

child nutrition programs through a strong bipartisan reauthorization bill. Signed into law by President Harry S. Truman in 1946, the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act created the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) "as a measure of national security, to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation's children." Serving 7.1 million students annually in 1946, the program has grown to over 30 million students per day in 2015.

For many students in congressional districts like mine, having access to nutritious meals is extremely important. Today, approximately 15 million children live in households facing food insecurity and receive a majority of their calories for the day at school. The Community Eligibility provision in current law provides free, nutritious meals to 8.5 million low-income children in 18,000 higher-poverty schools and eliminates the burdensome application requirements for districts, schools, and families. Under this provision, high-poverty school districts are able to offer universal school meals to all students without the addition of complex paperwork for families, as long as the school district demonstrates that 40 percent of their students already qualify for other federally certified free meals programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Had I been present at the full committee markup, I would have joined my House Democratic colleagues in expressing concerns and opposing H.R. 5003, the "Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016." This highly partisan bill contains harmful provisions that would make it more difficult for low-income schools to feed their students. We must keep in mind that nutrition programs for children and families impact our nation's economy, national security, and classrooms. Our most vulnerable children and families deserve more from the federal government, which I have always believed has a responsibility to help those most in need.

To be sure, H.R. 5003 is a misguided piece of legislation that would weaken the nutrition safety net for our nation's students and families. I am deeply concerned that this bill significantly alters the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), lacks meaningful investments for the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer program, adds barriers to the school meals verification process, and rolls back important evidenced-based criteria to school nutrition standards.

By passing the Republican proposed 2016 CNR legislation, the CEP threshold would be raised to 60 percent and cause too many vulnerable students, including up to nearly 47,000 students in my district, to potentially lose access to free school meals. These districts do not have the framework, funding or capacity to deal with the considerable amount of administrative work that comes with increasing the CEP.

For these reasons, I will continue to urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 5003 in its current form and instead work to ensure that children and families have access to robust federal nutrition programs. My Democratic colleagues and I strongly believe that Congress must work to address food insecurity and hunger in America by making it easier for more needy children to access federal child nutrition programs. Our nation's most vulnerable children deserve nothing less.

RECOGNIZING MARINE CORPORAL JASON HALLETT

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and sacrifice made by Marine Corporal Jason Hallett.

On October 23rd, 2010, Corporal Hallett was serving as part of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine in Sangin, Afghanistan. While clearing a compound of IEDs, a device detonated, severely injuring Corporal Hallett. In the explosion he lost both legs above the knees, his right arm above the elbow, and suffered severe damage to his left hand. Under heavy fire from insurgents, Corporal Hallett was carried across an open field and transported back to the closest Forward Operating Base (FOB) where life-saving measures were performed.

During medical treatment and rehabilitation, Corporal Hallett never lost the motivation and dedication to succeed. Since returning to his home in Colorado, Corporal Hallett has begun studying finance at Colorado State University, a passion he developed during his recovery.

It is inspiring to see the dedication Corporal Hallett shows to helping fellow veterans. Corporal Hallett embodies the values that make America exceptional. He has shown true leadership in his community, and the impact of his story has been profound. He is an inspiration to us all. I would like to extend my sincerest thanks for his service and continued efforts to improve the lives of veterans.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Marine Corporal Jason Hallett for his commitment to family, community, and the United States of America.

HANNAH HOFFMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Hannah Hoffman for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Hannah Hoffman is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Hannah Hoffman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Hannah Hoffman for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Monday, May 23, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 229 and "yea" on roll call vote 230.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote Number 229 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill (H.R. 4889), the Kelsey Smith Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS ENTERING OUR ARMED FORCES

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor high school graduates from the Broome-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services area who are entering the United States Armed Forces. These young men and women have made an admirable decision to defend our country. I join the Conklin Kiwanis Club in honoring them.

The Conklin Kiwanis Club will hold a special celebration to honor these graduating high school seniors. "The First to Say Thank You" event will take place on Tuesday, May 24th at Susquehanna Valley High School in Conklin.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask you join me in honoring the following students entering the Army National Guard: Sabrina Robinson, Afton; Cydney Mallory, Chenango Valley; Jonathan White, Downsville; Tyler Festa, Dryden; Debick Wilson, Harpursville; Chris Thornton, Oneonta; Jacob Johannessen-Butler, Roscoe; Kaitlyn Howard, Sherburne-Earlville; Rebecca Urda, Trumansburg; Dan Spring, Tully; Zach Abdullah, Windsor; Zach Emmons, Windsor.

Honoring the students entering the United States Air Force: Katherine M. Colwell, New Milford, PA; Ryan T. Simmons, Chenango Forks.

Honoring the students entering the United States Army: Sean Sousa, Binghamton; Dylan Bean, Candor; Dylan Jumper, Chenango Forks; Izaiah Cabello, Chenango Valley; Michael Doan, Chenango Valley; Nicholas Mace, Chenango Valley; Donald Moore, Chenango Valley; Robert McDowell, Hancock; Ashlyn Dudek, Harpursville; Tyler Laverne, Harpursville; Joshua Wagoner, Johnson City; Sydney Aleba, Whitney Point; Nylice Saunders, Whitney Point; Mr. Isaac Hyde, Windsor; Mr. Jeffrey Colwell, Windsor.

