member of Congress for the Seventh Congressional District, I take great pride in working to offer solutions that will help lay the foundation for creating better paying jobs and for our educational system to thrive in the future. I am so proud to acknowledge today the tremendous efforts and the outstanding programs offered at Wallace Community College Selma which exemplify the invaluable role our 2-year colleges play in our communities.

This college's leadership and innovation in creating a 21st century learning environment is to be commended—what a jewel to have serving the students of the Black Belt of Alabama. I am proud to represent them in my district and also to help encourage more students to participate in the dual enrollment program and Wallace Community College Selma.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Dr. James Mitchell for his tremendous leadership as president of Wallace Community College Selma. I want to commend the faculty, administrators, and students of Wallace Community College Selma for being truly outstanding.

This Friday, May 13, 2016, is graduation day at Wallace Community College Selma. I want to congratulate the entire class of 2016 and especially acknowledge the academic achievement of the 22 dual enrollment students who will receive a special congressional commendation on Friday. The names of these students will be listed in this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous efforts and the tremendous achievements of the Wallace students who participated in Alabama Skills USA:

Alabama Skill USA winner Jonniece Collins won first place in masonry and, as such, was the first woman in the State of Alabama to win this honor.

Other winners included Roderick Perkins, who won second place in masonry; Terrence Campbell, who won third place in masonry; and Francis Phillips, who won second place in cosmetology in the men's hair design competition.

I want to also pay special tribute to the outstanding athletic achievements of Ki'Onna Likely, who was the 2015–2016 Alabama Community College Conference Player of the Year as well as NJCAA Second Team All-American.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring all of the accomplishments of the outstanding students and graduates of Wallace Community College Selma and to praise the leadership of Dr. James Mitchell and the hardworking staff and faculty of Wallace Community College.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2016. I wish you all the very best in all of your future endeavors. We are counting on you to make a difference.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House. Enlighten their hearts, and give them the light and strength to know Your will and make it their own.

Guide them by Your wisdom, and support them with Your power. For You desire justice for all, and we ask You to enable them to uphold the rights of all.

May they be not misled by ignorance nor corrupted by fear or favor, but rather faithful to all that is true. As they work through this day and these weeks, may they temper justice with love, and may all their deliberations be pleasing to You.

May all that is done within these hallowed halls be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAHOOD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

REMEMBERING FIREFIGHTER RICHARD SHELTRA

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Firefighter Richard Sheltra of the Pineville Volunteer Fire Department.

Firefighter Sheltra died a hero while battling a fire on April 30, but he was a hero long before he volunteered to step into that burning building.

Firefighter Sheltra had service in his blood. He had great examples because his parents were also volunteer firefighters, all dedicated Christians attending Forest Hill Church.

Whenever the call went out, Firefighter Sheltra dropped whatever he was doing to go help. So strong was his commitment to serve and protect the families involved that he was often first on the scene.

Firefighter Sheltra was Pineville's Rookie of the Year in 2015. He was in the process of applying to the Charlotte Fire Department when he died at the age of 20.

While Mr. Sheltra was an excellent firefighter, he was an even greater servant of God. Please join me in praying for Firefighter Sheltra's family and the Pineville Volunteer Fire Department during this time of immense grief

and, also, asking God to protect all of the brave men and women who serve our communities each and every day.

UNITED STATES' RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL IS MORE IMPOR- TANT THAN EVER

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the honor and privilege of traveling to Israel for the fourth time. Congressman SCHIFF and I joined the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Dan Shapiro, at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem for Holocaust Remembrance Day.

We watched six survivors, each representing 1 million innocent civilians killed, light the torch and share their stories of loss and survival. It was a powerful, moving, and emotional moment.

I am not sure one can begin to understand the devastation of the Holocaust until you have stood in Dachau or Auschwitz or heard stories from survivors themselves that seem too horrific to be real.

The United States' relationship with Israel is more important than ever. No matter what other threats we face, the United States and Israel must remain the closest of friends and continue to work together to ensure the security of our trusted ally.

HONORING KANE COUNTY OFFICER OF THE YEAR DEAN TUCKER

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Officer Dean Tucker on being named Kane County's Officer of the Year for saving the life of a 7-year-old girl.

Last June Officer Tucker responded to reports of an early-morning two-car collision. Upon arrival, witnesses alerted him to an SUV believed to be submerged at the bottom of a retention pond. Surveying the scene from the shoreline, Tucker spotted 7-year-old Monserrat Alanis Ramirez 40 yards away, flailing on the surface.

Acting decisively, Officer Tucker quickly removed his gear, dove into the water, and wrapped his arms around the girl to keep her afloat. Fatigue quickly set in and Tucker called out to a fellow Aurora police officer, David Bliss, and a passerby for help. The passerby provided support, swimming alongside Tucker, while Officer Bliss waded in and pulled Tucker and the girl to safety.

Tragically, Monserrat's mother and brother did not survive. However, the brave actions of Officer Tucker prevented further loss of life. We salute his selfless courage.