

it is my hope that their countless stories will soon be heard.

CELEBRATING THE 114TH AMERICAN SAMOA FLAG DAY

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Governor Lolo Moliga and the people of American Samoa, for next week we will be celebrating 114 years for the commemoration of the raising of the American flag on April 17, 1900.

Madam Speaker, it was at this historic occasion when our Samoan traditional leaders had the foresight to sign the Treaty of Cession with the representatives of the United States. Our bond and relation as part of the "American family" today is stronger than ever.

As we celebrate this year, we must reflect on the sacrifices that were made by our sons and daughters, past and present, who served honorably and valiantly in our Nation's military forces. Our Samoan sons and daughters have been an important part of our military forces, both here and throughout the world.

(English translation of the statement made in Samoan is as follows.)

May the relationship between the United States and the islands of Tutuila and Manu'a continue to prosper. Farewell.

Ila sao ma uli le alo faiva le faigamalo a Tutuila ma Manua ma le Malo Tele o Amerika. Soifua.

TREATY OF CESSION

Chief of Tutuila

to

United States Government

April 17, 1900

Translation in the English language:

To all to whom these presents shall come: Greeting.

Whereas the Governments of Germany, Great Britain, and of the United States of America have on divers occasions recognized the sovereignty of the government and people of Samoa and the Samoan group of islands as an independent State; and whereas owing to dissensions, internal disturbances and civil war, the said governments have deemed it necessary to assume the control of the legislation and administration of said state of Samoa; and whereas the said governments have on the sixteenth day of February, by mutual agreement, determined to partition said State; and whereas the islands hereinafter described being part of the said State have by said arrangements amongst the said governments, been severed from the parent State, and the Governments of Great Britain and of Germany have withdrawn all rights hitherto acquired, claimed or possessed by both or either of them by treaty or otherwise, to the said islands in favor of the government of the United States of America;

And whereas for the promotion of the peace and welfare of the people of said islands, for the establishment of a good and sound government, and for the preservation of the rights and property of the inhabitants of said islands, the Chiefs, rulers and people thereof are desirous of granting unto the

said government of the United States full powers and authority to enact proper legislation for and to control the said islands, and are further desirous of removing all disabilities that may be existing in connection therewith and to ratify and to confirm the grant of the rule of said islands heretofore granted on the 2nd day of April, 1900.

Now know Ye.-

1. That we, the Chiefs whose names are hereunder subscribed by virtue of our office as the hereditary representatives of the people of said islands, in consideration of the premises hereinbefore recited and for divers good considerations us hereunto moving, have ceded, transferred, and yielded up unto Commander B.F. Tilley of the U.S. "Abarenda," the duly accredited representative of the Government of the United States of America, in the islands hereinafter mentioned or described for and on behalf of the said government. All these the islands of Tutuila and Aunu'u and all other islands, rocks, reefs, foreshores and waters lying between the 13th degree and the 15th degree of south latitude and between the 171st degree and 167th degree of west longitude from the meridian of Greenwich, together with all sovereign rights thereunto belonging and possessed by us, to hold the said ceded territory unto the Government of the United States of America; to erect the same into a separate District to be annexed to the said Government, to be known and designated as the District of "Tutuila".

2. The Government of the United States of America shall respect and protect the individual rights of all people dwelling in Tutuila to their lands and other property in said district; but if the said Government shall require any land or any other thing for Government uses, the government may take the same upon payment of a fair consideration for the land, or other thing, to those whom may be deprived of their property on account of the desire of the Government.

3. The Chiefs of the towns will be entitled to retain their individual control of the separate towns, if that control is in accordance with the laws of the United States of America concerning Tutuila, and if not obstructive to the peace of the people and the advancement of civilization of the people, subject also to the supervision and instruction of the said Government. But the enactment of legislation and the general control shall remain firm with the United States of America.

4. An investigation and settlement of all claims to title to lands in the different divisions or districts of Tutuila shall be made by the Government.