Honoring the students entering the United States Marines: Joseph Cardenas, Afton; Ray Zukowsky, Bainbridge; Rebecca Wlasiuk,

Bainbridge; Dylan Frey, Chenango Forks; Shawn Hurd, Binghamton; Cordell Deperiis, Chenango Forks; Nathan Deordio, Chenango Forks; Alex Lent, Cortland; Jacob Gombas, Dryden; Chris Lum, Greene; Derek McWeeney, Franklin; Ian Stoddard, Homer; Zachary Hulbert, Homer; Dylan Bush, Homer; Daniel Sager, Maine-Endwell; Stephanie Wales, Marathon; Alex Wilcox, Newark Valley; Kasimeir Card, Newark Valley; Raymond Wright, McGraw; Nicholas Murphy, Norwich; Robert Meek, Oxford; Tyler Phillips, Roxbury; Robert Kozak, South Kortright; Samuel Cohen, Sidney; Michael Pelicci, Susquehanna High School (PA); Trevor Passetti, Susquehanna High School (PA); Cody ODEll, Susquehanna High School (PA); Lucian Derzanovich, Susquehanna Valley; James Fish, Susquehanna Valley; Drake Winnicki, Unadilla Valley; Dwight Cook, Unadilla Valley; Dominic Spinelli, Union-Endicott; Lauryl Pheil, Union-Endicott; Anthony Johnson, Union-Endicott; Alex Gaskin, Union-Endicott; Michael Kakusian, Vestal; Zachary Simerson, Whitney Point; Dante Pultz, Windsor.

Honoring the students entering the United States Navy: Abigail Proppe, Binghamton; Robert Crisell, Deposit; Ian Scaglione, Groton; Isaiah Brand, Johnson City; Mark Nicosia, Johnson City; Kevin Finkbeiner, Maine-Endwell; Benjamin Judkiewicz, Maine-Endwell; Shea Osovski, Maine-Endwell; Austin Fiske, Marathon; Matthew Harrington, Norwich; Samuel Rickenback, Vestal.

Honoring the students entering the United States Coast Guard: Liam Cornell, Union-Endicott.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chair, Iran is a chief sponsor of international terrorism and regularly threatens to obliterate Israel, our most important ally in the region. Those who supported the agreement last year to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon understood that the JCPOA does not eliminate all of Iran's threats to the United States and our partners in the Middle East.

My amendment would take further steps to support our allies in the region and crack down on Iranian aggression.

By vocalizing our support for working with Israel, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Jordan, and Egypt to build an integrated missile defense system, we can build off of the success of Israel's existing missile defense network.

I support the funding authorizations included in this year's defense budget that will continue to support Israel's missile defense program.

Through a smart, targeted approach with our partners, we can continue to counter Ira-

nian aggression and promote security. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

HONORING THE EL PASO YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of the 23rd Anniversary of the El Paso Youth Symphony Orchestra (EPYSO), presided over by Maestro Phillip Gabriel Garcia of my district in El Paso, Texas. I am pleased to recognize EPYSO as an innovative youth group dedicated to serving the El Paso community through their hard work and musical talents.

Since 1993, EPYSO has provided young El Pasoans who are passionate about music an opportunity to perform in El Paso and communities throughout the United States with the intention of raising awareness about social justice issues. EPYSO has performed at various El Paso venues, including the Child Crisis Center, the Battered Women Shelter, Fort Bliss, and the La Fe Community Health Center. Most recently, EPYSO performed at the University of Texas at El Paso's Sun Bowl stadium during Pope Francis' historic February 2016 visit to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. This summer, EPYSO will embark on the "America United Tour", where they will perform in New York City and in Washington, D.C.

With over 250 concerts performed and 3,500 musicians hosted, EPYSO instills a sense of pride and confidence in young individuals through their personal achievements as musicians. I am proud that programs such as EPYSO exist in my district, and I am confident that EPYSO will serve as a positive role model in helping to inspire youth to serve their communities.

CONNOR DENNY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Connor Denny for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Connor Denny is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Connor Denny is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Connor Denny for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SISTER JEANNE FELION AND THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARL R. HANSEN TEEN CENTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 40th anniversary of Sister Jeanne Felion as Executive Director at the Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center. Additionally, I rise today to recognize the 5th anniversary of the Carl R. Hansen Teen Center and of Erika Elizarrarás, a social worker who is celebrating her 5th anniversary working at the Teen Center. As the friends and supporters of Sister Jeanne Felion and the Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center gather to celebrate these milestones, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring her leadership in the Sacramento region.

It is a great pleasure to recognize Sister Jeanne Felion. Thanks to her leadership and vision over the past four decades, Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center continues to be a valuable community resource providing social services to thousands of people in our North Sacramento communities. Programs offered benefit the health and well-being of all and include senior and children services, neighborhood outreach, and emergency assistance.

The Sisters of Social Services began the Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center 80 years ago when they took charge of the former residence of Governor Leland Stanford. The Sisters later moved their programs to the Gardenland Northgate area. Their work was instrumental in obtaining City water, parks, street lights, sidewalks and gutters for the area. The facility grew to include both the Sister Jeanne Felion Senior Center and the Carl R. Hansen Teen Center.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Sister Jeanne Felion and to the Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center as they celebrate Sister Jeanne's 40th anniversary as executive director. While Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center's staff, supporters, and friends gather together to celebrate Sister Jeanne and the 5th anniversary of the Carl R. Hansen Teen Center, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring her outstanding work in providing the community with much-needed social services.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 229, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea. On Roll Call 230, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea.