

needs of the community since 1959. Ever since, patients continue to be saved; the critically ill continue to be treated; and the 24-hour emergency care is still available to the community.

Now at 94 years old, Mr. Watts resides with his wife, Barbara, in Gulfport, Mississippi. Although he is retired, the organizations and community projects developed under his leadership are still in operation today. I believe Mr. Watts' life is a great example of generosity and devotion to the greater good of society. We can all learn from Mr. Watts' inspiring story of public service, and I join my colleague in recognizing and in thanking Mr. Watts for his life of service.

We wish him, his wife, Barbara, and their children—Susan, Rick, who is here with us in the gallery, Jane, Danette, and Paul—all of the best in their future endeavors, and we thank them for continuing their father's legacy of noble service to the community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from referring to occupants of the gallery.

#### GOVERNMENT WASTE

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in strong support of the eight bills before the House today or, more importantly, in support of what they represent, which is commonsense government reform.

As a Representative of the hard-working taxpayers in southeastern Pennsylvania, it is my duty to make sure that they are getting value for every dollar that they send to the Nation's Capital. Right now, our Federal Government seems to find better ways to waste money than to save it. The culture of systemic waste, abuse, and lack of accountability needs to end.

We have the opportunity this week. We can vote to streamline the Federal Government to make it work for the American taxpayer. The Stop Government Abuse legislative package being considered today works to rein in widespread waste and inefficiency throughout Washington. These bills represent commonsense, bipartisan solutions that actually solve problems.

After this week, Members will leave for a month to head back to our districts. Many of us are going to be attending events and hosting town halls to facilitate conversations with our constituents. I am eager to report to them that, despite our differences, this body was able to come together to support so many commonsense reforms. So I urge my colleagues to support the bills being considered here and to vote to begin restoring faith in government.

#### END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HARTZLER). The Chair recognizes the

gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, for the 20th time this Congress, I stand here to talk about how we can end hunger now. Hunger is a political condition. We have the food; we have the means; and we have the systems to end hunger now. We know how to do it. We just don't have the political will to make it happen, but that wasn't always the case.

In the late 1960s, America began seriously to confront its poverty problem. President Johnson fought the war on poverty, and his programs, including Medicare, Medicaid, and title I education programs—just to name a few—started to combat the poverty and inequality that were rampant across many parts of this country. President Nixon followed in his footsteps by hosting the first and only White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health, a conference that focused on hunger in America.

The result of that conference was a precipitous drop in the number of hungry people in America. Contrary to Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN's belief, the antipoverty programs from the Johnson administration and the antihunger programs created by the Nixon administration worked. In fact, hunger and poverty would be much worse today if it weren't for these programs.

The truth is we almost eradicated hunger in America thanks to a strengthened food stamp program and the creation of the WIC program in the 1970s, but those gains were erased and hunger increased because of the policies of Ronald Reagan. Since then, we've seen food stamp usage increase during every single administration. We can and we must do better.

One of the highlights of the effort that nearly ended hunger in America in the 1970s was the WIC program, formally titled the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. WIC is an innovative program that provides nutritious food and food counseling for pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants, and children under the age of 5.

Why is this program so critical?

Madam Speaker, prenatal enrollment in WIC is associated with lower infant mortality, in fewer premature births, and in a lower likelihood that infants will have very low or low birth weights; and because an infant's medical costs increase tenfold if he is of low birth weight, every dollar invested in WIC yields between \$1.90 and up to \$4.20 in Medicaid savings. This is literally about improving the physical well-being of developing children. This program affects these participants for the entirety of their lives. It's just that important, and it's critical that we get it right.

But, unlike SNAP, WIC is a discretionary program. This means that it is subject to the appropriations process; and in this time of budgetary aus-

terity, WIC was included in the across-the-board cuts to defense and non-defense discretionary programs under the sequester. SNAP was excluded because it's an entitlement like Social Security and Medicare, but WIC was included in the sequester because it is not an entitlement.

As if the cuts in sequester were not bad enough, the House Agriculture appropriations bill now cuts the program even further by more than \$500 million. The 7.3 percent cut to WIC in this bill could result in over 200,000 pregnant mothers and infants losing nutritious food. Even factoring in the reserve fund, 55,000 moms and kids will go without the nutrition that they need. It is sad that the Republican-controlled House of Representatives is cutting vital health and development programs for pregnant and nursing mothers and their very young children while at the same time they've found billions of dollars to send overseas in a wasteful war in Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, during my series of End Hunger Now speeches, there has been one unifying theme that, I believe, puts us on the path to end hunger now. That theme is Presidential leadership. We need Presidential leadership to end hunger now. The last White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health nearly ended hunger in America. I know that we can do even better if President Obama would convene such a conference. With a White House conference on food and nutrition, we could focus on ways to reduce hunger and obesity in smart, not arbitrary ways. We could figure out how to treat hunger and obesity as health issues while we work on ways to properly attack these scourges.

Madam Speaker, we desperately need Presidential leadership. We need a comprehensive plan. We need the political will. We need a White House conference on food and nutrition. I urge the President to act now.

#### THE FACE OF A HERO

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

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today with a heavy heart to pay my respects and to bid a solemn farewell to Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Officer David Vanbuskirk. Officer Vanbuskirk was killed in the line of duty on Tuesday, July 23 while participating in a rescue mission outside of Las Vegas. He was 36 years old.

To me, Dave was more than a constituent, and he was more than a public servant. He was one of my medics and a teammate. You see, prior to coming to Congress, I was a member of the LVMPD Search and Rescue team and the department's medical director.

A 13-year veteran of the department and one of only seven commissioned search and rescue officers on this elite force, Officer Vanbuskirk was called

into action on the night of the 22nd to rescue a hiker who was stranded on a rocky ledge above Mary Jane Falls on Mount Charleston. Once he reached the stranded hiker via helicopter, Officer Vanbuskirk secured the man and himself with harnesses to be lifted back into the helicopter. It was at some point during the lift that Officer Vanbuskirk became detached from the harness and fell to the ground below.

The hiker survived. He was saved by the heroic actions of Officer Vanbuskirk.

David's career with the department was marked by many accomplishments, but the notable achievements he would want us to remember cannot be hung on a wall or pinned on a uniform. These achievements can be summed up this way: David Vanbuskirk answered the call when people needed him. This is a man who, when the call came out to rescue a hiker stranded high on Mount Charleston, did not think of himself or of the danger he would be putting himself in. Like so many times before, he climbed into the helicopter and thought only of the person to be rescued, of the life to be saved.

Of course, answering calls like this are what David and the rest of the Las Vegas Search and Rescue team do. The work our law enforcement and search and rescue officers do around the valley and around our Nation to keep our communities safe is dangerous work, and this tragedy is a somber reminder that they put their lives on the line every time they are on duty, every time they answer that call.

Dave's personal courage and selfless dedication to his work and the community he served epitomized the very core of those in the public safety professions—of those who run towards the sound of gunfire or run into a burning building while everybody else is running away.

I remember when Dave first joined the unit. He was ambitious, motivated, professional—and he was always smiling. And he was smart—one of the brightest with whom I've ever had the opportunity to serve. He was always looking to learn more about search and rescue techniques and about emergency medical care.

We spent long hours together on SWAT missions, sitting in the cab of our rescue vehicle or on the rock during training exercises, and he was always asking questions. He was the proverbial sponge for knowledge. It was always, "Hey, Doc. What about 'this' or 'that'?" or "Hey, Doc. What 'if'?" He always put others first, and nowhere is that more evident than in how he spent his final hours—in the dark of night, with the search and rescue team, finding someone who needed help.

Madam Speaker, I think we use the word "hero" so often to describe athletes or celebrities or public figures that we sometimes forget what a real hero looks like. One only needs to look to my left. David Vanbuskirk was a

hero, and that was evident by those who eulogized him this past Monday in the outpouring of public support, by the thousands who lined the funeral procession route and attended his services. He touched many hearts in his short time on this Earth, and stories about how he helped so many brought tears to the eyes of everyone who filled the church, even to the toughest cops in attendance.

While the Las Vegas search and rescue community, the metro police family, his friends, family members, wife, and all who knew him mourn his loss, we also celebrate Officer David Vanbuskirk's 13-year career of answering the call to serve the residents of Clark County. He is survived by his wife of 11 years, Adrianna; by his mother, Pat; by his sister, Jennifer; and her two sons, Reid and Griffin.

I extend my most heartfelt condolences to Adrianna and the Vanbuskirk family, and I pray they will be strengthened by friends and family during this difficult time.

Police Officer David Vanbuskirk, P No. 6482. Secure. Final.

#### 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 29 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

Imam Talib Shareef, Masjid Muhammad, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, the Merciful, the Wise, the Most High, the Possessor of Greatness, we stand and humbly beseech Your Divine Providence upon this House of Representatives.

Grant them clear vision and legislative acumen as they navigate the waters of our national issues. Grant them insight and wisdom, and bless them to follow the logic to its logical conclusion. Grant them the quality of excellence in planning both short and long term that focuses on the right thing, the right way, at the right time.

As we pledge "one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all" in acknowledging You, God, who created us all and cares about us all equally, bless this House to be reflective of *E pluribus unum*—the many diverse, wonderful, beautiful expressions of human life that have contributed to the beauty and strength of America; and bless them to have always the right perception of our Nation that,

first of all, this Nation is a gift from You, and under You, God, we are responsible for how we treat everything. 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.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WITTMAN 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.

#### WELCOMING IMAM TALIB SHAREEF

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor, privilege, and pleasure to introduce Imam Talib Shareef today, who is the resident imam—which is simply a word that means "leader"—of Masjid Muhammad, which is a Washington, D.C., mosque with a 75-year history.

Imam Talib Shareef is a 30-year veteran of the United States Air Force, and he served our country nobly in uniform for many years. He also holds a master's in business administration from the American InterContinental University and a diploma in the area of Arabic studies and language from the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. I might also add that the imam is a leader in the interfaith movement and regularly works with faith leaders of all faiths, building understanding, cohesion, and unity amongst all people and all Americans.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### REMEMBERING LINDY BOGGS

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former Member of the House and a grand lady from Louisiana, Ms. Lindy Boggs.

She was a pioneer and a trailblazer for the State of Louisiana. She served