

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, as the 114th Congress continues to set its course for the coming term, I rise today to honor Jerry "J.R." McBride, a member of the DuPage County Board, who died of cancer in October at the young age of 47.

I rise not to dwell on his passing but to suggest that we all may take a moment to learn a few lessons from his life. J.R., as he was affectionately called, lived his life by focusing on the needs of others.

He was a family man. He cared deeply about his wife, Becky, and his five children. He was a community man, helping more area nonprofit organizations than I have time to mention here.

Perhaps most important for those of us in Congress, J.R. was a public servant who put the needs of his community and his constituents ahead of politics and partisanship.

J.R. was an equal opportunity listener and a friend to Republicans and Democrats alike. He knew the importance of cooperation and of compromise, of humor and humanity. He saw in his fellow public servants the common aspiration to do what is right for the people that we have been elected to represent.

Mr. McBride recognized that we are all in this together, and he was committed to working together for the greater good. That lesson, along with his accomplishments for DuPage County and his memory, will live on.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS A HEINOUS CRIME

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this week, we will take up legislation that helps combat one of the fastest growing, most despicable criminal enterprises in the world: human trafficking.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, we had a reported 82 incidents of human trafficking cases last year and a reported 426 calls of human trafficking violations. I am pleased that late last year, Pennsylvania added itself as a State that enacted stricter human trafficking laws, as have most other States nationwide. Pennsylvania was also named as one of the five most improved States.

Our work on this issue, though, is far from over. Legislation this week takes important steps in the right direction, by streamlining law enforcement resources. It enhances victim services, and it criminalizes those who knowingly advertise the commercial exploitation of children. It also allows Federal grants to support shelters for victims.

I applaud the efforts of my colleagues in the House for raising awareness of this heinous crime, and I encourage bi-

partisan support of all of the human trafficking legislation that we are considering this week.

WE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT IN PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

Seventy years ago, following the atrocities of the Holocaust—which left 6 million Jews, 1 million Roma, 250,000 mentally and physically disabled individuals, and 9,000 homosexuals brutally murdered simply because they were different—the world's democracies stood together and declared: "Never again."

These two simple and powerful words greet visitors to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a reminder that it is our collective responsibility to promote religious tolerance and stand up against persecution or totalitarianism in any form.

The recent attacks at a kosher market and at the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris, the kidnapping of 276 Christian schoolgirls by Boko Haram in Nigeria, and beheading by the Islamic State of journalists and of 13 teenage boys last week for the simple act of watching a soccer game underscore the unfortunate and troubling reminder that we must remain vigilant and undeterred in our fight to protect the most human rights.

"Never again" must be more than an aspirational statement; it must be fact.

THE TRAGIC REALITY OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the tragic yet growing reality of human trafficking. This evil exists even in the United States of America. Here at home, 300,000 young Americans are in danger of becoming victims of sex trafficking.

Most troubling is how quickly these youths vanish in the shadows. Within 48 hours of being on the street, one in three kids will be lured into sexual exploitation, according to the National Network for Runaway Youth.

That is why we must build awareness. Education is power. Please seek out the organizations that can educate you so that you can make a difference. In Iowa, we have the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking, Iowa Teens Against Human Trafficking, Braking Traffik, and many, many other fantastic community and religious organizations working to raise awareness and combat human trafficking in the State.

Look them up. Get involved. We will work together to end trafficking because our women and children are not safe. This isn't something that just happens across the oceans; this is happening at home.

MERCHANT MARINERS ARE OWED A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

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

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, in World War II, more than 200,000 brave Americans answered the call of duty by joining the merchant marine, braving troubled seas to deliver crucial supplies to the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific. They faced enemy attack. Thousands perished at sea, and hundreds more were captured.

Unfortunately, the veterans of the merchant marine who risked their lives in the service of this Nation were never eligible for the provisions of the GI bill that helped millions of veterans go to college, secure a home, and transition seamlessly into civilian life.

To right this wrong, I am introducing the Honoring Our World War II Merchant Mariners Act of 2015. This bill would provide the one-time payment of \$25,000 to fewer than 5,000 surviving World War II mariners.

With many of these forgotten heroes well into their nineties, time is running out to repay this debt of gratitude. I encourage my colleagues to act quickly in cosponsoring this important legislation.

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INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I was pleased that the Speaker expressed support for infrastructure improvements on "60 Minutes" last Sunday.

America is in desperate need of repair.

Officials in San Diego just reported that it would take \$3.9 billion to maintain their infrastructure, and there is no doubt that my colleagues are facing similar circumstances in their home districts.

The longer we wait, the longer we drag our feet on this issue, the bigger the pricetag grows. The economic benefits of an improved infrastructure are clear. S&P is estimating that \$1.3 billion in infrastructure investment creates 29,000 construction jobs, and that is not including indirect job creation.

But we all know this is more than an economic issue. We are risking the safety of the American people who are traveling every day on crumbling roads and bridges.

Madam Speaker, what are we waiting for? There is much to gain by acting and yet so much to lose by doing nothing.