

We're going to hear a lot about a do-nothing Congress, and frankly, I get frustrated when I hear about that. This body has passed over 30 jobs bills and sent them across the courtyard to the other side of the Capitol where they sit on HARRY REID's doorstep. Now, these aren't partisan bills, Mr. Speaker; these are bills like Access to Capital for Job Creators that passed this body by over 400 votes. That's wildly bipartisan, something that we agree upon, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and my colleagues on this side of the aisle; and yet they're sitting on HARRY REID's doorstep, and they won't even come up for a vote. This is the frustration that I think the American public has.

Washington needs to move forward. We need to address jobs and the economy. We need to address the out-of-control spending that has happened, yes, on both sides of the aisle. We need to figure out a way that Washington can tighten its belt so that we do not bury our children and grandchildren under a mountain of debt and jeopardize the very fabric of the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I talk to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I do sense that there is a frustration. There is a concern that we may be the first generation of Americans that leaves our country worse for our children and grandchildren than we received from our parents and grandparents. For me, this is absolutely unacceptable, which is why I think that we have to find that common ground—find the common ground and move our country forward.

I certainly hope tonight we talk about a united America, we talk about a vision that unites us as opposed to one that divides us. This will be an opportunity. And I hope it's about jobs and the economy, the out-of-control spending, and making sure that hard-working American taxpayers are moving forward.

This is our time. It's time we all come together to put America back to work.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL OF SERVICE FOR YOUTH RECIPIENT SALLY WHITE

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sally White, a remarkable young lady from the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama who was a recent recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal of Service for Youth Award.

Sally is a driven, committed, and determined young lady who is destined for success. She is currently a senior at Thomasville High School in Thomasville, Alabama, and has a 4.32 grade point average. She has been a member of the varsity cheerleading squad for 3 years and was captain of the squad this

year. She was also named a Universal Cheerleaders Association All-American.

Sally has been involved in the Thespian Drama Honor Society for 6 years and attended the International Thespian Festival in Nebraska where she worked with theater students from around the world. She is a member of the National Honor Society, attended Alabama's Girls State, and is a Thomasville Chamber Ambassador.

Sally has been very passionate about public service and mission work. She traveled to Ecuador for 2 weeks in the summer of 2010, planting trees to raise money for village schools. Sally serves as a volunteer for the summer reading program at the Thomasville Public Library and volunteers in the extended day program at Thomasville Elementary School to assist young students with homework.

Sally plans to pursue a college degree in either biomedical or chemical engineering. After college, she plans to attend graduate school to earn a Ph.D. or medical degree. Her ultimate goal is to one day work in the medical research field to develop cures for this Nation's most troubling diseases.

Sally is one of 14 youth in the State of Alabama who has received the Congressional Gold Medal of Service Award since its inception by Congress in 1979. The award provides a unique opportunity for young people to set and achieve personal challenging goals that build character and foster community service. Unlike many other awards, recipients do not win the Congressional Gold Medal of Service. They earn it. Sally earned this accolade by setting and achieving goals in four program areas: volunteer public service, personal development, physical fitness, and explorations. In her more than 800 hours of community service, she strengthened her commitment to public service and realized the power that one individual can make in one's community and in this world.

I had the great privilege of presenting the Congressional Gold Medal of Service Award to Sally 2 weeks ago on January 11, 2012, during a student assembly at Thomasville High School. I was impressed by Sally's poise, grace, and strength and her commitment to helping others. When asked about the award, Sally stated: "Receiving the Congressional Gold Medal of Service for Youth Award has been a tremendous honor for me. I am thankful for the love and support I have been provided while working towards this award. I am extremely humbled by this honor."

Sally's principal, Mr. Kyle Ferguson, expressed the sentiments of her teachers, advisers, and mentors when he stated: "Sally White is without a doubt one of the most driven, goal-oriented, and conscientious young people that I have ever encountered. She is certainly operating at a level far beyond her years. We are honored that she has been with us through her high school years."

Sally White is an excellent role model and a wonderful example of servant leadership. We should all aspire to work as hard as Sally for the good of others and for our own personal development. I want to applaud Sally's teachers, family members, friends, and the Thomasville community for helping to shape and nurture an outstanding student.

On behalf of the Seventh Congressional District, the State of Alabama, and this Nation, we recognize and congratulate Sally White for receiving the Congressional Gold Medal of Service for Youth Award for her hard work, dedication, and community involvement. It is with great pride that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Sally White for her exemplary commitment to public service.

□ 1030

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, all around the Hill today, you will see Members of Congress wearing a red button, "1,000 Days," a reminder that it has been 1,000 days since the United States Senate has passed a budget for the United States of America; 1,000 days of acting irresponsibly.

I want to pause and tell you that last year on January 8, just 3 days after being sworn in as a new United States Congressman, we were informed of the tragic incident that happened in Arizona; and I want to let the gentlewoman from Arizona, GABBY GIFFORDS, know that I'm going to be honored that she will be on the floor with us today. The prayers of my family and of the members of the South Carolina delegation and our State go out to her and her family and the folks in Arizona that she represents every day, and we will continue to do that long after her service to this country.

Mr. Speaker, this week is National School Choice Week. All across our country, students and families are rallying for National School Choice Week, a grassroots campaign dedicated to the idea that all students, regardless of background, should have the opportunity to choose the school that most effectively motivates them to learn. For too long, we have made increases in spending and new standards from Washington our focus, which have, sadly, strangled our parents' and teachers' ability to help our students succeed.

