

promoted across our new Nation in the 17th century and championed by Roger Williams.

In 1790, in a letter reassuring the members of the Hebrew congregation of their right to the free exercise of religion, George Washington famously declared the values of our Nation at its start, pledging that the United States would give “to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance.”

This weekend, it was my honor to attend the rededication of the Touro Synagogue, which remains a testament to the enduring freedoms of our Nation and the tradition of religious freedom that began in my home State and that is now deeply embedded in the American experience.

#### IRAN

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

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, on November 20, during critical negotiations in Geneva about Tehran’s nuclear program, Iran’s supreme leader tweeted this disturbing statement: “Israel is the sinister, unclean rabid dog of the region.” That same day, he added, The United States and Israel are a “threat to the world” and “enemies” that “should be resisted.”

This is the Iranian regime we are dealing with. They have ignored diplomatic efforts for years, and they cannot be trusted. An interim deal might seem like good news, but it does not make our Nation or our allies in the Middle East safer, especially when Iran claims the agreement is a victory over the great aggressor—the West.

This rhetoric leaves me skeptical that any progress has been made, and I encourage our leaders and international partners to take the necessary measures to halt Iran’s nuclear program, not only for our own security, but that of our allies and democracies around the world.

#### EQUALITY FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a historic week. On Sunday, we celebrated Rosa Parks Day; Thursday, we observed the start of the Montgomery bus boycott; and Friday, we commemorate the 148th anniversary of the Thirteenth Amendment, which ended slavery.

As we reflect on these historic events, we see how far our Nation has come in advancing equality for all Americans. However, recent actions like the Supreme Court’s decision to gut the Voting Rights Act remind us that we have much more work ahead.

Although I dream of a day that the Voting Rights Act is unnecessary, the truth is that voter discrimination and suppression live on today as ugly leg-

acies of our past. In the past few years, many States have introduced legislation that would restrict access to a voting booth. These discriminatory actions prove that the protections in the Voting Rights Act are still necessities in our world today.

So this week, as we remember the struggles and sacrifices made to ensure basic rights for all Americans, I urge my colleagues to continue fighting to ensure that no American is denied their right to vote.

#### SAGE GROUSE

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

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, the proposed Endangered Species Act for the Gunnison Sage-Grouse and the Greater Sage-Grouse will impact millions of acres in Colorado and hinder existing conservation efforts. It will put private lands off-limits to most use and development, including agricultural production, without providing any compensation. It will kill jobs, devastate communities, and disrupt effective species preservation efforts currently under way. It won’t, however, more effectively preserve the grass.

In my district, plans at the local level are under way to effectively preserve the species. Because they take into account the unique geography and environment of the region, these efforts are seeing success.

Interior Department bureaucrats have yet to provide measurable species preservation goals so that State and local officials can meet them. Local conservation efforts are all too often disrupted by Federal attempts to implement blanket plans. One-size-fits-all plans create endless litigation that ties up resources that could be used for preservation.

If the true goal is species preservation, then I hope Secretary Jewell will come to Colorado and see firsthand the effective work being done to preserve the sage grouse and provide measurable species preservation laws.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DAVID LEE SIMEL, M.D.

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding doctor, loving father, and exceptional North Carolinian, Dr. David Lee Simel of Durham.

Dr. Simel was raised in Greensboro before attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After graduation, he completed medical school and an internal medicine residency at Duke University. He is now a professor of medicine and vice chair for veterans affairs at Duke. And he has dedicated himself wholly to our vet-

erans, serving them across our great State of North Carolina.

The influential book of which he was coauthor, “The Rational Clinical Exam,” is a comprehensive guide for patient exams and has become a powerful reference tool for those in the field of medicine.

Dr. Simel’s enduring commitment to his family, his students, his patients, and to our veterans make him an exemplary citizen. His passion for medicine and improving the health of others will continue to benefit our veterans and North Carolinians for years to come.

Indeed, we should honor those who serve our veterans and set an example, like Dr. Simel has done. And we also honor him for his intelligence, compassion, and selfless dedication. We pray that he and his family will receive God’s richest blessings, and we are thankful for role models like Dr. Simel, who serves those who served our country.

#### FARMINGTON: MINNESOTA’S FIRST YELLOW RIBBON CITY

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

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Farmington’s commitment to our veterans and the community’s 5-year anniversary of being named Minnesota’s first Yellow Ribbon City.

When I first championed legislation to make the Minnesota National Guard’s invaluable Yellow Ribbon reintegration program available nationwide, one of the pillars of this initiative was to increase awareness among communities and local organizations to improve relationships between veterans and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Farmington understand the important role a community plays in the successful reintegration of our troops returning home. Farmington built a model Yellow Ribbon organization centered around relationships with neighbors, veterans organizations, and local, State, and Federal leaders. Farmington rallied around the needs of area veterans and their families by hosting monthly dinners for veterans and holiday cookie walks. You can’t beat that.

As their Yellow Ribbon organization grew and their efforts expanded, they recognized success and shared those best practices with other inspired communities, leaving their Yellow Ribbon fingerprint across the great State of Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today not simply to recognize Farmington on this 5-year anniversary, but to thank the entire community for being a Yellow Ribbon trailblazer and for demonstrating their continued commitment to our servicemembers, veterans, and their families. As the Farmington Yellow Ribbon honors our sons and daughters in uniform,

I would like to honor them. And I salute the entire community of Farmington, Minnesota, for helping with that noble cause.

#### HEALTH CARE AND COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, during this holiday season, it appears that all our fellow Americans are hearing is a sense of pessimism; but I rise to talk about the optimism of this Nation and the great strides that we have made, particularly as it relates to our seniors.

The Affordable Care Act has taken the brunt of everybody's criticism. My friends on the other side of the aisle are singing a broken record, not a Christmas carol.

It is important to note that seniors have benefited. The Affordable Care Act recognizes the financial burdens that seniors face. No group has been hit harder by soaring health care costs. But now, under the Affordable Care Act, seniors can have preventative care services without any copay, coinsurance, or deductible.

Services like wellness visits, cholesterol testing, and others, sing a good song, yet we sing a negative song to those who are lining the streets for comprehensive immigration reform. The families who have been fasting have been suffering.

Let's sing a good song for health care and do comprehensive immigration reform.

□ 1215

#### PRESIDENTIAL CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ENFORCE LAWS

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, when the President picks and chooses which laws to enforce, it undermines the foundations of our democracy.

Yesterday, in the House Judiciary Committee, we held a hearing to examine the President's constitutional responsibility to "faithfully execute" the law. Our Founding Fathers formed the structure of our government specifically so that none of the three branches could become too powerful. If we ignore our system of checks and balances, our government will become unstable and chaotic.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, this President and his administration have abused their executive power. President Obama continues to violate his constitutional duty to enforce the laws and instead chooses when, where, and which laws to enforce. He has enforced laws and policies based on preferences, like making changes to our immigra-

tion system, our criminal code, and his signature health care law.

Mr. Speaker, neither this President, nor any President, should grant themselves extra-constitutional authority to change laws they don't like. If the President himself does not follow the law, it sets a dangerous example.

#### SNAP: CHILDREN

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, this holiday season, my constituents have inspired me by writing in about the importance of food aid and the SNAP program.

All of us here in Congress have the luxury of knowing that we can provide our families with healthy food; but there are so many people in our country that will go this holiday without such a blessing, and, sadly, most of those in dire need are children. In fact, 70 percent of all households that depend on SNAP are families with children.

In my district, a 16-year-old girl named Maya was hospitalized last year for issues related to malnutrition. She had struggled in school and showed signs of depression. Maya's hospitalization triggered her father to apply for SNAP benefits. Having a more reliable source of food gave Maya the energy to improve her grades and help her family. She helped her family out by getting a part-time job.

As we debate the farm bill, let's remember that there are children like Maya. Let's work together to protect SNAP.

#### HONORING JIMMIE JOHNSON

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my fastest constituent, Jimmie Johnson, who recently won his sixth NASCAR Sprint Cup championship.

In a remarkable display of teamwork, consistency, and a burning desire to always improve, Jimmie Johnson won six NASCAR championships in the last 8 years.

More importantly, Jimmie is a champion off the track. Since 2006, the Jimmie Johnson Foundation has contributed more than \$5 million to charity, with a special focus on improving K-12 education in North Carolina, Oklahoma, and California. In Charlotte, Jimmie is a supporter of Project LIFT, a private-public partnership working to improve the graduation rate in some of Charlotte's toughest neighborhoods.

Thank you, Jimmie, for using your on-track success to make a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of children.

#### DENNIS DENBO AND OBAMACARE

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the benefits of ObamaCare.

Dennis Denbo, a 63-year-old constituent of mine, spoke to our local newspaper, the Press-Enterprise, to share his story.

Mr. Denbo, who was laid off recently from his computer sales job, went to the Covered California Web site and found that he and his wife Jean will save \$300 a month on a plan comparable to what they have now.

A few weeks ago, Mr. Denbo wrote to my office to tell me personally about his experience and how deeply he believes in America's ability to achieve great things.

In his letter he said:

We are Americans. We can solve whatever issues or tactical challenges that come up in the implementation of a nationwide health care solution. We can make it efficient, cost-effective, accessible, and a valuable service for all Americans.

I couldn't agree more, Mr. Denbo.

The benefits of ObamaCare are real. This body should be concerned with finding ways to improve access to affordable health care instead of delaying and defunding.

#### ZEELAND WEST HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL DIVISION 3 STATE CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Zeeland West High School's football team on winning the 2013 Division 3 State championship on Saturday, November 30, at Ford Field in Detroit.

The Zeeland Dux rushed for over 440 yards during the game, resulting in a 34-27 win over DeWitt. Their 13-1 record this season is a testament to the players' dedication, hard work, and self-sacrifice. In fact, the program itself has become an example of hard work and leadership. This is the Dux's third State title since the program's inception only 9 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't also congratulate Dux Head Coach John Shillito and his coaching staff for a job well done with his players, as he leads them not only on the field, but off the field.

Again, congratulations to the Dux on their big win last Saturday.

#### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the positive impact