

I am proud to have this man as a fellow Montanan, and I am honored to recognize his extraordinary life. May we always remember Jack's story and those of all our Nation's veterans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DARREN DRAKE

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

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of 32-year-old Darren Drake from New Milford, New Jersey, whose promising life was cut short in last month's tragic and senseless act of ISIS-inspired lone-wolf terror in Manhattan.

Darren was one of our best and brightest, and a son of New Jersey through and through. A hardworking project manager at Moody's and a lifelong Jets fan, Darren earned more than three degrees from New Jersey universities. Not only was he driven and accomplished, Darren was also a committed public servant, serving as president of the New Milford School Board.

Darren was beloved. It was intensely moving to see so much of the North Jersey community come together at his wake and funeral last week and this week.

To his parents, Jimmy and Barbara, and everyone whose life he touched, I want to express my deepest condolences. Darren's death is our profound loss. He packed more into his years than most do in a lifetime. His life enriched our lives beyond measure.

No act of terror will ever be able to diminish the bright and burning love he had for his home, my State, and our country. I will spend my days here fighting terrorism at home and abroad in Darren's honor.

May God rest his soul.

HAPPY 242ND BIRTHDAY TO THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

(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, tomorrow marks the 242nd birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps.

In today's own unpredictable world, the Marines are as important and essential now as ever before.

I am proud to have a member of the Marine Corps serving in my Washington office as a legislative fellow. Paul Camacho achieved the rank of staff sergeant during his service from 2000 to 2008. He is a native of Philadelphia and served as a field artillery cannoner.

At one point, Paul was the youngest marine in the entire Marine Corps, an achievement that is celebrated each year during cake-cutting ceremonies.

To Paul and all those who are part of "The Few. The Proud. The Marines," I say happy birthday and thank you for

your service. Thank you to all who have served in one of the most respected fighting forces in the world.

Mr. Speaker, it was President Ronald Reagan who said "some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem." Happy birthday.

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PROTECTING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, study after study has shown that illegal voting is extraordinarily rare and voter fraud is almost nonexistent.

Instead of spending taxpayer money chasing after mythical claims of voter fraud, the Federal Government must address actual threats to our electoral system. It is imperative that the Federal Government protect the integrity of our elections, but the administration seems interested in only chasing voter fraud unicorns.

The real threats to our democracy are voter suppression, cybersecurity, weaknesses, and foreign meddling.

To protect the integrity of our elections, we must expand voting rights for all Americans, we must modernize our voting systems, and we must appoint an independent commission to investigate foreign meddling in the electoral system before the 2018 Federal election.

SALUTING ALL WHO DEFEND OUR GREAT NATION

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on Veterans Day, we salute all those who have defended our great Nation and served in uniform. We say a profound thank you for so bravely offering yourself and your services for the betterment of our Nation.

Whether part of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard, you have served and sacrificed greatly to secure the freedom we enjoy here at home. Your commitment to duty and to serve a cause bigger than yourself commands our respect. You continue the greatest traditions of responsible citizens in this Republic, and you are a role model for younger generations of Americans.

To the families who have sacrificed alongside our veterans, we say thank you. You provide the love and care necessary for our servicewomen and -men to continue their honorable work.

I am honored to serve the veterans in my hometown community, in Bucks and Montgomery Counties, and across the Nation. Our gratitude is enduring, our support for you steadfast. We have your back.

OPPOSING REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the Republican tax plan and to highlight another devastating proposal in it.

The Republican tax plan proposes to eliminate the medical expense deduction. Eliminating this deduction could raise taxes on nearly 9 million people, including cancer patients and their families, seniors, and those with disabilities and chronic health plans.

Currently, people with high healthcare costs can deduct medical expenses that exceed 10 percent of their total income. Let me give you an example.

If you are a retiree living in southern California suffering from multiple sclerosis and you live on \$75,000 a year annual pension, you could write off \$70,000 a year in medical expenses, giving that person a tax break of about \$20,000. Removing the itemized medical deduction would spell financial disaster for that person.

Now, half of those claiming the deduction have an income below \$50,000 per year. So just think about how devastating losing this deduction will be.

I can't stand idly by while my Republican colleagues put forth a tax plan that takes money from the sickest and neediest among us in order to give tax cuts to corporations and the top 1 percent of earners. This is a bad bill.

SALUTING VETERANS

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute all veterans on this day.

As veterans, you may forever and eternally take your place amongst the unbroken line of patriots who have stepped forward, whether voluntarily or drafted, with youth and rigor and bravery for your Nation, for your family, and for the soldier on your left or right.

On this day, we bestow honor upon you for once standing the watch.

Because of the standard you have set, future generations will continue to serve with pride in our American heritage and be willing to preserve its providential promise, willing to uphold our God-given inheritance as free people, and they shall fight for freedom, whatever the cost, with dogged persistence and with an iron will handed down from your legacy.

Happy Veterans Day, and may God lift you up, and may He always bless these United States.

HONORING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1