

But when thinking about our amazing female forebearers, what becomes clear is that their primary mission was one of education. Education is the key in getting girls and boys, women and men to believe in themselves, to have the confidence and know-how to use their individual, God-given abilities to better their own lives and improve the condition of our communities.

As we celebrate the wonderful legacy that our American heroines have left across the United States, let's not forget that the mission of education is not yet finished.

As a former Florida certified teacher, Mr. Speaker, I have witnessed the transformational impact that education can have. Let's follow the lead of great women that we are honoring this month, and let's continue working together to make a quality education a reality for all, both here in our great Nation and around the world.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan Senate legislation on unemployment insurance is a major step forward for millions of job-seeking Americans. It has been 76 days since the Federal unemployment insurance expired for 1.3 million job-seeking Americans. During that time, an additional 700,000 people have seen their lifeline cut off, hindering their efforts to get work and hurting our economy.

When you add it up, as a result of failure to act, \$3 billion has been taken out of the economy in January and February alone.

Upon passage in the Senate, I urge Republicans in the House to follow this bipartisan path to assist the long-term unemployed who have been without Federal assistance since December 28. They and their families' needs are urgent. It is the responsibility of this, the people's House, to act on behalf of the people, the millions of long-term unemployed looking for work.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL WAYNE T. FRYE

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Colonel Wayne T. Frye of Manchester, Ohio. Colonel Frye was beloved in his community, and is remembered not only for his extraordinary achievements but also for his humble character.

In 1948, Wayne Frye joined the United States Marines, and went on to attend the Naval Academy in Annapolis. While a student, he competed with the 1952 Olympic rowing team, known as the "Great Eight," winning a gold medal for Team USA.

After graduating from Annapolis, he joined the newly established Air Force and later served in Vietnam, where he was a commander with the 555th "Triple Nickel" Fighter Squadron, flying 266 combat missions. For his service, he received two Silver Stars for valor, five Distinguished Flying Crosses, 15 Air Medals, and a Purple Heart.

Wayne Frye's legacy also lies in his deep-rooted commitment to his community, and his inspiration to future generations through his character, faith, and humility.

Colonel Wayne T. Frye, thank you for your service. A grateful Nation salutes you. Rest in peace. Rest in peace.

SYRIA NEEDS UNRESTRICTED HUMANITARIAN ACCESS NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the third anniversary of the crisis in Syria which will be commemorated on March 15. The United Nations estimates that over 100,000 people have been killed since the violence and unrest began in 2011; 9.3 million people, half of the Syrian people, need humanitarian assistance. 240,000 of them are living under siege, surviving under the constant threat of shelling and aerial bombardment. Moreover, they have faced life-threatening shortages of food, water, and medical supplies for more than a year. Children are literally starving to death, while military forces show no respect for humanitarian workers.

A diplomatic end to the crisis must be pursued. At the same time, the humanitarian crisis must be ameliorated. Humanitarian relief must be allowed to reach the civilians, and the wounded and the sick must receive the medical attention that they need. Indiscriminate aerial bombardments must cease, and civilians must be granted safe passage out of the besieged areas. The Syrian people need unrestricted humanitarian aid now.

UNICEF,

New York, NY, Mar. 11, 2014.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN SUFFERING MORE THAN DOUBLES IN THIRD YEAR OF SYRIA CONFLICT AMONG HARDEST HIT ARE 1 MILLION CHILDREN UNDER SIEGE AND IN HARD-TO-REACH AREAS

As the conflict in Syria approaches another sombre milestone, more than twice as many children are now affected compared to 12 months ago, says a new report by UNICEF published today. Particularly hard hit are up to a million children who are trapped in areas of Syria that are under siege or that are hard to reach with humanitarian assistance due to continued violence.

Under Siege—the devastating impact on children of three years of conflict in Syria focuses on the immense damage caused to the 5.5 million children now affected by the conflict and calls for an immediate end to the violence and increased support for those affected.

The report includes the accounts of children whose lives have been devastated by the three year old war, and highlights the pro-

found traumas many have experienced. Children such as four-year-old Adnan, who fled with his family to Lebanon, suffered facial scarring when his home was bombed and still suffers from emotional distress. "He cries all night," his mother is quoted as saying. "He is scared of everything and is afraid when we leave him, even for a second."

UNICEF estimates that there are 2 million children like Adnan in need of psychological support or treatment.

"For Syria's children, the past three years have been the longest of their lives. Must they endure another year of suffering?" said UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake.

The report warns that the future of 5.5 million children inside Syria and living as refugees in neighbouring countries hangs in the balance as violence, the collapse of health and education services, severe psychological distress and the worsening economic impact on families combine to devastate a generation.

The report draws attention to the suffering experienced by children and their families who have been trapped in areas under siege for many months. Cut off from aid, living in rubble and struggling to find food, many Syrian children have been left without protection, medical care or psychological support, and have little or no access to education. In the very worst cases children and pregnant women have been deliberately wounded or killed by snipers.

In host countries, 1.2 million Syrian children are now refugees living in camps and overwhelmed host communities, and have limited access to clean water, nutritious food or learning opportunities.

The report says that three years on, Syrian children have been forced to grow up faster than any child should. UNICEF estimates that 1 in 10 refugee children is now working and 1 in every 5 Syrian girls in Jordan is forced into early marriage.

The report calls on the global community to undertake six critical steps:

End the cycle of violence in Syria now

Grant immediate access to the under-reached 1 million children inside Syria

Create an environment where children are protected from exploitation and harm

Invest in children's education

Help children's inner healing through psychological care and support and

Provide support to host communities and governments to mitigate the social and economic impact of the conflict on families.

