

Four to six million low income Americans, including low income children, seniors, and the disabled, will lose their food assistance as a result of these cuts. These cuts would come in addition to a benefit cut already scheduled to take place in November.

The SNAP program is a promise our government made to Americans to ensure there would be assistance for both the working poor and those individuals out of work—including parents and their children—so they can afford food. It also helps low income working families whose wages are not sufficient to make ends meet.

I am particularly concerned about the negative impact the cuts will have on the nutritional needs of children. If children go to school hungry and malnourished, learning becomes even more difficult. The worst possible thing we could do is deny healthy meals to needy children at a time when they need all the help they can get to succeed in the classroom and begin to build productive lives.

We have seen in recent years that families continue to face a shortage of jobs or are being paid wages too low to lift them out of poverty. This legislation does nothing to help this group of Americans and will lead to even greater costs in the long run.

One thing we should all remember is that increasing hunger is not the answer to reducing the deficit.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS AND THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE AND RECIPIENTS OF THE HOUSE EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Ranking Member ROBERT BRADY and I rise today to congratulate and recognize the outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the recipients of the House Employee Excellence Award.

The House's most important asset is its dedicated and exceptional employees, whose work, which is often behind the scenes, is vital in keeping the operations and services of the House running smoothly and efficiently. The employees we recognize today are acknowledged and commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, support of House Members and their staffs and constituents, and for their contributions day-in and day-out to the overall operations of the House. These employees have a wide range of responsibilities and skills that support the legislative process, ensure the security of the institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to a more effective and efficiently operating House support structure. They have accomplished many great things in a wide range of activities, and the House of

Representatives and its Members, staff, and the general public are better served because of them.

We recognize and honor the individuals named below for 25 years of dedicated service to the House. Collectively, this group has provided three hundred twenty-five (325) years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives:

Roger Addison—Office of the Clerk; Camilla S. Arthur—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Troy D. Buckler—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Susan Greenlee-Lowe—Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Karen L. Haas—Office of the Clerk; Kerri L. Hanley—Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Denine Hobbs—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; James Jenkins—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; James J. Kaelin—Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Regina A. Schmitt—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Mark W. Thompson—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Andrea L. Weadon—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Laura B. Whitaker—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

We also recognize and congratulate four House employees for receiving the Employee Excellence Award. This is a merit-based award, given to one employee from each House Officer organization, and the Office of Inspector General. Selected employees exhibited outstanding overall job performance and displayed a willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty for their organization throughout the last year. We honor the individuals named below for receiving this prestigious award:

Douglas J. Carney—Office of Inspector General; Karen A. McKinstry—Office of the Clerk; Anthony L. Titus, Jr.—Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Robert T. Turney—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend our congratulations and once again recognize and thank these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officers and the Inspector General. Their long hours and hard work are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service, dedication, and commitment to the House set an example for their colleagues and other employees who will follow in their footsteps. I celebrate our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and the nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

HONORING: LST-325

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the homecoming of the WWII naval vessel, the LST-325, to Evansville, Indiana. The Evansville shipyard has a proud history of manufacturing Landing Ship, Tank vessels for use in WWII. These ships were designed to land battle ready tanks, vehicles, soldiers, and supplies directly onto enemy beaches.

The LST-325 was launched on Oct. 27, 1942 and commissioned on February 1, 1943,

and, most notably, participated in D-Day at Omaha Beach, Normandy.

Today, I am honored to welcome home such an important piece of American history. The LST-325 has been a part of the Evansville community for the past eight years, and we look forward to welcoming it home for many years to come.

Boulder Crest Retreat for Wounded Warriors

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I had the privilege of attending the opening of the Boulder Crest Retreat in Bluemont, Virginia.

At the opening, I was joined by dozens of Wounded Warriors, including two wounded skydivers who jumped in with an American flag, 1000 spectators, 100 volunteers and senior military officials, including Admiral James Winnefeld, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This new facility will provide our nation's Wounded Warriors and their loved ones a place to get away from hospitals and rehab centers and reconnect as families. The 37-acre retreat is nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains nearly 55 miles from Washington and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

In addition to beautiful cabins to accommodate guests and a lodge where families can gather together, Boulder Crest offers extensive outdoor amenities, recreational programs and healing activities. Some of these activities include archery, nature walks and fishing as well as yoga, meditation and canine and equine assistance therapy.

