

Many of my colleagues have been looking at scandal within the IRS. Whatever problems they uncover or imagine, the real scandal is how the Republican budget is treating the American public and the people who work for them at the vital service of the Internal Revenue Service.

TRIBUTE TO KATRINA ADAMS, PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Katrina Adams, president of the United States Tennis Association.

Mr. Speaker, the community in which I live, work, and represent is well-known for its production of high-profile and world renowned male athletes, individuals like Ernie Terrell, world heavyweight champion; basketball stars Doc Rivers, Isaiah Thomas, Mark Aguirre, Mickey Johnson, Kevin Garnett; footballer Darryl Stingley; and countless others who have excelled in athletics. All of them are males.

However, I take this opportunity to mention two females. One is Dorothy Gaters, the girls' basketball coach and athletic director at the John Marshall High School in Chicago, Illinois, the winningest high school basketball coach in the Nation. The other is Katrina Adams, who grew up not far from Marshall High School and whose parents still live in the East Garfield Park community.

Earlier this year, Katrina Adams became the first African American and the first former pro tennis player to become president and CEO of the United States Tennis Association, which is a 134-year-old organization that had barred Black athletes from its premier event—the U.S. National Championship, currently known as the U.S. Open—until 1950, when it allowed Althea Gibson to compete.

At 46, Adams is the youngest of the 53 people—among them, just four women—who have been the USTA leaders, an unpaid volunteer position.

In an article done by the Chicago Tribune, the writer states that, although her term lasts only 2 years, Adams understands that her being the face of the U.S. Tennis Association can have a significant impact, especially at a moment when the best female player in the world, Serena Williams, is also an African American.

Katrina is supposed to have said:

I think having an African American as president is a huge statement. It shows how far we have come within the USTA as a whole.

As family, friends, community leaders, old coaches, volunteers, and tennis fans gathered to congratulate and honor Katrina, they were reminded of something her mother, Yvonne, told her many years ago.

Her mother said:

Katrina, other little Black girls may not want to reach where you are, but they will want you to do well, and you are showing them they can do it if they put their minds to it.

Philip Hersch also mentions in his article something that Billie Jean King is supposed to have said to her friend Katrina. She said:

Katrina, if you can see it, you can be it.

Her being the first person of color as the U.S. Tennis Association president—and as a former pro besides—sends a strong message.

Her family, friends, and former classmates at Whitney Young High School, at Northwestern University, and in the East Garfield Park community were, indeed, a proud bunch as they gathered to salute the young lady they had watched grow up in the inner city, become a high school and college tennis star, a tennis pro, and, ultimately, the president of the United States Tennis Association.

Congratulations to you, Katrina. We are all proud of your accomplishments.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME EQUALITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing a bill to extend the Supplemental Security Income program, known as SSI, to Puerto Rico.

Of all of the disparities that Puerto Rico faces because it is a territory and not a State, few are as damaging as its exclusion from SSI.

SSI provides monthly cash assistance to blind, disabled, or elderly individuals who have limited or no income. We are talking about the most vulnerable members of our society. SSI applies in all 50 States and in the District of Columbia. However, since the program's inception in 1974, it has not been extended to Puerto Rico. Instead, the Federal grant program, known as Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled, or AABD, applies in Puerto Rico.

The Social Security Administration sends monthly SSI payments directly to beneficiaries; whereas the AABD program is administered by the Puerto Rico Government, using an annual block grant provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The gap between the treatment that is provided to beneficiaries in the 50 States and the treatment that is provided to their fellow American citizens in Puerto Rico is, in a word, shocking.

According to the most recent Federal statistics, the average SSI payment to beneficiaries is \$540 a month and is close to \$650 a month for beneficiaries who are under the age of 18. By contrast, based on the most recent data that has been furnished to my office, the block grant that the Federal Government provides to the Puerto Rico Government is only \$33 million a year.

With this limited funding, the Puerto Rico Government provides an average payment to adult beneficiaries of just \$74 a month. Let me repeat that—\$540 a month in the States versus \$74 a month in Puerto Rico. To add insult to injury, the Puerto Rico Government is legally required to meet a 25 percent match in order to receive this block grant. The States, obviously, do not have to make any matching payments for their residents to receive SSI assistance.

In 2014, the GAO estimated that, if Puerto Rico were a State, it would receive up to \$1.8 billion a year under SSI. That is 54 times as much as the territory receives annually under AABD. Again, let me repeat that—54 times greater. The GAO estimated that, if Puerto Rico were a State, 300,000 island residents would qualify for SSI payments. Under the current program in Puerto Rico, only 35,000 individuals receive assistance. Thus, Puerto Rico's exclusion from the SSI program means that its government cannot provide decent monthly payments to residents who cannot support themselves. It also means that the Puerto Rico Government cannot assist hundreds of thousands of extraordinarily needy residents at all.

Those who seek proof of how Puerto Rico is harmed by its territory status need look no further than the treatment it receives under SSI. Those who want to comprehend why, roughly, 240,000 island residents relocated to the States between 2010 and 2014 in search of a better quality of life should realize that Puerto Rico's unequal treatment under key Federal programs, including—but not limited to—SSI, is a major contributing factor to this migration.