Now, with that, I want to give a shout-out to the Nation's teachers who have to deal every day with complying with the mandates that come from Washington, D.C., while they struggle to educate the children of our country. Instead of propelling them to success, the United States has fallen to 14th in

the world in reading, 17th in science, and 25th in math, compared to other countries, according to the 2009 edition of the Program for International Student Assessment. Those numbers are astonishing.

As proud Americans, we will not accept the consequences of failure, of letting our children fall behind the rest of the world. Parents are demanding results in education for their children; and Washington should listen to their message, which is, simply: We know how to reform education in our States; get Washington out of the way and watch us succeed.

Education should be returned to the States, the local communities, and to parents, just where our Founding Fathers left it when they designed this great government.

This is the reality we face: Our country, the United States of America, stormed the beaches of Normandy. We raised the flag over Iwo Jima. We fought for and won the freedom of other nations all around the globe. We ventured into space and landed the human race on the Moon. We inspired the collapse of the Berlin Wall. But before all of this, we invented the lightbulb, the automobile, the television, the telephone, discovered the art and science of flying.

Our inventions, though, are not as much the reason for our greatness as they are the result of it, because at the very beginning, at our founding, we declared to the world this belief: "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

The truth in that Declaration reminds us that our people will succeed and prosper, and our students will learn and achieve when we preserve the liberty of every parent to choose the educational environment that's best for their children. And if we do so, imagine how our children will lead the world through another century marked by the rise of freedom and the innovation that freedom inspires.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I want to end by echoing the words of Mr. JONES from earlier when he said: May God bless the men and women in uniform, may God bless their families, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO THE HIGHEST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week, I came to the floor of the House to challenge the utilization of words because words matter. Candidates who are charging each other with a variety of sins decided to

call President Barack Obama, who tonight will give us the State of the Union, the "food stamp President."

For many of us who know our history, we might recall that in the 1940s and beyond, there were many who were on government cheese. In fact, many people I know today smile about that government cheese and peanut butter that they were given. They include doctors and lawyers and leaders of this Nation, teachers, people who are expanding opportunities for others.

This Nation is a great country, and we are reminded that many who start from humble beginnings can ascend to the highest office or the barons and the leadership of corporate America. So the negative connotation of "food stamp President" is to denigrate those who receive it rather than to suggest that there are opportunities in this Nation that no other country can provide.

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about and look forward to the President's State of the Union as he speaks about income equality and challenges us, as a Nation, to come together, to move forward on expanding jobs, such as the President's American Jobs Act. But I raise for thought the problem of how we will come to that point.

I'm looking at an article that suggests that "Made in the USA" may be a relic of the bygone. It uses one of our most famous, one of our most imitated companies in the world, Apple, which speaks to the genius of America. I will never step away from acknowledging that we are the inventive, the innovative, the genius, the creative population because we've been given freedom by our Constitution. But when you ask the question why the iPhone is manufactured elsewhere and you hear comments about why the genius of this particular company has not been translated into a number of jobs, why decisions have been made to move manufacturing overseas, and you ask the question where is the corporate social responsibility, for example, and where is the generosity in terms of hiring American workers, well, we know that the international economy is intertwined. Companies once felt an obligation to support American workers even when it wasn't the best financial choice. We call that "American generosity." But I understand the bottom line.

So it is important that we begin to look at the items that the President is talking about, jobs skills training, and to find a way to restore the modern manufacturing that will bring more jobs to America.

Why do these companies move overseas? In this article, it suggests because of the supply chain and the way factories can be put up and put down in these foreign countries. Now, you tell me why we can't do that. I believe we can. It is all about focus and logistics. And tonight, as the President expands on his Kansas speech about how we are a great Nation, I'm looking for ways to end that income inequality, to come

together and make sure that those who make much can have the ability to share those dollars but yet still make a grand profit. I want to see us improve our supply chains and logistics. I want to see us get factories up and bring them down.

We restored the American auto industry by commitment, dedication, and sacrifice. At last I heard, General Motors now is the number one manufacturer of automobiles in the world. How did it come about? Because Democrats came together and joined around, with a bipartisan support, the idea that we can create jobs; we can manufacture jobs.

Let me just say this: I will accept the challenge tonight that the President will offer, and I will realize that a food stamp family today providing for their children are the presidents and CEOs and astronauts and inventors of tomorrow. That's the kind of Nation that we are.

I say it always, and I will say it again. "Food stamp" is a denigrating term when you say "food stamp President," as if the President does not want to create jobs. We're tired of the buzzwords and innuendo about certain groups, but I believe that we have a way of coming out of this.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time. It is an urgency of now. It is the justice and equality that Martin Luther King and many other great leaders spoke of. It is this mosaic Nation of people from all walks of life that have shown the world we're the greatest Nation in the world. I'm looking forward to pursuing that in the 21st century, building jobs and saying, "God bless America."

□ 1040

ACCEPTING THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, first I would just say to the gentlelady who just spoke that I do not doubt that the President wishes to create jobs. The fact of the matter is he just doesn't know how. The record would suggest that.

When I first came to this House, the year was 1979, January. We were in the midst of what history has shown us was a failed Presidency. We had something called the misery index. We had unemployment rising. We had inflation rates around 20 percent. We had, by all gauges, a difficult time, a time that many people looked upon with despair, and many suggested that the issues were so large and the problems so great that no President could possibly deal with it, no Congress, and the American people could not.

It was just prior to that time that I met a gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Gingrich, as we were both freshman Members elected. And we began talking about the fact that our party had