I want to congratulate Retired Navy Master Chief Ken Falke and his wife Julia who came up with the idea for the retreat after many visits to Walter Reed. The Falke's donated the property and have worked tirelessly for nearly three years to make the retreat a reality. I also commend the volunteers and donors for their efforts on behalf of this notable cause.

I am proud to have this remarkable facility in my congressional district and I submit the following American Forces Press Service article on the opening of Boulder Crest Retreat.

[From the American Forces Press Service, Bluemont, Va., Sept. 6, 2013]

VICE CHAIRMAN JOINS IN OPENING WOUNDED WARRIOR RETREAT
(By Amaani Lyle)

BLUEMONT, VA.—On a sprawling, tree-framed landscape, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff joined about 400 guests today for the official grand opening of Boulder Crest Retreat for seriously wounded service members, veterans and their families.

Navy Adm. James A. Winnefeld Jr. commended retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Ken Falke and his wife, Julia, who donated the land and realized their vision of providing free use of a lodge, cabins, activities and programs that provide respite and aid in reconnection, recovery and rehabilitation.

"As more than 12 years of war come to a close for the magnificent men and women who have been fighting it, our collective obligation to take care of them will not end,"

Winnefeld said. "The majority of the seen and unseen injuries our warriors have endured from Iraq, . . . Afghanistan and other places are scars they'll bear for life."

With medical facilities such as the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and others just a road trip away, Boulder Crest Retreat, Winnefeld said, goes the extra mile to not only be a home away from home, but a home away from clinics and hospitals.

"The severity of many veterans' physical and emotional trauma suggests long-term care needs that will surpass our publicly available medical capacity well into the future," the admiral said.

The 37-acre, Americans With Disabilities Act-accessible retreat already has proven popular, with bookings in each of its four private cabins through 2013 and projected recreation and resources for 250 to 500 families each year.

Each cabin accommodates up to six people and is available for two- to 14-day stays, and guests also can gather in the 6,000-square-foot, two-story lodge to connect with other families and participate in programs.

Visitors also can enjoy outdoor amenities such as an archery range, nature trails, a playground, an organic garden, a bird sanctuary and a fishing pond, while recreational activities include nature walks, Shenandoah River kayaking and swimming, and golf and tennis.

In addition to the retreat's healing offerings of yoga, meditation, massage therapy, journaling, art and music therapy, Winnefeld also noted featured assistance therapy with dogs and horses, which resonates well with wounded warriors who may be weary of sudden noises and movements.

Winnefeld directly addressed wounded warriors, lauding them for their courage and buoyancy. "I'm continually amazed by your grit and resilience [and] your commitment to ability over disability."

Julia Falke, too, admired the courage not only of her husband, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, but also of fellow military families, which she said ultimately inspired her journey to Boulder Crest Retreat.

The Falkes lived in military family housing in both Scotland and her native England. "We'd always invite the young families stationed there to come and have dinner and feel the comforts of home," she said. "You could really see the difference it made."

Thirty years later, the Falkes bought 200 acres of land in rural Virginia, where they took residence in a large, stone farmhouse atop the hilly grass and briar. The couple began visiting wounded warriors and their families at nearby military hospitals, and soon resumed the tradition of inviting guests over for home-cooked meals and relaxation.

But sending the troops back, Julia said, became less and less practical. So when a friend suggested a writer's retreat for the Falkes' countryside, Julia thought of something more meaningful.

"The more we started talking about [Boulder Crest Retreat], the more other people would come to us and say, 'If you start it, we will help you,'" Julia said.

The Falkes soon secured a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation status, and in less than a year, various donors poured more than \$5 million into the organization.

Julia said contributors ranged from the Boy Scouts of America to multi-billion-dollar corporations. "There has been every kind of involvement, the outcome has been unbelievable," she said.

But the nascent project will continue to grow with the ideas and donations of those who support it, Julia said. "I've been crying all day long," she added. "To see it in reality is so amazing."

Perhaps the most interesting style of arrival to the grand opening was that of

wounded warrior Dana Bowman, who parachuted in by way of tandem jump with an American flag in tow.

In 1994, Bowman, a former special operations troop who once served with Falke, lost both of his legs after being injured while serving on the Army's Golden Knights parachute team.

Standing tall on legs of steel, Bowman didn't lose his courage, and he became the first double amputee to re-enlist in the U.S. military. So when Ken Falke asked him to attend the Boulder Crest Retreat grand opening, Bowman said, the decision to help his former comrade was easy.

"Absolutely, I said I'd be there to bring the American flag in . . . and to land on target, and that's exactly what we did," Bowman said. "We're able to come back, bring the whole team and tandem jump a warrior in for this special event and day."

Bowman said the retreat, at its essence, is about giving back.

"At the end of the day," he added, "we all bleed the same way, so we have to rally our troops from the different services to come out and make a difference."

Elected and public officials, corporate and private organization representatives as well as Vietnam veteran and former Pittsburgh Steelers running back Rocky Bleier all attended the grand opening.

NUTRITION REFORM AND WORK OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill.

I opposed the first farm bill this House considered because of a \$20.5 billion cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). I opposed the second attempt to pass a farm bill, because it completely removed the Nutrition title of the farm bill. And I oppose this bill today because the Majority has doubled down on a bad policy with a nearly \$40 billion cut to SNAP.

Right now, as the U.S. is emerging from a great recession, robust nutrition programs are needed more than at any time in recent history.

In New Jersey the number of SNAP participants over a 5 year period has doubled from 437,860 monthly participants in 2008, up to 875,437 participants in June of this year. These families need just a little assistance in order to afford the most basic of needs—something to eat.

The Majority here in the House has titled this legislation the "Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act of 2013." Some of my Democratic colleagues have called this bill the "More Hunger, Less Opportunity Act." I personally think we should call the bill before us today the "Malnutrition Act" because even though 92 percent of people on SNAP are children, elderly, disabled, or already working, this bill would take the food out of their mouths, hurting nearly 4 million Americans next year.

Representatives here in Congress continually punctuate their arguments with assertions that the U.S. is the greatest, most powerful, most wealthy country in the world.

Well, the greatest country in the world makes sure that working families, children, seniors, veterans, and the unemployed have the support they need to afford something to eat.

It is not simply the existence of wealth and power that makes the U.S. exceptional; it is the willingness to use that wealth and power to help the less fortunate among us. It is the ability of our elected leaders to not just make the rich richer but to make sure that the hungry are fed.

I'm sick and I'm tired of these ceaseless attempts to cut spending at the expense of those who can least afford it, but at least I'm not going hungry tonight. With \$40 billion in SNAP cuts I could not claim as much for the 4 million Americans who will suffer from the cuts in this bill.

In 2011 I joined my wife, representatives from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, and a local SNAP beneficiary to shop for a week's worth of food with the average weekly SNAP benefit of \$31.50. I have always looked at prices when I shop, but never in the past 30 years have I had to watch the budget this closely. I left that experience with a strong reminder of what beneficiaries of federal nutrition programs experience week in and week out.

When the House farm bill passed, minus the Nutrition title, the Majority claimed that they were not taking a position, but Democrats opposed the bill because we knew the position of our colleagues.

So, thank you Mr. Speaker for bringing this bill to the Floor today, because now all of our constituents across the country can see clearly where every Member of Congress stands in the fight against hunger in America.

MIKE "FLAGMAN" BOWEN

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Mike "Flagman" Bowen from my district. I ask the House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on completing a truly inspiring mission to commemorate those who served and died in Vietnam. I could not be more sincere in my appreciation of his pledge to run a mile for each of our fallen heroes—58,292 miles total—commemorated on the Vietnam Memorial. You have inspired not only me, but our entire nation.

We must remember the sacrifice of those who have given their lives to preserve our freedom. Your dedication and mission are resounding reminders of this responsibility. It is a true honor, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Bowen represents Michigan and I thank you for your service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mr. Bowen's efforts and determination and I am looking forward to greeting him in Washington, D.C. after he completes his 58,292nd and final mile.