

REFLECTING

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Unfortunately, Nancy Pelosi and House Democrats chose to delay and block all kinds of important legislation in order to rush through their partisan, baseless impeachment of President Trump. Ever since the President was inaugurated, their goal has been to impeach him. House Democrats impeached the President not because he committed impeachable offenses, of which there are none, but simply because they dislike him and do not think they can beat him in the 2020 election. I strongly opposed the impeachment charade, speaking against the articles of impeachment on the House floor.

However, there were some significant accomplishments in 2019 that I was honored to play a role in. As the Republican Leader of the Education and Labor Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services, I took advantage of new opportunities to delve into issues that affect some of our most vulnerable members of society – children and senior citizens. I worked with my colleagues on the House Committee on Education and Labor (E&L) to hold hearings and strengthen federal efforts to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect. In May, the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (Stronger CAPTA) passed the House of Representatives, aimed at limiting child abuse and neglect in the United States. It was a great

privilege of mine to work on this consequential piece of legislation that helps protect our nation’s children.

I also worked with colleagues on E&L to pass the Dignity in Aging Act (H.R. 4334), which reauthorizes the Older Americans Act (OAA). From strengthening meal delivery programs and preventing elder abuse and exploitation to supporting family caregivers and community service employment opportunities – the OAA ensures older Americans have access to services that allow them to live and thrive in their own homes. Based on my numerous travels throughout the 1st District, I know that access to programs like these are critical for seniors to thrive independently.

I also worked on a bipartisan bill that ended up in the final OAA, which would eliminate the cap on the percentage of funding that Area Agencies on Aging can use to provide services to relatives raising children. This provision will be especially beneficial in Kentucky, where many older relatives have taken on the responsibilities of raising children whose parents are unable to take care of them.

Being active and accessible remains a top priority of mine. That’s why I made 121 visits throughout our district for community visits, town hall meetings, “Coffee with your Congressman,” business tours, and much more. My staff and

I held over 670 meetings and helped over 945 constituents with casework. I am especially proud that my field representatives held 136 community office hours, consistently bringing our constituent services to every county.

While I’m disheartened that the divisive and partisan impeachment inquiry into President Trump has dominated the spotlight in Washington in recent months, many of my congressional colleagues and I remain steadfast in our efforts to deliver for the American people. As 2019 comes to close, I have confidence that we are moving in the right direction with the policies put forward by the Trump Administration. For seniors, children, students, entrepreneurs, and families, this year has brought about victories and opportunities for the American people, and I look forward to delivering even stronger results in 2020.

Rep. James Comer is a United States Congressman for the 1st Congressional District, which spans from south central Kentucky to the river counties of far western Kentucky. Contact him with any questions or concerns in his Washington D.C. office at (202) 225-3115, in the Tompkinsville Office at (270) 487-9509, in the Paducah Office at (270) 408-1865, or schedule an appointment in the Madisonville Office by calling (270) 487-9509.

INDICTED

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(oxycodone, hydrocone, alprazolam) and trafficking in a controlled substance.

John D. Botts Jr., 45, of Monroe County was indicted for possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine).

Dillion Turner, 24, of Monroe County was indicted for 2nd degree burglary and the unlawful taking of several guns.

Johnathan Coe, 23, of Monroe County was indicted for 2nd degree


burglary, evading the police, tampering with physical evidence, possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), and the unlawful taking of several guns.

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LOVE

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More specifically than knowing she wanted to be a veterinarian, Hughes knew she wanted to help horses.

“From the age of twelve, I showed horses and my grandparents kept a horse for me,” she said.

In Jr. High, thanks to a gifted class that allowed career shadowing, she was able to spend some of her time shadowing a veterinarian. The experience only deepened her drive to follow her dream.

A dream becomes a reality

As a young adult, she went to Murray State for undergrad, and then to the University of Illinois for four years of veterinary education.

In 2005, while attending the University of Illinois, Hughes, who was Queen of the Illinois Quarter Horse Association, met her future husband.

“Tom used to chase me at the horse shows,” she recollected. “I blew him off for six months, but several friends in the association encouraged me to date him. So, we went on a lunch date.”

Hughes jokingly calls that first date the beginning of the end. She fell in love with Tom, and the two eventually married and moved their lives to Kentucky where Tom was born and raised. Fortunately for Hughes, Kentucky is well known for its horse culture.

Southern Equine Veterinary Services

A decade ago, after moving to Kentucky and doing an internship in Simpsonville, Hughes knew it was time to open her own practice.

The result was her now thriving business in Knob Lick, Kentucky, Southern Equine Veterinary Services.

In the beginning it was a challenge. DeAnn and Tom’s first daughter, Hallie, was only a few months old.

“Starting a new business with an infant is not an easy task,” Hughes said.

However, with time, knowledge and a special touch with horses, Hughes built a loyal and steady clientele across South Central Kentucky.

“I often travel up to 40 miles in every direction,” she said. Although the clinic is easily accessible, and built for horses, Hughes says that only about 5% of the horses she sees come there.

“Most of my work is farm visits,” Hughes said.

Knowing your patients

“I know horses,” Hughes said. “I know what they do and I



Dr. Hughes opened her practice 10 years ago.



Testing an equine blood sample.

know why they do it. Horses are straightforward and honest.”

Hughes says that a person can read certain animals, and she certainly has a special connection to equine.

In addition to maintaining horse health through vaccinations and deworming, she has treated many things through the years. Health concerns such as colic and hoof abscesses are fairly routine, but she has often put her extensive knowledge to work with less usual ailments.

“One of the most bizarre things I ever saw was red Maple leaf toxicity,” she said.

As it turned out, the horse she was treating was in a field next to an embankment of maple saplings which had been sprayed with herbicides.

“When the leaves are wilted they omit a toxic substance poisonous to horses,” she said.

“He was breathing hard, and we didn’t know what was wrong. The whites of his eyes were extremely yellow.”

Hughes figured out what the problem was and gave the horse a blood transfusion. The horse lived, and has a happy and healthy existence.

“Sometimes it’s about knowing the environment the horse is in, where it lives, what it eats and so forth,” she said.

Advancing horse healthcare

Just this winter, Hughes added two new machines to her practice, which she is proud of because of the ease of

access it adds for helping horses in need.

“For a lot of years ambulatory rural practitioners had to send bloodwork out to a lab, and that was not the most convenient thing,” said Hughes.

“Often times in a rural practice you use what you have at your disposal, even if it’s not everything that you need. This allows me to get results quickly,” she said.

“Now with this right at my fingertips I’m able to treat horses as soon as we know what the problem is.”

The two machines are a hematology machine, which measures 24 properties in the blood, and a serum chemistry analyzer which indicates 14 values.

It takes only about 11 minutes to get a full blood work-up on a horse.

“If a horse came to me on a weekend, it would sometimes take two or three days to get results. I did blood work on a horse over the holidays and within a half hour I was able to detect the problem,” Hughes said.

She added that although the machinery itself was costly, per test, it is more economical for herself and the customer.

Looking to her future, Hughes is excited to offer horses and their owners these services.

For more information, you can visit the location at 6478 Sulphur Well Knob Lick Road in Knob Lick Kentucky, or call 270-261-1177.

She can also be reached via email at drhughes@kyhorsevet.com

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