

will look like if we continue on our current path.

According to the World Bank, a world that warms by 4 degrees Celsius would suffer from unprecedented heat waves, the flooding of coastal cities, increased risks of food and water scarcity, severe droughts, and irreversible damage to ecosystems. Coral reefs would dissolve due to ocean acidification unmatched in the Earth's history. Extreme heat waves would likely become the new normal for summertime.

With impacts like these, it is clear that we cannot allow 4 degrees of warming to occur. There is widespread agreement that we must act. Members of the House must take action.

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#### HONORING CHIP GERDES

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today without prepared remarks but to join my colleague, ANN WAGNER, in honoring a great friend, Chip Gerdes.

Chip, a 41-year-old who leaves behind a beautiful wife and a beautiful daughter and is someone who was larger than life in Illinois and in Illinois politics, died this morning way too young.

With Chip Gerdes, you never knew what that phone call was going to bring when his name popped through on your caller ID, and it's a phone call that I sadly stand here today to say I will never be able to take again.

But it was my friendship with Chip and friendship that he had with others like ANN, and many throughout Illinois and Missouri, that made us stand here today and honor him and honor his legacy.

Chip Gerdes, you were a friend to many and a foe to none. Chip Gerdes, rest in peace, my friend, and I will say this on the floor today in your honor: "Roll Tide."

#### CONGRATULATING AMADOR VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL'S "WE THE PEOPLE" TEAM

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Last week, Amador Valley High School from California, in my congressional district, competed in the national We the People competition held right here in Washington, D.C., and I'm proud to report that the students of Amador Valley High School's We the People competition team took second place out of 44 participating teams representing their States across the country.

The We the People competition is held annually, where each State can send one team to Washington, D.C., to compete in mock congressional hearings that test the high school students'

knowledge of U.S. history and the Constitution.

I met with Amador Valley's We the People team while they were here, and I was thoroughly impressed with their participation, preparation, and knowledge of our history, government, and political system. The students' love of history and civics was welcome to see. They're truly a model for students across the country.

I also want to recognize their coaches, Brian Ladd and Mairi Wohlgemuth, who worked tirelessly to organize the team and prepare the students for this competition.

Congratulations again to Amador Valley High School and their students from the We the People program. You make me, our region, and our country proud.

#### TERRORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI, LIBYA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, "Benghazi happened a long time ago."

"What difference does it make?"

"Let's get done with this, folks. I don't think anybody lied to anybody. I do not want to spend the next year coming up here talking about Benghazi."

Mr. Speaker, these are statements made by the President's Pinocchio puppet press secretary, Jay Carney, and both the current and former Secretaries of State.

Americans are learning the White House bungled Benghazi, and now it faces accusations by whistleblowers of intimidation and hiding the facts.

Fearful of a terrorist attack, Ambassador Stevens asked for more security; calls for help were ignored; the cavalry never came; and he and three others were murdered. But the White House spinmaster said after the attack it was a "spontaneous protest" caused by a video. That was a made-up yarn. The attack was a carefully coordinated and calculated terrorist attack.

So why did the administration intentionally and knowingly mislead Americans?

The President told a graduating class over the weekend to reject those who say our government can't be trusted. Well, Mr. Speaker, Benghazi is a perfect example of why the national motto is not "In Government We Trust."

And that's just the way it is.

#### CONGRATULATING THE CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Friday of last week, I had the opportunity to attend the City Colleges of Chicago's graduation, seven city colleges with more than 4,000 graduates.

So I congratulate the mayor of the city of Chicago; the chairman of the board of the City Colleges, Dr. Paula Wolff; the chancellor, Cheryl Hyman; and all of the faculty and staff. This was the highest number of individuals who have ever graduated from the City Colleges of Chicago at one time. I congratulate them, all of the administration and all of those who made it happen.

#### TO OUR FRIENDS IN COLOMBIA

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

Mr. RADEL. Mr. Speaker, I was recently in the beautiful, spectacular, booming country of Colombia, in part reaffirming a relationship with our ally and friend, and also there to make sure our investments are safe.

Our investments are safe, and they're paying off by growing the Colombian economy, and for you, the hardworking American taxpayer, growing our economy right here in the United States. Free trade and economic freedom mean that both countries prosper.

Their economy is growing and the income inequality gap is getting smaller and smaller, meaning a larger middle class. When Colombia does well, the United States does well. And while we may have a few differences here and there with other countries in Latin America, let there be no doubt that Colombia is a bright, shining example for all of the world when we work together.

So to our friends from all over Colombia: paisas, rolos, costenos, vallunos, opitas, llaneros, y Calenos.

Using your native language, let's continue to share our common dream of oportunidad y libertad para todos: opportunity and freedom for all.

#### WALK TO CREATE A WORLD FREE OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

(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, this past Saturday, I had the honor of participating in the Walk to Create a World Free of Multiple Sclerosis. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National MS Society, this Erie County event provided hope for people living with MS, their families and loved ones.

Nationwide, the Walk MS: 2013 campaign will include 250,000 participants across 700 cities to raise awareness and support for research and services for those living with multiple sclerosis.

Now, more than any time in history, there are more therapies in development for MS. Basic and clinical research has led to the development of many of the approved disease-modifying drugs for MS, including new oral medications.

Congratulations to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for having

trained or funded many of the leading MS researchers creating these life-changing breakthroughs.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank Lori and Tommy Straub for inviting me to be a part of Team “Walk a Myelin My Shoes.” Together, we will continue to work towards a world free of MS.

#### STOP CLOSING PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN AMERICA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate and thank the community of North Forest and the North Forest Independent School District.

This has been a tumultuous week. This school district, undeserving, has fallen prey and victim to the closing of public schools in a public school system—this district that has acceptable schools; this district that has homeowners who have taxed themselves to ensure excellence in the teaching of these children, 7,500 students that are happy to be in a small pond and be a big fish. It is sad that the TEA administrator has undeservedly offered to close this school district without accepting an offer of compromise.

This is time for the Secretary of Education to act on the massive closings of public schools throughout America. This is time for the U.S. Department of Justice to act on preventing the elimination of elected school board members and utilizing section 5.

But more importantly, I want to thank the ombudsman coalition headed by Dr. Ken Campbell and President Robinson, the presidents of the Ministers Alliance who carried on a prayer vigil this last week. I do believe that prayers will be answered, the children will be saved, and we'll stop closing public schools in America.

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#### PETSMART PROMISE

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this is actually one of those moments when you get to stand in front of the House with sort of a happy story. There's an organization out there called Family Promise. They are in 41 States with, I believe, about 160,000 volunteers, and they've had an issue for years now. They bring in homeless families, but often those homeless families would have a pet, a furry family member.

Just this week, PetSmart set up PetSmart Promise. I actually got to see this firsthand in Scottsdale, Arizona, where they actually are taking care of that furry friend of that homeless family that needs to get their life back in order. So PetSmart gets a real

call out from us. Family Promise is doing amazing things, and this is just one of those moments where you're very proud of a corporate entity like this, stepping up and working with Family Promise to help homeless families around the country.

#### CBC HOUR: ELIMINATING HEALTH DISPARITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

We are pleased to come to this body at this time for this hour of power with the Congressional Black Caucus. This evening, we'd like to focus on eliminating health disparities in America.

Health is a cornerstone of equal opportunity, which is why access to quality, affordable care is so important. Sickness not only decreases individual and social productivity, but without access to health resources, many get sick and never truly recover. Over this next hour, members of the Congressional Black Caucus will discuss our priorities, working together with the President, our colleagues on the other side and throughout this body, and in the other Chamber, to address the needs of health care for all Americans, and specifically to eliminate the health disparities in the African-American communities.

I'd like to recognize the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. Under her leadership, the CBC is advancing a number of priorities during this 113th Congress. I yield to the gentlelady from Ohio, Chairwoman FUDGE.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank my colleagues, both Congressmen HORSFORD AND JEFFRIES, again for leading the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour. This hour is to discuss health disparities. You both have done an incredible job carrying the message of the CBC on the House floor each week, and I thank you.

Mr. Speaker, the health disparities between African Americans and other racial and ethnic populations are striking. When compared with the country as a whole, African Americans are three times more likely to die from diabetes. We account for about 44 percent of all new HIV infections among adults and adolescents, despite representing only about 13 percent of the U.S. population. African-American men can expect to live approximately 6 years less than White men. African-American women are twice as likely to give birth to low-weight infants, and our children are almost five times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma.

Though health disparities manifest in life-threatening ways, such as lower life expectancy and higher disease rates, the root cause is poverty. Where

you live and how you live have a direct effect on how long and how well you live. Until we address the persistent poverty that plagues our communities, the debilitating cost of health disparities will continue to rise.

According to the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, health disparities collectively cost minorities more than \$1.24 trillion from 2003 to 2006. We must create and maintain a path toward greater health equity in America. We can't afford the status quo.

Thankfully, a path to equity has begun to take shape, a path that reduces the rates of illness and premature death and increases access to quality health care. The solution was and is the Affordable Care Act—or, as it is known to many, ObamaCare. We are proud to call it ObamaCare because it proves that the President and many in this Congress really do care about the health of Americans.

ObamaCare has already begun to lower the cost of health care by providing financial relief for consumers, increasing insurance options, investing in preventative and primary care, and placing a focus on minority health. The ACA helps decrease health disparities by collecting data, strengthening cultural training, and increasing diversity in the health care field. These investments are critically important and will strengthen America's financial future.

Some on the other side of the aisle believe the status quo is sufficient, that health disparities are not real. Some don't believe that the impact of disparities on families is devastating. That's why a number of Republicans are again calling for the repeal of the ACA. How many times do we have to play this game?

The CBC will continue to stand up, speak out and defend the Affordable Care Act against all of those who oppose it for political or ideological reasons. Attaining health equity is to the benefit of all Americans, and is not only consistent with the American promise of opportunity, but it is critical to the future of Black America.

Mr. HORSFORD. At this time I would like to recognize the vice chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, a leader on a number of key issues that the Congressional Black Caucus is facing this 113th Congress, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Let me thank you, Mr. HORSFORD, for yielding time this evening, and thank you for your leadership not only here in the Congress but in the Congressional Black Caucus. You have come to this Congress, and you've done so much in such a short period of time. Thank you, Mr. JEFFRIES and Ms. FUDGE as well, for your leadership.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to start this conversation this evening by talking about a 1985 report. President Ronald Reagan was President at the time, and the U.S. Department of Health and