

The American dream of equality, freedom, liberty, justice and life must be more than just words. It must be a promise to all Americans, regardless of race, gender, place of birth, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, nationality or religion.

Together, we can continue the unfinished work of creating a more perfect union.

HONORING LOGAN RODGERS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Logan Rodgers. Logan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 708, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Logan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Logan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Logan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Logan Rodgers for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 51, due to inclement weather, I was unable to vote on H.R. 361, Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

TRIBUTE TO MARJORIE ANN SHARP

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Marjorie Ann Sharp, a woman of great faith and an instrumental leader in Indiana's Wayne County Council.

Marjorie was a loving and devoted wife to her husband of 62 years, Karl. Together, they were the proud parents of three children, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. They were also my friends. As active members of the Central United Methodist Church, Marjorie and her family valued their faith and were diligent leaders within the Richmond community. She served for an impressive 16 years on the Wayne County Council and, furthermore, became the first female to serve as President of the County Council.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of Marjorie Ann Sharp. My thoughts and prayers

go out to Marjorie's family during this difficult time. May God comfort those close to her with His peace and strength.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AWARE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleague and co-chair of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, MIKE FITZPATRICK, I am pleased to introduce the Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors, or AWARE Act. This bill would ensure that farm animals used in agricultural research at federal research facilities are included in the definition of "animal" under the Animal Welfare Act.

A January 20, 2015 front page article in the New York Times, "U.S. Research Lab Lets Livestock Suffer in Quest for Profit: Animal Welfare at Risk in Experiments for Meat Industry," examined horrendous abuses at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska. In the last 30 years, over half a million animals have been housed at the center. The center's experiments have included experiments to increase the number of twin births in cows and expand the litter size of pigs, without consideration of animal health impacts, and trying to breed "easy care" lambs that are born in open fields without human assistance—all with horrifying, and often unsuccessful results.

At least 6,500 animals are known to have starved to death at this facility alone. Unknown numbers have died from negligence such as easily treatable infections, exposure to bad weather, or attacks by predators. In just the last 10 years, this single center has cost nearly \$200 million with taxpayers footing the bill for this shocking abuse of animals.

Appallingly, these animals are not currently protected under federal law. While the Animal Welfare Act ensures that certain minimum standards of humane care are required for federal and private research facilities, there is an exemption for farm animals "used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber"—from those basic protections. As a result, federal facilities like the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center don't have to obey the Animal Welfare Act.

This is why we are introducing the AWARE Act, which would close this loophole at federal research facilities. It is time that we step up to stop this horrible misuse of taxpayer funds. There is no reason that USDA agricultural research facilities experimenting on farm animals should not be held to the same standard as federal research facilities that conduct life-saving disease research with the same kinds of animals.

This is a small step that this Congress can take quickly to show that we respond to animal abuse and that the federal government will lead by example.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,098,502,229,899.75. We've added \$7,471,625,180,986.67 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF JAMES GOODE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the seventieth birthday of one of my distinguished and active constituents, James Goode of Farmers Branch, Texas.

James has been a strong and hardworking member of this community for many decades. He has been an active role model and his eagerness to be involved has resonated throughout the area. He is Chairman of the Board of the Farmers Branch Chamber of Commerce, President of Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District Board of Trustees, and is active in his church are just a few examples of his involvement among his peers. James is someone who sets out and makes a positive difference in everyone's life around him.

James also served our country in the Navy for four years and earned his B.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Texas-Arlington before settling down in Farmers Branch. His political involvement and strong engagement in the community provides a commendable example to others in the 24th district. As president of the school board, he exercises positive influence over the local education system and his reliable leadership style has helped many and will help the coming generations of children learn and excel to the best of their ability.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the seventieth birthday of one of my most engaged constituents, Mr. James Goode. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone in his remarkable life.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman DONALD PAYNE, Jr., and the gentlewoman from Illinois, Congresswoman ROBIN

KELLY, for organizing this important Special Order on the legacy of the events at Selma, Alabama.

As Ava DuVarney's Oscar-nominated film "Selma" continues to foster discussion about the history of the Civil Rights Movement and bring the horrific events of "Bloody Sunday" to life for a new generation, I believe there is no better time to reflect on our journey, both past and ahead.

The march from Selma to Montgomery stands out as one of the defining moments of the Civil Rights Movement in the 20th century. The images are seared into the minds of Americans, and serve as a constant reminder of the violence and injustice that our predecessors faced as they strove for equal representation.

Violence that claimed the life of Jimmy Lee Jackson, beaten by state troopers as he tried to protect his mother and grandmother. His death was a catalyst that ignited the community and inspired the march.

Violence that claimed the lives of Reverend James Reeb of Boston and Viola Liuzzo of Detroit, who had journeyed to Selma to join the protests after the events at Edmund Pettus Bridge on "Bloody Sunday" had been broadcast across America.

In spite of all the violence, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his fellow protestors held their heads high and remained committed to their cause, a cause which touched people across the nation, so that when they reached Montgomery the crowd had swelled to 25,000 strong.

The actions of those brave men and women were a shout to the world that injustice and oppression would no longer be tolerated. Their struggles ensured that the blood that was shed, the lives that were lost were not in vain.

The very next week, President Lyndon Johnson announced to the nation that he would put legislation before Congress to eliminate barriers to the right to vote.

We have made great strides towards equality and towards justice since those tumultuous events in Selma, Alabama.

We are honored today to serve alongside Rep. JOHN LEWIS, who experienced firsthand that fight for rights and representation.

This congress counts 44 black members among its number, and thanks to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, millions of African-Americans can proudly cast their votes and make their voices heard.

But our work is far from done. The dreams of Dr. King and of all those who gave their lives in the struggle for civil rights are not behind us. They are ahead.

In the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling which severely crippled the Voting Rights Act, states across our nation enacted legislation designed to limit the ability of women, the elderly, African-Americans to exercise their right to vote.

In Texas alone, new voter ID laws are estimated to have prevented or deterred as many as 600,000 citizens from registering to vote in 2014.

Such an act is a direct affront to all those who participated in the march to Montgomery, as well as anyone who values the principles of true democracy.

It was exactly these principles that motivated 13 students from Texas Southern University to stage a sit-in in Houston 55 years ago in pursuit of desegregation.

Their actions remind us of that guiding ideal that no action is too small, too local to affect change in our society.

The Voting Rights Act is one of the most important pieces of legislation in American history, and it represents not only the hope, but also the blood and tears of millions of Americans.

We must work, through legislation like the Voting Rights Amendments Act of 2014, to strengthen it and protect the achievements of Dr. King, Ralph Abernathy, Andrew Young, Hosea Williams, and all those who made securing the right to vote for African-Americans their life's work.

The freedom to vote is not the only freedom for which we must continue to fight. Across America, our communities struggle for their economic freedom, for the right to opportunity and to financial security.

In 2014, black unemployment was twice that of white Americans, and they are more than twice as likely to live in poverty.

Median income for a black household was \$33,764, a mere 60% of median income for a white household.

For these reasons, I will continue to advocate for legislation to benefit the working class, to benefit those members of our community who continue to struggle with unemployment and underemployment.

We need legislation that creates new jobs, and legislation that provides our citizens with the training that they need to break the cycle of unemployment.

We must understand that the minimum wage is not a living wage, and that, without action, we are condemning those with minimum wage jobs to a lifetime of hardship.

Thank you again for this opportunity to speak, and for bringing these issues to the forefront of the conversation.

As we move forward with our work, let us remember the lessons of Selma, of the past. Let them serve as our inspiration and strengthen our resolve as we look to the future and continue our efforts to protect the freedoms and opportunities of the American people.

Tonight I call upon all people of good will, those who Dr. King called the Beloved Community, to join hands and march toward an agenda of healing, justice and equality in commemoration of those historic events.

We march to preserve equality at the voting booth. We march to bring an end to systemic poverty and disenfranchisement. We march because we believe that all lives matter, and that this truth makes our country great.

HONORING LOGAN GARTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Logan Garton. Logan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 708, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Logan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Logan Garton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 52 due to inclement weather, I was unable to vote on H.R. 615, Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

THE PEOPLE'S PRESIDENT TURNS 104

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Liberals loathed him. Conservatives idolized him. The middle overwhelmingly loved him. He charmed America. His knack to connect was unmistakable. And although many have tried to replicate his charisma and appeal, no one has ever come close to being Ronald Reagan.

He made us laugh when we didn't think we could, or should. He always had a way to comfort us in the midst of tragedy. He could disarm the press with a one-liner; and get a chuckle from even his fiercest opponents.

The first time I saw Ronald Reagan was at the 1968 Republican Convention in Miami Beach. Much to the dismay of my dyed-in-the-wool Democrat grandmother, I was there as a proud Texas College Republican delegate.

He lost the nomination to Nixon, but I was sold on Reagan from that moment on.

Of course, I instantly like him for his automobile of choice a jeep. I drove the same kind and still do. He appealed to me and other renegade conservatives my age, particularly those of us in the yellow-dog South, because we were a herd without a shepherd. Back then, it was taboo to be a Republican in Texas. But then, along came Reagan. We were Reagan Republicans.

Reagan cut the class warfare. He transformed the country-club GOP image, and brought conservatism out of the shadows. It was cool to be a conservative. He represented what Americans wanted Democrats and Republicans alike. He wasn't the Grand Old Party leader; he was the people's president.

Reagan's tenure in the White House saw some of the most historic events in our country and the world. His line, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," will probably resonate for time immemorial.

Although criticized by his foes for being a Hollywood actor, Reagan masterfully engineered a feat that so-called political experts