Let me be crystal clear on this point. Politicians in Puerto Rico and the States who defend Puerto Rico's current status must accept the undeniable truth that this status is harming the people of Puerto Rico. When they rationalize or excuse Puerto Rico's territory status, they are complicit in Puerto Rico's mistreatment.

But make no mistake. The era of inequality is coming to an end. I stand side by side with a large and growing army of proud U.S. citizens from Puerto Rico who refuse to accept such shameful treatment any longer. We believe in full equality for Puerto Rico under the American flag. We will fight for it until we achieve it, and we will achieve it soon.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I address the House to discuss a number of concerns that I believe we need to confront as quickly as possible.

Yesterday and today commemorate, sadly, the snatching of over 200 girls from northern Nigeria—the area in which the girls lost their innocence and their right to a good quality of life.

It was in the dark of night when heinous thugs, armed with horrific weapons, burst into the dorm rooms of sleeping girls who were preparing to take exams to improve their lives. Their parents had worked hard. They were like any other parents here in the United States or around the world, loving their children; and these heinous thugs with their vile leader, Boko Haram, stole them—stole their innocence and, in a certain sense, their virginity. Now we are struggling to find them.

For over a year, many of us pressed the Nigerian Government to find and bring back the girls. In the spring of 2014, I traveled to the northern state with my colleague Ms. WILSON and with my colleague from Texas, and we met with broken families and with the girls who had escaped. We saw the northern state. We were not welcomed by the words that we were saying, which was “bring the girls back.” We met with generals in our military. We saw our military’s compassion under the Africa Command, and we saw that they were ready to be of assistance. Those generals, I must say, said that they were ready.

In the course, Boko Haram has killed 15,000 people. There are thousands who are displaced—1.5 million, I believe the number is—and these girls are still missing. They are said to have been married off, but some girls are worth rescuing. All girls are worth rescuing. All children are worth saving. Today, we will stand on the steps of the Capitol, begging for help from the international community.

I must make mention that the African Union, through the auspices of the United Nations, has developed a strategy and a military effort, led by Chad, Niger, Cameroon, and Nigeria, but they are still not found—they are still not caught—and Boko Haram continues to be the heinous, vile organization that should not exist in attacking the innocent people of Nigeria. Boko Haram has declared itself part of the family of ISIL. That alone stands to promote them as a heinous terrorist group, and they should draw the attention of the world just like ISIL has drawn the attention of the world.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, I am calling upon the United States, who I believe has a deep commitment to find these girls, to be able to engage in an intensified effort to find them and a collaborative effort with our expertise, continued, to be able to assure that these girls are brought home, but that Boko Haram does not continue to flaunt itself.

Let me add al-Shabaab, that did the heinous killings of students in Kenya. We must be concerned about a continent that is our friend, a continent that desires to do trade and business with us, a continent that looks to America—Africa, who loves America. You can see the array of Africans who are here in the United States. I have

the largest population of Nigerians—wonderful, good people, doctors and teachers, lawyers, public servants. But we must stand with them to bring these girls back.

Let me show you the mutilating and destroying of Christian artifacts, the destruction of towns left in their midst. They don’t care, and I am outraged that they are standing.

Let me say this, Mr. Speaker, as I ask for them to be rescued, as I go to express this in an open forum to our community, our Nation. Let me add that part of the work of the Department of Justice deals with issues of human trafficking, and sometimes it takes it internationally.

So I conclude my remarks by saying that we must—we must—confirm as General, Loretta Lynch, the Attorney General nominee of the United States of America. This is an African American woman that has been held without conscience. She is qualified; she is ready to serve; and I would ask my colleagues to show to the world what kind of country America is—that we follow process, and that this individual be allowed to serve her nation as she desires to do.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 32 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Kenny Gooden, Union Grove Baptist Church, Yadkinville, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, today, we humbly come into Your presence, confessing our sins, asking You for mercy, grace, and forgiveness. We come, recognizing Your greatness and Your power, understanding today that, from Heaven, You oversee all that we do. We come, thanking You for the many blessings that You have bestowed upon this Nation in years past. For Your divine protection, provisions, and the power that You have bestowed upon us, we are grateful.

Today, we make these requests:

We pray for the Members of this great body that You grant to them safety, divine wisdom, and knowledge as they make decisions which affect both history and every American citizen.

We pray that You give to them a love for both You and this Nation that is unwavering and unsurpassed.

We also pray today for Your protection over the men and women who serve in our Nation’s military all around the world.

And, above everything, we pray today for a real, true revival of righteousness in America, and we make this prayer in the name that is above every name and to which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess—the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COSTA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND KENNY GOODEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to introduce our guest chaplain, Reverend Kenneth “Kenny” Gooden, today.

Reverend Gooden is a vital part of the religious community in northwest North Carolina, and he has faithfully shepherded the flock at Union Grove Baptist Church in Yadkinville for 25 years.

He previously served the faithful of Pilot View Baptist Church in High Point and of West Yadkin Baptist Church in Hamptonville. He attended North Iredell High School, Mitchell Community College, and Fruitland Baptist Bible College.

He is accompanied today by his wife, Tina; his daughter, Hannah; and his son, Hunter.

Reverend Gooden’s service to God cuts to the very heart of the gospel message of love. He has brightened and enriched the lives of many throughout the years, and we are blessed to have him in our community.

I hope that his words of prayer will remain with all of us as we do the people’s work.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives: