

them off a cliff. That is wrong, Mr. Speaker. I say “no” to this budget. We can do much better.

HONORING THE HOCKADAY SCHOOL'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hockaday School's centennial anniversary. The school will celebrate 100 years of learning and service this weekend.

Hockaday is a world-renowned institution in Dallas, Texas, in my congressional district. The school educates over 1,000 students from pre-K to 12th grade.

Hockaday stands on the same four cornerstones upon which it was founded: character, courtesy, scholarship, and athletics. These four cornerstones were the original vision of the school's founder, Miss Ela Hockaday. They remain the very fabric of the school and will continue to guide Hockaday students for years to come.

I ask all of my colleagues today to join me in honoring the Hockaday community on this very historic occasion.

NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

(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 in honor of the National Day of Silence.

Tomorrow is the 17th year we have commemorated the National Day of Silence. It is a time when students across the country remain silent for a whole day to draw attention to discrimination towards their LGBT peers.

Our country has made great progress towards more acceptable and tolerance for gay and lesbian individuals; however, gender-expansive students, gender-diverse students, and straight allies still face a lot of fear and discrimination. I want all these students to know they are not alone.

I say this every year, but I continue to be so proud of my young constituents, their parents and families who are working to make the world a better place for all people no matter your race, your color, your gender, or your sexual orientation.

For example, Jordan, a ninth grade transgender male student at The Ark in Santa Cruz will be one of the emcees for the 17th Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards in Capitola. Jordan's mom, Heidi, is an advisory council member to the Trans* Teen Project and a facilitator of the Transfamily Support Group.

Though many LGBT students and their allies are silent tomorrow, we in Congress must never be silent. It is our job to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

□ 1230

TRIBUTE TO JANE TUCKER

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jane Tucker of Dallastown, Pennsylvania, who was honored at today's Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus Awards.

Jane endured years of life-threatening physical and mental abuse at the hands of her first husband in the 1950s. With tenacity and perseverance, she devoted decades of her life to founding ACCESS-York, York County, Pennsylvania's service provider for victims fleeing domestic violence.

Jane continues to this very day, this very moment, as a volunteer at ACCESS-York, and she serves as the inspiration and motivation to countless victims who turn to ACCESS-York for help, understanding and protection. She is the epitome of resilience, strength, compassion and integrity. From a battered mother to a founding mother of ACCESS-York, Jane Tucker's life is a story of triumph over tragedy, and I am absolutely proud and humbled to be part of honoring her accomplishment with the unsung hero award today.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET UNMITIGATED DISASTER

(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, the Republican budget put together by Chairman RYAN is one of the world's worst vanity projects. It doesn't actually help the American people. It simply fulfills Mr. RYAN's ideological fantasies.

I want a budget that will grow our economy, create jobs, invest in the American people. Mr. RYAN wants a budget that will make Ayn Rand proud. I want a budget that improves our national education system. Mr. RYAN's budget will cut funding for nearly 8,000 schools. I want a budget that expands job training. Mr. RYAN's budget would deny 3.5 million Americans access to job training programs. I want a budget that keeps the promises to our seniors. Mr. RYAN's budget ends the guarantee of Medicare and turns it into a voucher system.

Mr. Speaker, the Ryan budget is an unmitigated disaster. I opposed it, and I know all my Democratic colleagues opposed it. This budget is at odds with what the American people need.

HONORING WALTER H. KECK, JR.

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and honor Walt H. Keck,

Jr., on his retirement after 55 years of public service.

Mr. Keck joined the United States Air Force in 1961. Throughout his 27-year military career, he rose through the ranks to master sergeant before retiring in 1988.

In 1989, Mr. Keck began his law enforcement career as an officer with the Harrison County Sheriff's Department. Nearly 10 years later, he assisted the city of D'Iberville in creating its own police department while continuing to work for Harrison County. Sworn in as D'Iberville police captain in 2008 and deputy chief of police in 2012, Mr. Keck retires on May 6, 2014, with over 28 years of law enforcement service.

Mr. Keck has been described as a man of integrity, intelligence, dedication, and compassion, and as a man who truly cares about the citizens he serves.

Mr. Keck, on behalf of the United States Congress, thank you for your hard work and commitment to the citizens of the United States and south Mississippi. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

HONORING VICTIMS OF RWANDAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago, a plane carrying Rwanda's president was shot down, unleashing a genocide carried out by the country's dominant Hutu tribe against its Tutsi minority.

Hundreds of thousands of people, estimates of the dead range up to 1 million, were killed in a matter of weeks. Many were butchered with machetes, their mutilated bodies left to rot in the African sun. Women were brutally raped. Entire families were slaughtered at once. The goal was simple: to kill every Tutsi in Rwanda. The killing went on for 3 months, wiping out nearly three-fourths of the Tutsi population, until rebel forces toppled the government and took over a deeply traumatized nation.

In the two decades since, Rwanda has made remarkable progress in a broad range of economic, health, and social indicators. It has taken on the delicate task of bringing those responsible for the genocide to justice without tearing the country apart. Rwanda's saga, even as we mourn the dead, is ultimately a story of triumph and hope.

For us in America and the West, Rwanda stands as mute testimony to our failure to live up to the post-Holocaust promise of “never again.” We cannot undo the past, but we can heed the lessons of Rwanda by acting now to prevent genocide in the Central African Republic. Today's U.N. Security Council vote is a first step, and Congress should act by providing resources. I urge us to do so quickly. Lives are on the line.

FOOD INSECURITY

(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, every year we celebrate Easter and Passover, in part, with food. Yet for millions of Americans, putting food on their tables this holiday season is no different than any other day. It is a struggle at best, and a failure at worst. It is a failure of this institution and our government as a whole that we still tolerate incredibly low wages so that people are forced to choose between rent and food, clothes and food, utilities and food. We can do better.

We need the White House to step up and own this issue. They can start with a White House conference on food and nutrition.

Mr. Speaker, even though millions struggle with hunger, there are good souls out there who are trying to help. I want to highlight one Good Samaritan who paid for the groceries of a young woman named Andrea who was just trying to feed her kids. When Andrea exhausted her SNAP benefits at the grocery store, an unnamed woman in line gave her \$17.38 so that she didn't have to return any of the groceries.

This House could learn from this example to help our neighbors rather than penalize them simply for being poor. I include for the RECORD Andrea's letter to this unnamed woman in line at the grocery store.

DEAR WOMAN BEHIND ME IN LINE AT THE GROCERY STORE: You don't know me. You have no clue what my life has been like since October 1, 2013. You have no clue that my family has gone through the wringer. You have no clue that we have faced unbelievable hardship. You have no clue we have been humiliated, humbled, destitute.

You have no clue I have cried more days than not; that I fight against bitterness taking control of my heart. You have no clue that my husband's pride was shattered. You have no clue my kids have had the worries of an adult on their shoulders. You have no clue their innocence was snatched from them for no good reason. You know none of this.

What you do know is I tried to buy my kids some food and that the EBT machine was down so I couldn't buy that food. I didn't have any cash or my debit card with me. I only had my SNAP card. All you heard was me saying "No, don't hold it for me. My kids are hungry now and I have no other way of paying for this." You didn't judge me. You didn't snarl "Maybe you should have less kids." You didn't say "Well, get a job and learn to support yourself." You didn't look away in embarrassment or shame for me. You didn't make any assumptions at all.

What you did was you paid that \$17.38 grocery bill for us. You gave my kids bananas, yogurt, apple juice, cheese sticks, and a peach ice tea for me; a rare treat and splurge. You let me hug you and promise through my tears that I will pay this forward. I will pay someone's grocery bill for them. That \$17.38 may not have been a lot for you, but it was priceless to us. In the car my kids couldn't stop gushing about you; our "angel in disguise." They prayed for you. They prayed you would be blessed. You restored some of our lost faith. One simple and small action changed our lives. You probably

have forgotten about us by now, but we haven't forgotten about you. You will forever be a part of us even though we don't even know your name.

You have no clue how grateful and embarrassed I am that we pay for all our food with SNAP. We eat well thanks to the government. I love that. I love that the government makes sure my kids are cared for. It is one less worry for us. I also struggle with pride and embarrassment. I defiantly tell people we are on SNAP. Daring them to judge us.

Only those closest to us know why we are on SNAP. They know my husband is a hard worker who was laid off after 17 years in a management position with his former company. They know we were moved from our home to a new state only to be left homeless since the house we had came with the job he lost. Only those closest to us know my husband works part time while looking tirelessly for more; that he has submitted more applications than he has received interviews for. Too many jobs are only offering part time work anymore. It is not easy for a 40-something year old to find a job that will support his family of five kids.

You know none of this but you didn't let that stop you from being compassionate and generous to someone you have never met.

To the woman behind me at the grocery store, you have no idea how much we appreciate you. You have no idea the impact you had on my kids. You have no idea how incredibly thankful I am for you. Your action may have been small, but to us it was monumental. Thank you.

Thank you for not judging us. Thank you for giving my kids a snack when they were quite hungry. Thank you. Just thank you.

Forever,
Andrea, the woman in front of you at the grocery store with the cart full of kids who are no longer hungry

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUNGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 743(b)(3) of Public Law 113-76, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following individuals on the part of the House to the National Commission on Hunger:

Mr. Jeremy Everett, Waco, Texas
Dr. Susan Finn, Columbus, Ohio
Mr. Robert Doar, Brooklyn, New York

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATEHOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, while I am waiting for my posters to arrive at the rostrum, I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL).

Mr. WOODALL. I thank the gentle lady so much for yielding.

You are allowing me to correct a grave mistake I made earlier today. I had the great pleasure of carrying the RSC budget to the floor today. We

weren't able to succeed in passing our balanced budget, but we did succeed in passing the Budget Committee balanced budget. I think that is a great success for this House, but those successes don't happen by themselves. They happen because we are surrounded by staffers in this institution who do an amazing amount of work day in and day out.

In my case, it is Will Dunham, who is the staff director at the Republican Study Committee; the very able budget staffer there, Matthew Dickerson; and my own budget associate, Nick Myrs. Without their help, it would have been impossible to put that budget together, and I am so grateful for their commitment to this institution and to the very difficult work that we do.

With that, I thank my friend very much for yielding.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, all this week I have come to the House floor for a very special purpose. I have offered only some of the reasons that the residents who live in the Nation's capital should have the same basic rights as other Americans. All other Americans have achieved these rights through statehood. We have tried to break down the elements of statehood into separate bills, but we have not been able to get those elements recognized by the Congress of the United States either.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am making use of an important day coming up next week when Congress will be out of session. April 16 is commemorated in the District of Columbia because it is the day 152 years ago when Abraham Lincoln freed those slaves who happened to live in the Nation's capital 9 months before the national Emancipation Proclamation. This week, I have used this upcoming occasion to offer a series of remarks not only, of course, because of this historic occasion in our city but because of the meaning this occasion has to the residents of the Nation's Capital here and now, right this moment, not 152 years ago.

Unlike 1862 when African Americans who happened to live in the Nation's Capital were deprived of freedom, in 2014, every American citizen of every background, of every race, of every color, of every religion, of every ethnic origin, of every sex is equally deprived of equal rights with other Americans.

Other Americans, to have obtain full rights, need only be taxpaying citizens who serve in the Nation's wars. The people I represent have served in the Nation's wars since our very first war, the war that created the United States of America. And from the moment the Congress imposed Federal income taxes on the people of the United States, the people I represent have paid those taxes to support their government without a voting Member in this Congress, this House of Representatives, and with no voting Members in the Senate of the United States.

I do have the vote in committee, but when matters affecting my district, in