

strokes are largely preventable and treatable.

Small changes in diet and exercise can have an enormously positive impact on your heart health and help prevent a stroke. America's amazing medical researchers and practitioners are also doing their part by pioneering new treatments that save lives every day.

Finally, let's remember these four letters, F-A-S-T: face drooping, arm weakness, speech difficulty, and it is time to call 911. If you or your loved one experience any of these symptoms, call 911.

#### MARKING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, 50 years ago today, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced from the White House Rose Garden that enrollment would begin for an early childhood education program called Project Head Start.

For the last half century, Head Start has been more than just an education program. It not only includes quality preschool but also critical support services, including family engagement, health services, and good nutrition. Studies have found that children in Head Start do better academically, have better behavior, and better health status than their peers. The program also saves more money than it costs by reducing teen pregnancy, high school dropouts, and the likelihood of incarceration.

Madam Speaker, we know that Head Start works. As we mark the occasion of 50 years of one of the most successful early intervention programs, let us recommit ourselves to the ideal that all of our children have access to quality preschool education, like Head Start.

#### PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN LEGION'S EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 17-year-old Devin Anderson of Weedville, Pennsylvania, for being named the Pennsylvania American Legion's Eagle Scout of the Year. Devin, who is a member of Kersey Troop 94, first joined the Boy Scouts after learning about them during an assembly in the first grade. Since then, Devin has dedicated himself to church, school, scouting, and community and personifies all that an Eagle Scout should be.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of attending Devin's Eagle Scout ceremony back in November of 2012, and I knew right away, then and there, that

this young man had a bright future ahead. Devin now advances to the national level, where he will compete among 56 applicants to earn the coveted National Eagle Scout of the Year award.

Like Devin's parents, Joe and Karen Anderson, I am so proud of all of Devin's accomplishments, and I wish him all the best as he competes for this national award.

#### 125TH ANNIVERSARY, UA LOCAL 50 OF NORTHERN OHIO

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, Members of Congress attend many events. And over the weekend, I was very privileged to be a part of the 125th anniversary celebration of United Allied Trades, Local 50 Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Allied Trades in northern Ohio—125 years of building America forward.

Over 1,500 people came into this mammoth hall, and we remembered those who had come before us and had been a part of building, of plumbing, of pipefitting, of building America forward—in our refineries, in our nuclear power plants, in the natural gas lines that are laid. The power of America was before us in the hands and minds of those who have the skills to build for us.

The training academy they have built at local 50 is probably the finest in the country, at least one of the finest. And I am just so proud of the younger men and women who are coming up in the trades. They have a decent wage. They can earn enough to join the middle class. They have retirement plans. They have health plans, including the one they built from scratch, serving thousands and thousands of people.

Congratulations at 125 years to United Allied Trades Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 50 in Ohio. God bless you. You have blessed America.

#### RECOGNIZING RABBI HAROLD KRAVITZ

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Minnesota Rabbi Harold Kravitz for his national leadership as chair of the board for MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger.

As Rabbi Kravitz's term as chair comes to an end, I want to thank him for the work he has done both in Minnesota and across the country in the fight against poverty and for his work on child advocacy.

He has received numerous awards for his efforts and for his leadership, including being named one of America's Most Inspiring Rabbis by Jewish Daily Forward. However, it is more than awards, Madam Speaker, because any-

one who has met Rabbi Kravitz will tell you, it is a passion that he has for the causes that he advocates for that brings his success.

I wish Rabbi Kravitz success in moving forward and the best as he moves on to new endeavors, which I am sure will include many continued projects to make the world a better and safer and just place. His service and commitment to helping our community and the causes that he champions have made a significant difference, and we thank him for his tireless efforts.

#### HOUSTON ROCKETS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, what about those Houston Rockets.

In the 18th Congressional District, in the Toyota Center last night, we reclaimed the name Clutch City. Let me thank the young men of the Houston Rockets, the Rockets organization. For the first time in 18 years, the Rockets are in the Western Championship.

Oh, I know that it is not the championship of the National Basketball Association, but it is really good for Houstonians.

We had a rockin' good time. For those who were able just to be on the streets, those who were inside the arena, those who were at various sites around the city, I watched my constituents have just a great amount of joy.

It is my privilege to thank the owners, the coach, and, yes, all of the team. We know there are great stars on the team. We know that they work as a team, and that is what makes the Houston Rockets great.

I am here today saying, what about those Rockets, with a red coat on to salute the Houston Rockets and push them on tomorrow night to be champions again. I thank them for being the right kind of role models for our young people and letting them know that academics and sports go together. The National Basketball Association realizes the importance of young people having role models but young people staying in school, and they are staying focused on that.

So I am rooting for the Houston Rockets. What about those Houston Rockets. Clutch City.

#### HONORING TRIPLE ACE COLONEL "BUD" ANDERSON

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I am equally excited about the Golden State Warriors starting this week, but that is not why I am here tonight.

Over the weekend, I had the opportunity to participate in a really great ceremony for a gentleman who is a World War II triple ace in Auburn,

California, Colonel Bud Anderson. He dedicated so much to his community not just during the war but in all his efforts afterwards and leadership.

Colonel Anderson, as a triple ace, helped as a cornerstone to keep the war effort against Germany by escorting fighters and bombers in for the important bombing run to help turn the tide in World War II against the German effort to make war. So being able to honor him with so many of his friends and others showing up with P-51D Mustangs was a great, great tribute to him over the weekend. And this week as well he will be honored with the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony that will be taking place this Wednesday at 3 p.m. eastern time. I hope everybody will take that in.

