

HONORING HEROES OF NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD'S 145TH AIRLIFT WING

(Mr. MILLER of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of four North Carolinians: Lieutenant Colonel Paul K. Mikeal of Mooresville, Major Joseph M. McCormack of Belmont, Major Ryan S. David of Boone, and Senior Master Sergeant Robert S. Cannon of Charlotte.

The four airmen of the North Carolina National Guard's 145th Airlift Wing were supporting firefighting efforts throughout the Rocky Mountains when their aircraft crashed on July 1. Their sacrifice reminds us of the selflessness of those who put their lives at risk to protect our lives and property.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire North Carolina National Guard community. We are grateful for their service and for their courage.

FARM FAMILY RECOGNITION

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, tomorrow the House Ag Committee will vote on a farm bill that will give producers across our country the certainty they need to continue producing the safest, most abundant, and most reliable source of food on the planet. As the committee works to produce a responsible farm bill that works for all regions of the country, I would like to recognize Farm Families in my home State.

In my home State of Arkansas, farming is a family business. Young people begin helping with chores on the farm almost as soon as they can walk. In many cases, generations of family farmers work side by side cultivating the land. Families take great pride working together and continuing a tradition of hard work.

Agriculture is the backbone of Arkansas' rural economy, and each year the Arkansas Farm Bureau recognizes families across Arkansas for their contributions to our State. I congratulate all the county Farm Family winners across Arkansas on this achievement. All Arkansans take great pride in our State's Farm Families that were recognized this year.

Congratulations once again to all the county Farm Families recognized by the Arkansas Farm Bureau. I applaud them for their commitment to agriculture and hope for their ongoing success.

SNAP CUTS

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, tomorrow the House Agriculture Committee

will mark up the farm bill that will devastate many of our children, seniors, and veterans. This misguided bill will cut \$16 billion from the SNAP program, a program that puts food on the table for over 46 million Americans.

This debate isn't just about the numbers; there is a human cost. If these cuts are allowed to stand, 2 to 3 million low-income individuals will lose SNAP eligibility, and 280,000 children will lose access to free school meals. These are children who may have the only meal provided to them in school, and it will change their attitudes and their behaviors in school. And 210,000 households in my State of California will receive reduced benefit levels.

In California, 6 million people rely on SNAP, including 2 million children. In my district, they suffer from the fourth highest rate of food insecurity in the Nation.

It is a moral responsibility that we protect the SNAP program. We must pass a responsible farm bill that includes no nutritional cuts.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VOICES OF LEE

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Voices of Lee for their outstanding performance and representation of Lee University. Lee University is located in my current district within Bradley County, Tennessee, and presently has a little over 4,400 students enrolled in their undergraduate program.

Under the direction of Mr. Danny Murray, Voices of Lee has grown into a nationally recognized singing group, having released seven music albums and several DVDs since their debut in September of 1994. The group performs a cappella around the country, and their current schedule includes locations in North Carolina, Indiana, Florida, and many other States.

The energy and feeling placed in each and every song is a talent that deserves praise, as this talent is not easily learned. I believe that anyone who listens to them cannot hear the music without being moved.

Each student who receives the opportunity and honor of participating in the Voices of Lee is put through grueling training and given demanding work. However, the results of their labor are not in vain, and I am pleased to take this opportunity to commend them for such dedication.

DON'T REPEAL AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, I think it's worthwhile to remember why Congress passed health care reform in the first place. It's because our system was broken; it wasn't working.

But just this morning, Speaker BOEHNER said that we needed to repeal the Affordable Care Act because we didn't need it because we had the best health care system the world has ever seen. Well, I don't think that was true for 17 million children who were being denied health insurance for preexisting conditions. I don't think that was true for about 3.1 million young adults who were denied coverage because they were kicked off their parents' insurance plans. And I don't think that was true for 40 million Americans who couldn't get coverage and for every family threatened with losing their coverage because of rising costs.

If we need to tweak the law, let's work together to fix it, but let's not repeal it. I think that would be bad for our health.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ARMY MAJOR PAUL C. VOELKE

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

Ms. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to honor the life and service of Army Major Paul C. Voelke. Major Voelke died on June 22, 2012, in Balkh province, Afghanistan, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. This was his second deployment to Afghanistan, and had also served two tours in Iraq.

Major Voelke was in the Army for 14 years and during that time he was awarded a Bronze Star, which is given for bravery or meritorious acts or service, and a Purple Heart, given for injuries received in combat.

I was privileged last Friday to join the major's family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors at the funeral service. It was held on the grounds of his alma mater, the United States Military Academy at West Point. Major Voelke was a native of the Hudson Valley, and he spent his career in service to our Nation, and he died defending its freedoms.

His wife, Traci, movingly described his perseverance and dedication, and I know that Major Voelke's life will continue to inspire all of those who knew him and served with him.

NO CUTS TO FOOD STAMPS IN THE FARM BILL

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, as the founder and cochair of the Out of Poverty Caucus, this morning many of us stood with advocates and faith leaders to say in one voice: no cuts to food stamps in the farm bill.

Food stamps provided that critical bridge over troubled waters for me and my family when I was a young mother, and I thank our government and the

American people for this safety net. The American people were there for me and my family when we needed it most. We need to be there for people who need it most now.