"This war has to end so that children can return to their homes to rebuild their lives in safety with their family and friends. This third devastating year for Syrian children must be the last," said Lake.

BALANCE OF POWER

(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, the Constitution is very clear: the elected Representatives in Congress pass the laws and the President enforces those laws. This system of checks and balances has served to limit abuses of power and hold government accountable to the people.

From our immigration laws to the 2010 health care overhaul, the current White House has selectively enforced our laws, and in many cases acted unilaterally to change or alter them. In fact, the majority leader's office recently released a report outlining 40

separate instances where the Obama administration broke this fundamental responsibility.

Yesterday, the House acted on two measures to hold the executive branch accountable and restore balance to the separation of powers. H.R. 4138, the ENFORCE Act, which deals with lawsuits against the executive branch for failure to execute the laws, and H.R. 3973, the Faithful Execution of the Law Act, which requires the Attorney General to report to Congress any time a Federal official implements a policy to refrain from enforcing Federal law.

Mr. Speaker, no matter which party is in the White House, our laws must be faithfully executed. Americans deserve as much.

SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY IN UKRAINE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, just a couple of weeks ago the eyes of the world were looking at the people of Russia, and all of the world gathered together at the international Olympics, athletes of varying backgrounds harmoniously competing in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration. Certainly those of us in the United States watched with great pride our athletes represent our Nation and their own special talent. It is unfortunate today that President Putin has undermined and destroyed all of that goodwill.

I believe it is important that the United States continue to engage with Ukraine, a sovereign nation, and continues to encourage Secretary Kerry, as the President is doing, for diplomatic resolution. A couple of days from now there will be a vote to cede away from Ukraine, a sovereign nation. President Putin has boots on the ground on soil that is not his, and the world must stand up in a manner that collaborates and embraces. No, I am not calling for military action by the United States, collaboration with NATO. But they are people who desire democracy, and we are a democracy and we should be there and stand alongside of them.

COMMEMORATING SKILLS ACT ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday will mark the 1-year anniversary of House passage of H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act. This bill, which I sponsored, would bring much-needed reform and reorganization to our broken Federal workforce development system.

There is bipartisan agreement that the current mishmash of Federal workforce programs is not meeting the needs of America's job seekers. The President called for reforms in his 2012

State of the Union Address. Republicans in the House responded to that call with the SKILLS Act. This bill would streamline 35 ineffective and duplicative programs, including 26 identified as being ineffective in a 2011 GAO report. The SKILLS Act empowers job creators, promotes accountability, and gives workers access to the resources they need to fill jobs that are available now.

I call on our colleagues in the Senate to act on this vital piece of legislation. America needs a workforce development system that works for job seekers, not bureaucrats.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces a correction to an earlier vote tally. On rollcall vote No. 135, the "yeas" were 238 and the "nays" were 181.

□ 1130

SIGN THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DISCHARGE PETITION

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to congratulate the two Senators from my home State—Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID and Senator DEAN HELLER—for putting together a bipartisan unemployment insurance benefit extension. I am thankful on behalf of the 2 million Americans who are depending on UI benefits that the Senate is expected to act soon.

But here we go again, Mr. Speaker. The pressure is now on the House. I think it is wrong that one person in the House out of 435 can hold hostage a financial lifeline for 2 million Americans, including 26,000 Nevadans.

Every Member of Congress now has a choice to make: sign the discharge petition to bring up unemployment insurance in a vote; or don't and abandon the Americans who desperately need our help.

I have signed, and I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to do the same. Moderate House Republicans can do something before they leave today. Sign the discharge petition. Show your constituents that you stand with them and bring up a vote to extend unemployment insurance benefits.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, more than 14 million seniors nationwide depend on Medicare Advantage plans for their health care needs. In two of the counties that I represent in California's Central Valley, over 60,000 seniors are enrolled in Medicare Advantage.

The program is an absolute necessity for them because it limits their out-of-pocket expense, protecting them from the threat of bankruptcy due to a complicated and an ongoing medical condition.

The President's massive government overhaul of our health care system has raided \$300 million from Medicare Advantage plans and created a health care tax that has just started this year. These payment cuts and the new health insurance tax are already being felt with canceled plans, reduced benefits, and increased co-payments.

There are 33,000 seniors in my county—Stanislaus County—making under \$20,000 a year, who are going to be hit with almost \$100 per month. They have a right to know when this tax is going to hit them, what the expense is going to be. Seniors on limited incomes should have the right to know, which is why I authored the Seniors' Right to Know Act.

BIG LAKE

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, everyone in Texas knows about the Permian Basin's reputation for oil and gas. Every UT Longhorn or Texas A&M Aggie knows about the Permanent University Fund.

Not everyone knows the critical role that Big Lake played in each of these, so today, my 23 in 1—taking people to the 23rd District in 1 minute—is about Big Lake.

The first well to hit on university lands was the Santa Rita well, which is now enshrined on the UT campus in Austin. Just outside of Big Lake was the site. It was named for the patron saint of the impossible because no one really expected the well to hit.

The population went from 100 people to over 2,000. Today, those wells have produced great, great resources for the University of Texas and A&M over a long period of time.

There was once a lake in Big Lake; it is dry now. It was fed by springs that are no longer there. They are there only when it has had significant rain. Big Lake is a wonderful place to visit. If you ever have the opportunity, please go.

WEST VIRGINIA WOMEN

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, women have played a significant role in our Nation's history and in my home State of West Virginia. I would like to recognize a few who have had wonderful achievements in art, literature, sports, government, education, and volunteerism.

Anna Johnson Gates was the first female elected to the State legislature