

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the 50th anniversary of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Since 1965, these landmark programs have provided affordable health insurance coverage and access to care for our Nation's seniors and most vulnerable populations. Few programs have improved the lives of Americans as significantly as Medicaid and Medicare.

Fifty years ago, almost half of elderly Americans lacked health insurance. Today, Medicare provides lifesaving insurance to nearly 100 percent of adults over 65.

Medicaid continues to be a lifeline for millions of children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, seniors, and low-income families. Over 70 million Americans currently rely on Medicaid for affordable health insurance. Medicaid covers more than one in three children, pays for nearly half of all births, and accounts for more than 40 percent of all long-term care.

On the anniversary of this historic law, we celebrate the successes of Medicaid and Medicare. We must renew our commitment to further strengthening them so they remain available in perpetuity for generations to come.

□ 1830

RECOGNIZING JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jewish Community Services of South Florida and its upcoming annual Milk & Honey event, which will take place on August 30 and starts at the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

This tremendous, faith-based, non-profit organization has worked to improve the lives of South Florida residents since 1920. It is one of our State's largest and most reliable social service organizations.

Among the many important services that the JCS of South Florida provides are those focused on supporting our elderly. This year's Milk & Honey event will, again, bring together hundreds of volunteers to assemble food baskets and hurricane preparedness kits for vulnerable South Florida seniors.

My community liaison, Harriet Carter, and I have participated in many events of the JCS of South Florida, and I thank all the volunteers who will make this year's Milk & Honey event a smashing success.

SUPPORTING DRAFT LEGISLATION CONCERNING THE VA BUDGET AND CHOICE FUNDING

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I participated in laying a wreath at the Arlington Cemetery to honor our fallen veterans and military members.

Today, we need to do more than a ceremony. We need to honor our veterans now by passing the VA budget legislation.

I support this draft legislation because it addresses the \$3 billion shortfall for fiscal year 2015 that veterans had, and it keeps hospital and medical facilities open for our veterans through the end of the fiscal year.

This legislation allows the VA to use the dollars for health care provided to veterans and family members under the program provided by the non-VA provision. This bill allows VA to access this money. In addition, \$500 million may be used for pharmaceutical expenses related to the treatment of hepatitis C at the VA.

This is a cure many of the veterans need, especially those who served in Vietnam; and I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation before we go home.

As the Army says, this is one team, one fight; and we need to look out for the VA and veterans.

SUPPORT MONTANA JOBS

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

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Montana jobs and to rally against this administration's war on American coal.

In Montana, coal means good-paying jobs. Those are blue collar, union jobs. Coal means economic opportunity. Coal means affordable utilities for families and manufacturers, and coal means Montana.

In the words of Crow Chairman Old Coyote:

For the Crow people, there are no jobs that compare to the coal job. The wages and benefits exceed anything else that is available. A war on coal is a war on the Crow people.

Montana could lead the Nation in coal production; but, unfortunately, President Obama and his EPA are waging a more aggressive war on coal than they are against ISIS.

Montana alone, and our coal, produces \$1.7 billion in royalty payments; and that pays for schools, bridges, and our infrastructure.

The EPA's Clean Power Plan will kill Montana jobs. Those are real jobs, like in the Rosebud mine in Colstrip, and across our State.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support Montana and support our Nation's energy independence through coal.

RENEW VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, nearly 50 years after the Voting Rights Act was

signed into law, we still see efforts to weaken voter protections and suppress votes.

Discriminatory voting laws, such as strict photo ID requirements and reduced early voting, disproportionately impact minority voters in the name of preventing widespread voter fraud, a problem that simply does not exist.

Clearly, since the Supreme Court's decision 2 years ago to erode some of the VRA's most critical protections, including preclearance requirements that protect against disenfranchising laws, the Voting Rights Act is still needed more now than ever before; yet Republicans have refused to allow a renewed and strengthened Voting Rights Act to come to the floor.

This should concern everyone who believes the right to vote is one of the most fundamental to our democracy. It is time we renew and strengthen the Voting Rights Act.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it is past time we call human trafficking what it really is: modern-day slavery.

Every year, up to 300,000 children are at risk of being sex-trafficked here in our country. On average, these children are first sold into sex slavery before their 13th birthday. As a father, I can't fathom anything more disgusting.

Earlier this year, I supported legislation that we successfully passed aimed at stopping sex trafficking, but the fight is far from over. Human trafficking generates \$9.5 billion worldwide each and every year, and the criminals that profit off of sex trafficking aren't going to give in that easily.

For example, right now in my district, backpage.com, a disgusting Web site that facilitates online sex trafficking, is suing Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart because he stood up to the evil and corrupt people who profit off of the exploitation of minors.

It is our collective obligation to do everything that we can to put a definitive end to this atrocity. I commend Sheriff Dart for standing up for what is right, and I pledge to work with my colleagues here in this House, on both sides of the aisle, to stop this abhorrent crime.