Every year, several Members take part in the Food Stamp Challenge. You eat for 1 week on average food stamp benefits, which is \$1.50 per meal. Every Member should join us in the food stamp challenge this year, especially Members who want to cut food stamps. You need to know what it means to be hungry.

We simply cannot cut \$16 billion in critical SNAP benefits. Food stamps not only feed hungry children, seniors, and veterans, but also promote real growth and create jobs. It makes no economic sense and no moral sense to cut \$16 billion from the food stamp program.

We should reject these heartless cuts on the poor and get back to creating the jobs and opportunities for everyone. People would rather have a job instead of food stamps to feed their family, but until Republicans support efforts to create jobs, we have a moral responsibility and a duty to make sure that at least people eat.

It's hard to believe, in 2012, we are debating feeding people.

CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FOR ITS PERSECUTION OF PASTOR YUCEF NADHARKANI

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, a few weeks ago, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed a resolution condemning the government of Iran for its continued persecution of Pastor Youcef Nadharkani.

Pastor Youcef sits in prison for the crime of practicing his faith and wishing to raise his two young boys in that faith. His crime was to go to his sons' school and ask that they not be subjected to Islamic indoctrination. For that, he was taken directly to a tribunal and sentenced to death by hanging.

Despite years of imprisonment, his faith has held up under intense interrogation and torture. And now the government has extended its campaign of terror to Pastor Youcef's lawyer. Muhammed Ali Dadkhah has been disbarred and sentenced to 9 years imprisonment for representing the pastor. He's been pressured to confess to crimes he did not commit.

The government of Iran has no respect for human rights, or even for their own written laws. I'm glad to see my Senate colleagues stand up for Pastor Youcef. The world needs to know what is happening here.

I urge the government of Iran to return this father to his wife and his two sons.

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC SISTERS

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for House Resolution 689, a resolution introduced by my colleague, ROSA DELAUNO, honoring Catholic Sisters for their tremendous contributions to our country.

Catholic Sisters have long been responsible for providing care to the neediest, most marginalized people in our society. Whether they're feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, educating our students, healing the sick, or fighting for a cleaner environment, the Catholic Sisters have touched millions of lives across the country and around the world.

Madam Speaker, Catholic hospitals call themselves dignity hospitals in my district, and they play a key role in providing health services, and those institutions all rely on the tireless support of Catholic Sisters.

I want to pay special tribute to one of them, my constituent, Sister Janet Corcoran, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis who works at Marian Medical Center in Santa Maria, California. She's a pillar of our community, tirelessly advocating everywhere she goes on behalf of better health care, education, social justice, peace, and environmental protection.

Reinforced by a deep faith in God, she and other Catholic Sisters on the Central Coast, and throughout the country demonstrate an unwavering commitment to the common good day in and day out. We have much to thank them for, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

RECOGNIZING THE 103RD BIRTHDAY OF CLEONE HODGES

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Cleone Hodges of Boone on the occasion of her 103rd birthday.

A teaching position in Appalachian State University's Health Sciences department brought Ms. Hodges to Boone in 1938. Immediately, she was active in our community, serving 23 years as secretary for the parks department, teaching Sunday school at the First Baptist Church, and becoming active in community garden clubs.

A scholarship in her name exists to support the work of students in her former department.

Ms. Hodges' natural athletic talent helped her take the golf world by storm following retirement. On top of numerous regional wins, Hodges won three gold and two silver medals in national senior golf competitions. She scored the third of her career holes in one at the age of 93.

Ms. Hodges, a 2005 inductee to the Watauga County Sports Hall of Fame, is a mother to her son, J.B., a grandmother to two, and a great-grandmother to three.

With the rest of the Boone community, I wish her the happiest of birthdays and hope for many, many more.

EXPEDITING TRAFFIC AT THE PEACE BRIDGE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, the Peace Bridge is the second-busiest crossing at the U.S.-Canada border. Expediting traffic at the bridge is essential to the economic future of western New York.

The historic Beyond the Border agreement between the United States and Canada raises the possibility of pre-inspecting much of the U.S.-bound cargo traffic on the Canadian side of the border crossing. I have repeatedly advocated that the Department of Homeland Security initiate a pilot program for commercial pre-inspection at the Peace Bridge. Last week, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo added his strong support for this proposal.

What Governor Cuomo understands, Madam Speaker, is that the pre-inspection at the Peace Bridge would go a long way toward improving congestion at the bridge and, thereby, further integrating the western New York economy with that of southern Ontario. The success of the western New York economy is undoubtedly tied to predictable, reliable access into and out of Canada. Let's take the steps necessary to open up this bottleneck.

BIPARTISAN HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, like many of my colleagues, my top priority continues to be job creation in our country. That's why I was so heartbroken with the recent health care decision by the United States Supreme Court. No matter what we think about the impact this law will have on the prevalence of health care in our country, it is not good for small businesses, and it is devastating for job creation.

This law creates massive amounts of uncertainty, raises taxes and huge administrative burdens, and places significant new mandates on entrepreneurs and small businesses. Not a recipe for economic recovery.

That's why I stand today in support of a repeal of this massive burden on our economy. We need health care reform in this country, no doubt, and I stand ready to work with Members of both parties on a fresh start, a truly bipartisan bill that will actually reduce the cost of care, not simply shift the burden.