

FREDERICA WILSON of Florida for being a champion on this issue.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DUKE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Duke University and its Division I men's basketball team on winning the 2015 national championship. Duke's win against the University of Wisconsin at Madison marks their fifth national championship victory.

At the team's helm is the winningest coach in Division I men's basketball history, legendary coach Mike Krzyzewski. We refer to him as Coach K. This year's team, led by senior Quinn Cook, continued the tradition of excellence in my district in Durham, North Carolina, by earning the 88th schoolwide NCAA tournament victory. Even more impressive, Madam Speaker, is the fact that the Duke University Blue Devils had five All-ACC Academic players, which is the most in the school's history.

Today I introduced a resolution, along with my colleagues, to recognize the team for its extraordinary achievement. I urge quick consideration of my resolution and encourage my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Duke University Blue Devils on their historic tournament win.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOKO HARAM KIDNAPPING OF NIGERIAN SCHOOLGIRLS

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

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Madam Speaker, a year and a day ago today, 276 innocent Nigerian schoolgirls were tragically taken away from their boarding school and their family.

One year later, more than 200 of these girls are still missing, and Boko Haram continues to prey on the Nigerian people. The kidnapping of these schoolgirls is just one example of the appalling acts of terror committed by this group, who, according to the Human Rights Watch, have killed more than 2,000 people and forced 800,000 children to be displaced from their homes.

We simply must do more to combat their efforts.

I commend President Obama for publicly expressing his willingness to assist Nigeria in its efforts to dismantle this group.

Additionally, I encourage the incoming President of Nigeria, President Buhari, to remain committed to his pledge to implement an aggressive effort to combat Boko Haram and to protect his citizens.

I hope, with the anniversary of these attacks upon us, we are all regala-

nized to do what we can to bring back our girls and protect our other innocent citizens from any future attacks.

I thank Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON for her leadership on this issue.

BOKO HARAM IS A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION

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

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, it is very heartbreaking to think that it has been a whole year since our girls, 276 girls, were kidnapped by Boko Haram in Nigeria. I think the importance of memorializing this is to talk about the nature of terror and its cruelty, to take these children, these babies, away in the name of religion.

It is extremely important for us to galvanize all around the world and to focus on the main thing. The main thing is these are criminal organizations. These are not religiously motivated people. These are people who will maim, cripple, and kill anyone for their political objectives.

I want to thank FREDERICA WILSON for her leadership in bringing us all together today, and Mrs. MALONEY from New York, and I pray that our resolve will be reignited today.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2013, women who worked full time earned, on average, only 78 cents for every dollar a man earned. The figures are even worse for women of color. African American women earned only approximately 64 cents and Latinas only 56 cents for each dollar earned by a White male. This is absolutely and unequivocally unacceptable in the United States of America. The average woman would have lost \$420,000 throughout her working lifetime as a result of this pay gap.

In my district, women make up 51 percent of the population, yet there is still a 76.4 percent wage gap in their annual median earnings. That is why I am a sponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would work to close the gender wage gap by requiring employers to demonstrate that wage differentials are based on factors other than sex, and strengthening penalties for equal pay violations.

Families increasingly rely on women's wages to make ends meet. Equal pay is not simply a women's issue; it is a family issue.

SMALL BUSINESS TAX

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

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Madam Speaker, small businesses are vital to the strength and dynamism of the American economy, generating 63 percent of new private sector jobs over the past two decades. But it's not just about the entrepreneurs. It is also about helping workers that depend on small businesses for their paycheck, whether it be young people paying down their college loans, immigrants hoping to provide a better life for their loved ones, or moms and dads looking for a little more income while the kids are at school. Small businesses not only strengthen Main Street, they play a vital role in keeping our neighbors prosperous.

One of the many challenges that small businesses face is a cumbersome and overbearing Tax Code. Most small businesses file their taxes as S corporations or sole proprietorships, both of which are taxed at individual rates.

Congress needs to get serious about reforming and simplifying the Tax Code. Creating a broader, flatter tax base will allow for lower rates for both individuals and businesses. I look forward to working with my colleagues to find ways to reform our Tax Code so small businesses and their workers can thrive.

HONORING ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I was tempted to rise when my friend Mr. MCCARTHY from California was speaking of the great, late President Abraham Lincoln and his legacy—really, a dichotomy of a man, a very complicated individual. We know of his great achievements, of ending slavery, of maintaining our Union—great achievements—and very difficult achievements for him as well, passing the 13th Amendment.

We think of how dysfunctional, maybe, Congress is today and the lack of cooperation. Under the conditions that then-President Lincoln was operating, it is a marvel that he was able to pass such incredible legislation with such ramifications, and positively.

But I think one of the great things about Lincoln that oft times goes unnoticed is one of the legacies that was unintended by himself directly: he dies. He is shot on the 14th of April 1865. He dies on the 15th of April 1865.

One of the greatest things about Abraham Lincoln is, on the 16th of April, the Sun rose again on the Republic of the United States, a better nation for his having lived, but continued despite his absence. How wonderful a legacy is that, that this Republic, greater than any man or woman, lives on, a better place for him having lived.

May God rest the soul of Abraham Lincoln.

□ 1745

CONGRATULATING THE IRVING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Irving Independent School District for being recognized by the College Board as the 2015 Advanced Placement District of the Year in the mid-sized category. This award recognizes the efforts Irving ISD has made in ensuring the academic success of our local school children.

Since 2008, Irving ISD has increased by 70 percent the number of students taking AP courses and has increased by 83 percent the number of students who scored a 3 or higher on an AP exam. Not only are more students taking AP courses at Irving, but they are also earning good scores, and that is really important.

I represent almost all of South Irving and District 33. Three out of the five high schools in the Irving ISD are located in South Irving.

To every teacher, principal, staffer, and parent at Cardwell, MacArthur, Nimitz, Singley, and Irving High, congratulations on this outstanding academic achievement. Thank you for making all of us Texas proud.

PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Today, low-wage workers across the country rallied in small towns and big cities. Their request is very simple: a livable wage and the right to organize.

This isn't rocket science. These folks turn on the news and see reports on stock market gains on Wall Street. They see companies reporting record profits. They see the prices for bread and a carton of milk rising every month. Then they open their paychecks and see the same amount that they have seen for the past 10 years.

This is a crisis that my colleagues across the aisle keep trying to brush under a political rug. That may have worked in the past, but it is just getting too big to be hidden.

According to UC Berkeley economist Emmanuel Saez, the Nation's 100 richest families have as much wealth as

the 80 million families that make up the bottom 50 percent in wealth. Meanwhile, Republicans keep trying to peddle the same, tired "work hard and get ahead" rhetoric.

Madam Speaker, American workers are doing just that. They are stringing together 40-hour weeks whenever they can. In many cases, they are not given the opportunity to even do that, but they are being paid wages that cobble together to just over \$15,000 a year.

Even when McDonald's raises wages for the fraction of its workers behind the counters of their corporate stores, they will only get a raise of \$5,000. \$5,000 will make a huge difference for those families, but at \$20,000, they have gone from drowning to just barely keeping their heads above water.

That is not enough to pay for a college education or to buy a home. That is not enough to save for retirement. That is not enough to pay for medical bills. Madam Speaker, that is not enough to achieve the American Dream.

My Progressive Caucus colleagues and I are here on the floor tonight to stand with workers in the fight for \$15, that is \$15 an hour and the right to form unions.

It is time to support working families, and it is time to make it possible to work hard and get ahead.

It is now my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), one of the chairs of our caucus.

Mr. ELLISON. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I had an interesting story today. I was talking with a young lady named Stacy Mitchell, who is a researcher.

She does a lot of research on this issue of what is the economic effect of raising the minimum wage because what you hear so many conservatives say is, if we raise the minimum wage, maybe there will be a lot of workers who simply will not be employable because they don't have the skill level to be employed, they don't bring enough value to the business to pay them \$15 an hour.

What she showed—and this is through research—is that low wages lead to workers who have a lot of high turnover. High turnover leads to mistakes, leads to errors, leads to training errors, leads to bad customer service when the workers don't have a firm grip on what they have been doing. High turnover and the need to retrain then leads to a loss of money, and they have calculated that to about \$12,000 a year for the average small business.

Now, folks who are interested in learning more about this can contact the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. This is a small-business organization that says that we can have more economic viability if we focus on small business and not just the big-box retailer.

Of course, it is interesting because, whenever you talk to the big-box retailer about raising the minimum wage

or whether you talk to McDonald's or Walmart, they always say: yeah, we are making record profits; but what about the small business?

It was pretty surprising to hear that there are a lot of small businesses that have decided to pay people a better wage, keep them on the job, and as they stay on the job, they learn the job better, serve the customer better, and end up making the business more profitable overall.

A lot of businesspeople, whether it is Costco or Ben & Jerry's, are challenging this idea by the rightwing conservative business types that squeezing the most out of the worker, hurting the worker, taking the most out of the worker, paying the worker the least you can possibly afford—not any health care, not any sick days—just squeezing the life out of that worker is not a good business model. There are other ways to do it. There are ways for everyone to succeed.

Now, sometimes, my friends on the other side of the aisle like to say: Have you ever run a business? In fact, I have. I am a businessowner. I ran my own law firm for years. I employed investigators. I employed legal assistants. I even hired some lawyers.

When people arrogantly talk about, Oh, I know business, and you don't, it always makes me chuckle a little bit because I actually have run a business—owned a business—and actually have run fairly large nonprofits, which are also businesses.

It is clear to me that the real thing that I cared about as a businessperson is customers coming through the door. I needed people with money who could pay me. That is what I needed. If nobody was making any money, they couldn't pay me.

What was always better for me is being in a vibrant, strong community with an economy where prosperity was shared so that people had some business for me.

It is funny; I never worried about taxes too much. I can't imagine too many small-businesspeople staying up all night worrying about taxes. You know what they are worried about? Customers coming through the door, clients coming through the door, people who need haircuts, people who need meals, people who need a lawyer to do their will—that is what you have got to have.

But if the average working class person is broke because they have been getting paid \$7 an hour or whatever, they can't spend money with you.

It was interesting to me, when I first got to Congress, this was right before the real hit in the financial system in 2008. I was at a committee hearing. I will let the gentlewoman know, and I asked one of the witnesses at the committee hearing what their opinion was about Americans having negative savings because I found a statistic that Americans had a negative 2 percent savings rate.

That meant that you were borrowing to consume. That meant that you