A SURVIVOR'S STORY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Amanda Jones was kidnapped in Dallas, Texas. She was 15 years of age, and then she was sold for sex at the hands of human traffickers.

Children right here in the United States are bought and sold for sexual

exploitation in urban, suburban, and rural areas. Their souls are stolen from them, and no community is immune.

Amanda was in slavery for 9 years. She eventually escaped with her daughter and, thankfully, found services through a new wonderful organization in Dallas, New Friends New Life. New Friends New Life is primarily funded by Dallas donors, and it provides services to victims to address their unique needs. It helps them rebuild their lives.

Amanda now helps other trafficked victims become survivors instead of victims. We need more programs like this one, where survivors help each other.

Now, through funding in the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, more services will be available to victims like Amanda. We can stop traffickers in their tracks because our children are not for sale, in our town, in our State, or in our country.

And that is just the way it is.

THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES TO MARK WELLMAN

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment this evening to offer my appreciation and sincere best wishes to Mark Wellman, my chief of staff for the last 4 years, who is leaving us at the end of this week to accept an appointment as a professor of constitutional law at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Mark has superbly served as a congressional staffer for more than two decades—first, with our late colleague, Congressman Paul Gillmor of Ohio; and then, following an earlier tour at West Point, in my office.

During all of those years, he has served with distinction in the National Guard, including a tour in Iraq, and has risen to the rank of colonel.

He is an outstanding individual, a gentleman of the first order, the world's most loyal Chicago Cubs fan, and a great American. He will be truly missed.

Good luck, Mark, and God bless you.

RECOGNIZING SEVERAL UNSUNG HEROES IN THE FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

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

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to recognize several unsung heroes in the Fourth Congressional District of Texas.

Several counties in my district are just now beginning to recover from recent flooding at historic levels, so I appreciate the opportunity to thank all the sheriff and fire departments in communities across our district in Grayson, Fannin, Lamar, Red River,

Bowie, Hopkins, Delta, and Cass Counties.

Emergency coordinators like C.J. Durbin-Higgins, Joyce and Steven Molder, and Robert Flowers in Grayson County; and Jim Roberts, Deborah Lann, and James Carlow in Bowie County, as well as so many others, are deserving of our gratitude.

While our first responders' efforts have been vital and, in some cases, heroic, many folks back home are still suffering. Mr. Speaker, I want my constituents to know that they can still reach out to my office if they need any assistance or help with any issues related to flooding.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE TOM MCCLINTOCK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable TOM MCCLINTOCK, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 28, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a non-party subpoena, issued by the Madera County Superior Court, Madera County, California, for documents in a civil case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

TOM MCCLINTOCK.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

JULY 28, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 202(a) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146) I am pleased to appoint the following individual to the Commission on Care:

Mr. Michael Blecker of San Francisco, California

Thank you for your consideration of this appointment.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

THE IMPACTS OF COAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topics of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, tonight, we want to talk about these three subjects as it relates to coal. You have already heard recent remarks made a few minutes ago about the war on coal, but we want to talk about the impacts of coal, the regulations, and the Clean Power Plan. That is what we are going to be talking about tonight are these three primary subjects.

I want to put things in perspective. We want to talk about how does this coal industry—you hear us, many of us that come from coal country, we have been fighting about coal, fighting for coal—why do we do that?

Look at the impact. For those of you that aren't coming from a coal community, now, we mine coal in 27 States, but just look at this, the impact, what it has—between coal mining at \$58 billion a year and then the generation of power from coal totals \$142 billion.

Now, maybe that doesn't mean a lot to a lot, but \$142 billion, put that in context with the automobile industry. All of us are familiar with cars. We all hear the commercials on television. We know about the discussion about how you have got to have the latest car.

This is bigger than the car industry. The automobile industry is \$130 billion. That is why many of us, all across this country, are concerned about this future of the coal industry. It is larger than the automobile industry. I want you to understand that. Everyone should make sure they grasp the impact of that.

This war on coal that many of us have been talking about for some time, I want to make sure that people understand how it affects us individually and affects a State like West Virginia.

□ 1845

Just 7 years ago the unemployment rate in West Virginia was the seventh best in the country. But after 7 years of a war on coal, after regulation after regulation after regulation, West Virginia's unemployment rate now has dropped and we are in the last place in the Nation.

Think about that impact for all of us. You go from number 7 to 50th in just 7 years. Combine that with the families of our coal miners. Just in the past 3 years, 45 percent of the coal miners in West Virginia have lost their jobs, 45 percent. These are people. These are real people. They are not statistics.

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) uses this chart. He has shown us over the years—my 5 years in Congress—he showed us that these are the people we are talking about all over this country who are losing their jobs.

But in West Virginia, 45 percent of them have lost—in the coalfields of