

shot and buried in a mass grave brings reality to the horrible accounts of the massacre. Every person had a name and a story.

I have twice visited Auschwitz-Birkenau. I walked through the rooms where the prisoners slept, filled now with the possessions they left behind. I saw the fields where prisoners stood waiting in line for their meager rations. I saw the walls where Jews were lined up before Nazi soldiers shot them.

□ 1015

I saw the gas chambers where you could still see scratches on the walls from prisoners desperate to escape.

Every person had a name and a story.

When I followed the train tracks out of Auschwitz, I reversed the path that led so many to their final resting places. From that moment, I have committed to remember what happens when senseless hatred prevails.

Unfortunately, the hatred and intolerance that led to these crimes against humanity is still alive today.

At some point, no survivors of the Holocaust will be alive to recount their heroic and heartbreaking tales of survival. We must make sure that we never repeat this dark mark on world history by teaching our children tolerance, and never forgetting the innocent victims of the Holocaust.

The Hebrew word “yizkor” means “we will remember.” Though Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed on April 28 this year, I ask that we dedicate ourselves to remembering the horrors of the Holocaust and commit to prevent genocide in our lifetimes and in the future.

IN SUPPORT OF DESIGNATING
APRIL 30, 2014, AS “DIA DE LOS
NINOS: CELEBRATING YOUNG
AMERICANS”

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in recognizing and celebrating “Dia de los Ninos,” or “Day of the Children.”

On April 30, many countries around the globe, especially in the Western Hemisphere, dedicate this special day to the children.

Whereas, the National Latino Children's Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the United States to declare April 30, 2014, to be Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans, a day to bring together Latinos and other communities in the United States to celebrate and uplift children, I urge all Americans to nurture and invest in all children and support them in leading healthy and prosperous lives.

In honor of Dia de los Ninos, I encourage all Americans to instill creativity, ingenuity, and a love of learning in all children and to support Fed-

eral investments that expand access to a high quality education for all, from cradle to career.

In honor of Dia de los Ninos, I urge President Obama and House and Senate leadership to pass commonsense immigration reform and take bold steps to protect immigrant children and keep families together.

For Latinos, passing humane immigration reform and reuniting children and parents who have been separated by our Nation's broken immigration system is of the utmost importance. Family reunification and providing much-needed relief to millions of immigrant children, youth, and families is critical to the health and well-being of Latino families and to our Nation's future.

In honor of Dia de los Ninos, I call on our Nation's parents to become more involved in the education of our children. As the primary teachers of family values and culture, I urge parents to encourage their children to go to college and to contribute to our Nation and to their respective communities.

Above all, I ask parents to preserve and pass on their rich language and cultural traditions to future generations.

We in south Texas recognize the rich cultural traditions that exist along the U.S.-Mexico border region, and we are proud that many of our children speak at least two languages. We are determined to increase educational attainment at every level.

In the United States, many Latino families continue the tradition of honoring their children on Dia de los Ninos. Today, I wish to share this custom with my colleagues in both the House and the Senate and with all Americans.

Given the significance of Dia de los Ninos in the Western Hemisphere, I urge Congress to honor the gifts of Latino and immigrant children to society by designating April 30 as Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans.

SCIENCE CHICKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, the Science Chicks, a new club in Mount Prospect, Illinois, represents the future of our country.

These 24 middle school girls built their remote operating vehicle and equipped it with motors and an underwater camera. They did all the electrical wiring themselves from scratch. At a competition at the University of Illinois, their submersible vehicle picked up items from the bottom of the pool's floor.

These girls represent millions around the country that have the ability to achieve greatness in the STEM fields. It is now our job to support them.

When I was in flight school learning to become a helicopter pilot, all the

flight instructors asked me to please try to find more women to join the Army flight school. They said that women made excellent natural pilots, but that they were less likely to even come forward and apply to the flight training program than their male peers.

I wonder how many girls around the country could achieve great things in math, science, or even flight school, but are simply unaware of the opportunities that are out there for them. We need to make sure that our public schools have the resources to invest in STEM education and that girls are encouraged to reach their full potential.

This is not only about empowering our daughters, but building the future of our economy and strengthening American competitiveness abroad. STEM education is crucial to providing good jobs for future generations and allowing our businesses to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, let's follow the example of the Science Chicks and support STEM education throughout this country.

A LOOK IN THE MIRROR

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

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, the job of a Congressman is, simply put, to keep America number one. This Congress is failing at that job.

Today, the Financial Times reports that, for the first time since 1872, America will soon no longer have the largest economy in the world.

This is the headline: “China To Overtake the U.S. As Top Economic Power This Year.”

We are losing our position to China, which is overtaking us some 3 years earlier than expected.

Even more importantly, last week, The New York Times reported that our middle class, which used to be the world's richest, no longer is.

This Congress simply must take responsibility for this. We must pass job-creating, pro-growth legislation. But this Congress has failed to do that.

This Congress has failed to take up and pass major infrastructure legislation, immigration reform, and tax reform.

We know how to solve many of these pro-growth problems, but this Congress is refusing to do so.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues should not blame anyone else for this mess. We are the largest body of elected leaders in this country. All we need to do to solve these problems is look in the mirror.

STATEMENT ON ANNOUNCEMENT
BY NBA COMMISSIONER ADAM
SILVER

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to address the statement made just yesterday by NBA Commissioner Adam Silver.

As we all know, Mr. Speaker, Commissioner Silver dealt swiftly, decisively, and broadly with the reprehensible racist tirade that has been attributed to Los Angeles Clippers owner, Mr. Donald Sterling.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to applaud Commissioner Silver for his swift, forward-thinking, decisive action and for taking a meaningful step forward in improving racial relations here in America, and having a very progressive impact on the culture of our Nation by forbidding the racial and racist attitude of any individual that may seek to hide behind the popularity and celebrity status that we give to our athletes and other entertainers.

Commissioner Silver's response to Mr. Sterling's appalling statements sent a message to all those who may hold racial or discriminatory attitudes that there is no place to hide here in the United States of America.

Whether it comes from the floor of the House, whether it comes from the other body, whether it comes from any quarter, we should all be outraged at the racial attitudes of intolerance and indifference and the hatred that is being spewed across the airways of our Nation. Three times over this last month we have heard reprehensible commentaries by others. We should all have felt a sense of enormous outrage at the comments of these individuals.

Much is left to be done, Mr. Speaker.

The one thing that is before the Nation and the NBA is that the owners have to do what they are required to do. I urge the owners to do what is best for the Clippers, what is best for the players in the NBA and the NBA itself, what is best for the fans of the NBA, and what is best for the Nation. I ask the owners this morning to remove Mr. Sterling from the privileges of owning an NBA team and remove him from the equation that he currently operates in. And do that finally, firmly, and quickly.

We need a decision by the NBA owners now to remove Mr. Sterling.

TOLLING WILL CRIPPLE OUR ECONOMY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the United States Department of Transportation yesterday delivered to Congress a draft highway reauthorization which proposes to remove the prohibition on tolling existing capacity on interstate highways.

As my colleagues are aware, the interstate highway system was created to enhance the flow of goods and services throughout the country.

□ 1030

These investments have served to improve our economy and the lives of our

citizens, while allowing America to remain competitive in a global market.

Plain and simple, tolling existing capacity will do nothing more than cripple our economy. In fact, Mr. Speaker, any attempt to remove the prohibitions on tolling interstate highways must be highly scrutinized.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, in 2007, a scheme was put together to toll Interstate 80. This was a prime example of a betrayal of public trust, where the Commonwealth, under then-Governor Rendell, aimed to use toll grants on other projects unassociated with the interstate.

Mr. Speaker, tolling can work for new capacity or to mitigate congestion by providing alternative lanes of travel, but it must be done in a transparent manner. Pennsylvania's plan was not crafted for the public good, but to cover up for a history of highway mismanagement and cronyism throughout the bureaucracy.

Now, I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on finding a fiscally responsible way to maintain investments in critical transportation infrastructure projects across the country.

As we move forward on a new highway reauthorization, let us restore the public trust, not further erode it. The American people deserve as much.

TURNING DARKNESS INTO LIGHT AND HATRED INTO LOVE

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, on the afternoon of Sunday, April 13—Palm Sunday and the eve of Passover—it was a beautiful spring day in Overland Park, Kansas. Many families were gathering across the community to be close and to celebrate these meaningful and important religious holidays; yet on that day of great beauty, tremendous evil was arriving in my community. On that day, hatred, combined with bigotry, would spur a tragedy of horrific proportions in Overland Park.

That afternoon, a singing competition for the best high school singers in the metropolitan area was occurring at the Jewish Community Center just down the street from where my family lives.

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City has been in operation since 1914 and is a bustling center for events, meetings, discussions, exercise, and service of a diverse community where all people and all faiths are welcomed.

That day, two members of my church, the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, were driving into the parking lot of the Jewish Community Center to participate in this competition—a grandfather and his grandson—when, out of nowhere, a man driven by hatred, anti-Semitism, and a life of racism decided to take their innocent lives.

Reat Underwood, one of the victims, a 14-year-old boy and freshman at Blue Valley High School, had an amazing voice. Reat's love of theater came naturally to him. With that training, Reat began his theater career at age 4 in Camelot Academy.

Reat was heavily involved with volunteering, and he cared about his community and was very active in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Carrying on the traditions of his grandfather and uncles, Reat was a Cub Scout with Pack 3097 at Blue Valley Middle School and then a Boy Scout with Troop 37, the Red-Tailed Hawk District, where he had reached Life Scout. He was preparing for his Eagle Scout boards with Troop 92, to be held in May.

Reat will be missed by his family, especially his younger brother, Lucas, who gave a beautiful tribute at Reat's services.

Reat's grandfather, Bill Corporan, who was taking Reat to this singing contest, also was a victim. Reat's family all lived in Overland Park, and his grandparents had moved there from Oklahoma, so they could live near their grandchildren.

Dr. Corporan had met and married his wife, Melinda, in Ponca City, Oklahoma, and they were married in 1965. He graduated with a doctorate of medicine from the University of Oklahoma in 1972, and the whole family became very big Sooner fans.

He operated family medicine practices throughout Oklahoma before finally moving with his wife to Overland Park to be close to their family. He continued serving his community as a physician and a medical director to the very last days.

A third victim, Terri Lamano, was arriving at Village Shalom, a retirement community almost a mile down the street to visit her mother. She too became a victim of vile bigotry and hatred from that violence that afternoon.

Terri worked as an occupational therapist at the Children's Center for the Visually Impaired in Kansas City. She spent her time working with children and families of those in need.

Her daughter, Alissa, described Terri as "a beautiful soul who always thought of everyone else before herself. She was the best mother, wife, sister, and friend that anyone could ask for."

Sadly, Terri was taken from us just 2 days before her 25th anniversary with her husband.

Today, I rise to pay tribute to these victims. We will never forget them. Our hearts break for them, and this Congress honors them for their beautiful lives and legacies.

Although the events which transpired are evil and will have long-lasting effects in our community, they have also brought us together and strengthened the bonds between all of us.

Mr. Speaker, my district is a diverse one, demographically. It is a strong community with a strong community spirit. With urban, suburban, and rural