5. We, whose names are subscribed below, do hereby declare with truth for ourselves, our heirs and representatives by Samoan Custom, that we will obey and owe allegiance to the Government of the United States of America. In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed our seals on this 17th day of April, 1900 A.D.

Fofo and Aitulagi

Tuilele of Leone, Faiivae of Leone, Letuli of Iiititi, Fuimaono of Aololau, Satele of Vailoa, Leoso of Leone, Olo of Leone, Namoa of Aitulagi, Malota of Aitulagi, Tuana'itau of Pava'ia'i, Lualemaga of Aasu, Amituana'i of Itua'u.

Sua and Vafanua

Pele, Mauga, Leiato, Faumuina, Masaniai, Tupuola, Soliai, Mauga.

The foregoing instrument of Cession (pages 1, 2 and 3) was duly signed by Leoso in the presence of, and at the request of, the Chiefs and Representatives of the Division of Fofo and Aitulagi, and by Pele in the presence of, and at the request of, the Chiefs and Representatives of Sua and Vafanua in Tutuila

in conformity with Samoan customs as to signatures to documents, in my presence at Pago Pago on the 17th day of April, 1900 A.D. immediately prior to the Raising of the United States Flag at the United States Naval Station, Tutuila.

/s/E.W. Gurr

Barrister of the Supreme Court of Samoa.

Acceptance of Cessions

The Judge Advocate General of the Navy in 1921, referring to the above cessions, said: "These cessions were accepted by the President of the United States, and full information with respect thereto was communicated to Congress and the action of the Chief Executive relative thereto adopted and approved in a number of separate statutory enactments." (File 3931-1429.36, Dec. 23, 1921, LRNA, Supp. 25.

□ 1800

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, during this week, we sadly recognize and commiserate Equal Pay Day, which marks the number of extra days in 2014 the average woman has to work to earn as much as her male counterpart did in 2013, so I rise for the women who are not here today because they are working hard to take care of themselves and their families.

I am going to keep it simple, Mr. Speaker. Equal pay is about fairness, and as important, it is about survival. Equal pay means safe, secure housing. Equal pay means saving for a child's college education. Equal pay means building a pension that allows for a dignified retirement. Equal pay means that everyone, regardless of their gender, gets a fair shot at living their American Dream.

THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

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

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Week of the Young Child. The National Association for the Education of Young Children started the Week of the Young Child in 1971; and since that time, this week has focused public attention on young children and young parents, two groups that don't have high-priced lobbyists to advocate for them here in Washington.

For this reason, I cofounded the Congressional Kids Safety Caucus, where we seek to raise awareness on preventable child injury. Additionally, assisting in the care and education of our youngest are amongst the highest yielding and most just investments our government can make.

So I call today on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recommit themselves to working toward high-quality early childhood education for all.

MENTAL ILLNESS RESEARCH

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, with the tragic shooting at Fort Hood this past week, our country has once again been ravaged by the convergence of mental instability and gun rampages.

As President Obama did today, let us honor those lost to this terrible tragedy—Sergeant First Class Danny Ferguson, Sergeant Timothy Owens, and soldier Carlos Lazaney—and continue to pray for the injured as they recover, as well as all those in uniform who serve our Nation.

As this is now the second shooting at Fort Hood in recent years, Americans and we, in Congress, must again ask ourselves: Isn't it time for a national conversation on untreated mental illness?

As a member of the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, we must use this moment to support early diagnosis, as well as pathbreaking neurological research, building on the President's BRAIN Initiative. We must probe the undiscovered functions of the human mind and human performance.

Advanced research and treatment will benefit both our deserving veterans and all Americans who struggle with the unknown reaches of the unquiet mind.

Again, I lend my support to honor the heroes lost at Fort Hood, and I implore my colleagues to make certain this latest tragedy is, indeed, the last tragedy. Let us measure up to this worthy challenge.

THE RYAN BUDGET

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the 2015 Ryan budget, a budget that will hurt middle class Americans while, at the same time, giving breaks to some of the wealthiest people in this country.

Early childhood education is important, but the Ryan budget cuts Head Start. Millions of Americans are still struggling to find work in a changing economy. Instead of investing in programs to prepare the unemployed for new careers, this budget cuts job training.

Nearly 16 million children are food-insecure, and we know that growing up hungry is directly correlated to a child's academic success. This budget guts the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and for millions of young people with dreams of attending college, this budget offers them no hope; instead, it cuts Pell grant aid.

We must do more to invest in this great Nation if we want to continue our economic recovery and create a brighter future, and instead of robust investments in infrastructure and transportation, the Ryan budget takes

us backward. Mr. Speaker, we can and we should and we must do better.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNE TAYLOR

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with an extremely heavy heart to pay tribute to the life of our beloved Anne Louise Taylor who passed away last week.

Words cannot really express my sadness as we mourn Anne's untimely death. She served as my district director for more than 5 years, but more importantly, she was a trusted and loving friend.

Anne's contributions to the residents of the East Bay were enormous. With true compassion and commitment, she touched the lives of thousands of people. Prior to joining my office, Anne's accomplished public career included working for California Assembly Member and California State Board of Equalization Member Johan Klehs; was district director for Assembly Member Ellen Corbett; and was head of government relations at California State East Bay during the administration of President Mo Qayoumi.

Not only was she a true public servant and a phenomenal woman, but she was deeply passionate about her community of Alameda, California, where she attended high school and loved the Fourth of July parade and the Alameda Point Antique Faire.

Our deepest condolences from my office, my community, and my staff. Our condolences go out to Anne's two exceptional daughters, Eleanore and Grace Guenon, and to her entire family, whom she loved deeply.

Our thoughts and our prayers are with them during these very difficult days. May her spirit continue to soar and her memory stay very close to our hearts. She touched so many lives. We know that her soul is resting in peace.

HONORING KRISTIN FULFORD

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kristin Fulford, a member of my 12th District staff for the past 9 years. Kristin has been an invaluable part of our team, handling thousands of casework issues for folks all over my district.

Kristin has made sure that folks received their Social Security and Medicare payments, helped high school students prepare to enter one of our Nation's military institutions, and has done almost everything else in between.

You would be hard-pressed to find anyone in the 12th District who doesn't know someone that Kristin has helped. She has been a team player who, for nearly a decade, has taken pride in helping the folks in our communities.

All of us in Congress know how hard our staffs work, and we know we wouldn't be here if it weren't for people like Kristin, who are our eyes, ears, and helping hands when we can't be home.

I wish Kristin, her husband, Edward, and their daughter, Wren, all the best as she begins her new journey, and I know the folks in my district will miss her as much as I will.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF "THE GRAPES OF WRATH"

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of one of the greatest pieces of American literature, John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath." The National Steinbeck Center in his hometown of Salinas, California, is celebrating all year, with events throughout the country.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel was published on April 14, 1939. Set during the Great Depression, the novel captured the brutal honesty, the story of migrant farmworkers fleeing Oklahoma's Dust Bowl in search of new opportunity in California. Steinbeck wanted to shine a light on the social injustices that plagued the working poor.

Sparkling controversy, it quickly rose to the top of the bestsellers list. It was banned and burned in many parts of the country.

Inspired by the novel, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt helped pass new labor laws after touring the shocking conditions of the California camps. "The Grapes of Wrath" changed the way we viewed poverty in this country.

This is why it figured prominently in the decision to award Steinbeck the Nobel Prize. Even today, the novel still offers us hope—hope that our best days lie before us. Steinbeck's words resonate just as true today as they did 75 years ago.

THE RYAN BUDGET

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

Mr. RUIZ. Once again, through the Ryan budget, House leadership is seeking to balance the budget on the backs of hard-working American families and seniors, undermining the economic recovery, and ending the Medicare guarantee.

As an emergency medicine physician, I know firsthand that many of the seniors I care for rely on the Medicare they have earned. In fact, in Riverside County, California, alone over 250,000 seniors rely on Medicare.

Our priority should be reducing health care costs in order to make Medicare stronger and more sustainable, but this budget transforms Medicare into a voucher program, shifting