#### THE URGENCY OF NOW: ADDRESSING REFORM, ACCOUNTABILITY, EQUALITY, AND DIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 30 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I am glad to be joined by my colleague and friend, the gentlewoman from Illinois, Ms. ROBIN KELLY. Thank you, Congresswoman KELLY, for joining me in coanchoring this Special Order hour tonight. Thank you also to the members of the Congressional Black Caucus and to all those watching from home.

Madam Speaker, last month, Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old man Baltimore man, died in police custody from a spinal cord injury. His death, ruled a homicide, has drawn ongoing national attention to the increasingly frayed relations between police and communities throughout the United States.

Tonight we come together as a caucus to address the urgent need to reform our criminal justice system and promote police accountability and also to talk about many different issues of diversity in our Nation.

Our Nation is at a crossroads. Failure to make meaningful reforms to our criminal justice system risks damaging relations between communities and police beyond repair. But real common-sense reforms that enhance transparency, advance public safety, eradicate discrimination, and instill trust can create a system that works for all Americans.

Currently, our law enforcement system and criminal justice system aren't working for African Americans and other minorities. As a result, a meaningful dialogue between law enforcement and the communities they are charged with protecting remains illusive.

Tonight we will speak to the urgent need to reform our criminal justice and police systems so that we can breathe new life into the American promise of full equality and justice for all.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY).

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. I thank my friend from New Jersey for leading tonight's Special Order hour.

Madam Speaker, once again, the Congressional Black Caucus has the opportunity to discuss some of the many important issues and challenges facing our Nation right now. I strongly believe that our conversation here tonight is a critical discussion for the record as we continue the work of making our communities and country better. The urgency of now, addressing reform, accountability, equality, and diversity, that is quite a title, but what does it all mean in the context of our full discussion?

□ 1930

America is celebrated for being a melting pot, but I like to say a tossed salad or a stew, because in a stew or salad you don't lose your identity, but you learn to live together in the same gravy or the same salad dressing. This Congress is, without a doubt, a true testament to the diverse people, personalities, and communities that make this great Nation so great.

But in these dynamic times, how can we ensure that our laws and policies are fully embracing our melting pot or our stew of a nation? How can we ensure that we make this great Union even more perfect? It starts with holding ourselves accountable in just a myriad of respects on the economic front, with respect to our justice system, in appreciating our diversity and inclusion for all Americans. I look forward to a fruitful conversation on this and thank my coanchor, Representative PAYNE.

I did want to acknowledge the Diversity Dinner that we had last week. These days we hear so much about the toxic partisan atmosphere in Congress, titles like "How Congress Became So Partisan" in The Washington Post to Nick Gass at Politico's piece, "This Graphic Shows How America's Partisan Divide Grew." The reports of Congress' hyperpartisanship are abundant. The reports point to the loss of camaraderie and friendship amongst colleagues across the aisle. This perception undoubtedly contributes to our dismal 15 percent approval rating.

Since my time as a State legislator in the Illinois statehouse, I have been hosting Diversity Dinners to grow friendships and nurture collegial working relations among legislators who may not otherwise interact. Tonight as we discuss equality and diversity, I want to reflect on what I see as encouraging in bridging differences and understanding in different communities.

Last week I hosted, along with other Members, my second annual congressional Diversity Dinner. Forty Members of Congress from both parties, including Members from both Republican and Democratic leadership, showed up and enjoyed a meal with their col-

leagues. During the dinner, we weren't Democrats or Republicans; we were colleagues with some great stories to share. At this year's dinner, I saw a microcosm of our Nation, a crowd made up of Members from coast to coast with truly diverse backgrounds coming together to enjoy each other's company.

If we can put aside our partisan blinders to break bread together, I am confident we can find ways to work together. That is what America wants and needs, and that type of leadership is the kind of leadership we deserve.

Today we have an opportunity to celebrate diversity and show that bipartisanship can thrive in Congress. In recent months we have seen the trust between political parties, law enforcement, and communities across the Nation spike. Now is the time for us to come together to address the reforms needed to rebuild this trust. Let's show the American people that we are a diverse body that won't let party lines divide us or define us.

Mr. PAYNE. I would like to thank the gentlewoman for her thoughtful comments.

Madam Speaker, it is true, we have come to a point in this Nation where one side has gone to one corner and the other side has gone to another corner not to meet in the middle to solve issues and problems. There was a time when this great body would compromise. You didn't get everything you wanted, and I didn't get everything I wanted. So that means we compromised and came to a decision.

The gentlewoman also makes a good point about working with Members on the other side of the aisle. The gentlewoman from Arizona, the Speaker pro tempore this evening, has become a great collaborator with myself on the Homeland Security Subcommittee which she chairs, and we have worked extensively together on legislation that we both support. We need more of that. We need more of that to happen. We need to take the time to hear each other, to listen, and to see where we don't agree on everything but there are common threads that we can build and bind together.

So with that, I am proud to see her sitting in that chair. I get to sit next to her in committee, so it puts me closer to the Speaker's chair, and I feel privileged for that.

Right now, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas, the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE. She is one of the most thoughtful Members of the United States House of Representatives. She hails from Houston, Texas, and she always has great words of wisdom, thoughts, and ideas on the issues that we face in this great Nation.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I think by the spirit and the tone of this Special Order we can see that there is hope and a pathway for collaboration.

Let me thank Mr. PAYNE, who has evidenced those collaborative efforts