

what we have witnessed lately. We have gone from extreme droughts in the Midwest to now blizzards in April. For agriculture producers, these extremes are more than an inconvenience. Whether it is an extended drought that dries out crops or a blizzard that endangers a herd of cattle, weather disasters can mean the difference between a family operation that is able to make it through another year or a family operation that ends forever.

When faced with weather-related disasters, I know that it is essential for our farmers and ranchers to have immediate assistance to keep their operations running. We have a national security interest in being able to produce our own food in this country. The instance we depend on another country to feed our people is the instance that we completely let them control us and our future. A farm bill not only provides a safety net for us, it keeps us safe. We need to keep our farmers on the land in good times and in bad times.

Budgeting for these programs through the farm bill process is much more responsible than doing what has been done in the past, such as passing large, ad hoc disaster assistance packages, which is what Congress often ends up doing year after year if these programs are not in place and are not funded. Often these disaster programs could be spent at a deficit level rather than responsibly being budgeted for.

One of the situations we don't talk about very often is how the dynamics have changed in the farming industry. It is simply not possible for farmers and ranchers to continue to operate without having access to credit. The only way they have access to credit a lot of times is because of dependence on crop insurance and somewhat of a farm safety net.

Next week, the House Agriculture Committee plans to mark up the farm bill. We need this House to act. We need them to get a farm bill done, one that will support both rural and urban America. We cannot accept another extension this year. We must pass a long-term bill to give certainty to our producers and to guarantee our Nation's food supply.

MATTIE RIPKOWSKI—TEXAS MOTHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Sunday is Mother's Day where we honor our Nation's mothers. My mom is still alive. I got to know my grandmothers, both of them, until they died in their nineties, and my three daughters all have children.

But I want to talk about a mother that most Americans probably have never ever heard of. Her name was Mattie Ripkowski. Let me tell you a little bit about her and her family.

She was a first-generation American-born Polish immigrant. Back in the 1800s, the Polish community came into Texas through the Port of Galveston. They settled there while Texas was an independent country. In fact, some Poles fought at the Battle of San Jacinto where Texas won its independence from Mexico in 1836.

□ 1040

Mattie Olbrich was born in 1896 in Texas. At the age of 17, she married Stash Ripkowski—both newlyweds—another small-town guy from New Waverly, Texas. They started raising a family, Mattie and Stash. And after several years, this was their family. Yes, Mattie Ripkowski had 16 children—4 daughters and 12 sons. They were all born by natural childbirth with a midwife, except one. This whole family lived in southeast Texas on a small, 200-acre farm near Dayton, Texas.

Mattie—the mother, the wife—made sure that during the Depression all the kids never went hungry. She taught them the basics of life: true grit, a work ethic, a belief in the Almighty. They worked hard, everything from picking cotton to tending to animals to hauling corn. And every child was expected to do their work on the farm, which was self-sufficient.

When two of the Ripkowski boys got to be in high school, they were excellent football players. And you know, Mr. Speaker, Texas is known for its football teams all the way back to the 1800s. Two of them were so good that the local high school football coach, who knew that they had to work on the farm, had the school hire two farmers to take the sons' place and work the farm. Then the two high school football stars could play for Dayton High School. Dayton is a small Texas town that loves football. The 5,500 people there that go to Friday night football, the stadium seats more than the entire town population.

But anyway, back to the Ripkowskis. They never missed a meal. In fact, Mattie was so adamant about family that they all ate together three times a day. Now, can you imagine preparing a table three times a day for 18 people—16 of them kids and 12 of them sons?

As the Depression ended, World War II came. And as World War II came, Mattie, having taught her kids service to America, all 12 of her sons joined the United States military. They served in all branches of the military. They served either in World War II or Korea, or both.

Every night, Mattie would write one of them a letter. She would say the Rosary every night for all 12. She would pray for all of her sons. Miraculously, all 12 of her sons who went to war for America came back. There has never been another family with that many sons from the same parents who joined the United States military. She instilled in them those important values

of country, God, and family. The Ripkowski family is quite a remarkable clan of Texans.

Mrs. Ripkowski—Mattie, as they called her—her kids grew up to all marry. She knew all of their spouses and many of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The fruits of Mattie Ripkowski's labor produced honest, hardworking, God-fearing patriots.

One test of motherhood, Mr. Speaker, is how a mother's kids turn out. Well, Mattie passed the test 16 times with her 16 children. They all turned out to be wonderful people. In fact, six of them are still alive. I had the opportunity recently at a dedication where we honored a Vietnam veteran who received the Medal of Honor by naming a post office for him. Some of her kids came to that ceremony. The youngest, Anna Lee Campbell, who is now 80, and I talked about her family, about Mattie, about growing up with this remarkable woman. And she showed me numerous photographs of their family.

I was also there with one of the sons, Mike, who talked about their family, Polish immigrants, and how they have all turned out to be successful and how they fought for America. Before the conversation was over with Mike I asked him, "What did you call your mother all those many years?" He said, "Well, of course I called her mama, and I also called her ma'am." No kidding.

Remarkable lady, Mattie Ripkowski. We honor her and all of America's mothers this Sunday for their lives and dedication to motherhood.

And that's just the way it is.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Once again we come to You to ask wisdom, patience, peace, and understanding for the Members of this people's House.

We ask discernment for the Members, that they might judge anew their adherence to principle, conviction, and commitment, lest they slide uncharitably toward an inability to listen to one another and work cooperatively to solve the important issues of our day.

Give them the generosity of heart and the courage of true leadership to work toward a common solution which might call for sacrifice on both sides. We pray that their work results not in a Nation comprised of winners and losers, but where our citizens know in their hearts that we Americans are all winners.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BENISHEK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING SERGEANT 1ST CLASS JAMES PRIESTAP

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the circle drive of the Oscar G. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Iron Mountain, Michigan, will be named after local son and Iraq War veteran, Sergeant 1st Class James Priestap.

Sergeant Priestap graduated from North Dickinson High School in 1985 before attending Ferris State University and Northern Michigan University and joining the U.S. Navy as a rescue swimmer. Sergeant Priestap also served as a police officer at the Oscar

G. Johnson VA Medical Center, where I worked as a physician. While bravely defending his Nation in Iraq, Sergeant Priestap was killed in action on Thanksgiving Day 2006.

The entire Dickinson community came together to memorialize Sergeant Priestap at the VA facility where he guarded our veterans, and I am honored today to have helped him fight for this distinction over the past 2 years.

This memorial represents a small but important gesture of gratitude, not only for Sergeant Priestap's sacrifice but for his lifelong pursuit of selfless service to others. I'm very pleased that all visitors to the world-class VA hospital in Iron Mountain will soon be able to remember a true hero from northern Michigan who laid down his life so that others could live in freedom.

NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today on National Teacher Appreciation Day with an oft-forgotten remedy to our economic downturn: investments in early childhood education.

Successful nations invest in three things: infrastructure, research, and education. To compete in the global market, we need to have the most highly skilled workforce in the world. And to develop that workforce, we have to start at the beginning with early childhood education.

Research from Stanford shows that rich students perform better than middle- and low-income students. Quite simply, they enter kindergarten more prepared thanks to high quality preschool. Nobel Laureate economist James Heckman found a 7 to 10 percent annual return on investment in effective preschool.

Every child deserves a chance to succeed in school and throughout their lives. Providing early childhood education can give them that chance, and the entire Nation will be better off for it.

MONTANA VOTES AGAINST AN ONLINE SALES TAX

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

Mr. DAINES. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong opposition to the Marketplace Fairness Act. This is a bill that mandates small businesses to collect sales tax on behalf of other cities and States when selling products over the Internet.

This bill would fundamentally change how online purchases are taxed and would impose yet another burden on Montana's small businesses. You see, back home in Montana, we don't

have a Statewide sales tax. In fact, we often say that "You know you're a native Montanan if you've voted against a sales tax twice."

But under this legislation, which the Senate passed last night, Montana's small businesses would be forced to collect sales tax for up to 9,600 cities and States—none of which would go to Montana. The added costs and the burden of more paperwork and more regulations would severely undermine many small businesses in our State.

As a fifth-generation Montanan who supports our State's no sales tax policy, I strongly oppose this legislation, and I will fight to stop it should it reach the House floor.

URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, the success of Boston law enforcement in responding to the marathon bombing is due to the skill and coordination of their law enforcement community.

Boston's law enforcement agencies also have the benefit of membership in the Urban Area Security Initiative, or UASI, program. The security program was created to develop capabilities to prevent and respond to attacks just like this one in our most vulnerable cities.

Unfortunately, funding shortfalls in recent years have cut the number of cities included in this program from 64 to 32. The Buffalo-Niagara region which I represent was among the eliminated regions.

Madam Speaker, the eliminated cities are still vulnerable, and, in fact, it was recently revealed that a Canadian terror plot may have targeted the border in Niagara Falls.

The Federal Government made an investment in these communities, and a sudden exclusion from this security program threatens to render that investment wasted. The increased security and response capabilities that have been developed must be preserved, and we have an obligation to restore eligibility to these excluded communities.

CONGRATULATING ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY RAMS AND RAMBELLES

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the historic achievement of the Angelo State University men's and women's track and field teams. On May 4, 2013, the Rams and the Rambelles won the Lone Star Conference Outdoor Track and Field titles.

This marks the first time in school history that both the men's and women's teams have won their conference