

Mr. Corman served as a State Senator from Centre County for more than 20 years, from 1977 to 1998. Over the years, he and his wife, Becky, have provided vital support for community organizations, including the Boy Scouts, the YMCA, a scholarship to Penn State University, and much, much more.

They are also the parents of Pennsylvania State Majority Leader Jake Corman. The Cormans are a real credit to Centre County and its communities.

I congratulate the Cormans on this award, and I look forward to many more years of their work for our region's youth.

HOUSTON FLOODING ASSISTANCE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from my district which I might say is under water with, again, another torrential rain that has caused so many Houstonians and those in the surrounding areas to suffer. We did this with Tropical Storm Allison last year in May 2015, and now again in 2016.

You see the depth of devastation by the families that I visited at M.O. Campbell and in apartment complexes. First, let me thank the mayor and county government officials who are working so hard.

We need to move as quickly as possible for the Presidential declaration of natural disaster. I know it is a process, and I accept that. But we also have to have a way of investing in the infrastructure of overcoming the terrible aspect of places where water comes with no place to go.

We need a national infrastructure effort and one that involves the State of Texas and Houston, Harris County, as well because we lost eight lives.

Finally, let me say, Mr. Speaker, as I indicate to the Texas Department of Transportation that receives Federal funds, we must put flashing lights and signals where there are underpasses where people have died. We have to save lives.

I will continue to fight for housing and for the Federal declaration and for FEMA. People are suffering, and we are going to work with them and give them hope.

EARTH DAY

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Earth Day, which we will celebrate this Friday. Each year on Earth Day we recommit to preserving a healthy and sustainable environment for our future generations.

When Pope Francis addressed Congress over 6 months ago, he called for a courageous and responsible effort to redirect our steps and to avert the most

serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity.

That is why I believe that the greatest thing that this Chamber can do right now in honor of Earth Day is to fully reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has provided critical funding to help protect and preserve our natural areas, our water resources, and our cultural heritage.

So it is an important source of funding that allows so many of our Nation's urban youth to understand the environment, to get to know the wilderness, to gain that valuable understanding and respect for wildlife and our environment.

We must act responsibly and permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

EARTH DAY

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, this Earth Day, we celebrate the historic steps that most of the world's countries, from tiny island nations to the biggest polluters, are taking to reduce pollution and to improve the state of our climate.

On Earth Day, more than 160 countries, including the United States, are signing the landmark Paris climate agreement, taking the next step toward creating a healthier and a safer environment for our communities and protecting our families and our children's health.

I am proud that the United States is leading this effort. I urge my colleagues to throw out those tired and false talking points about international inaction.

Instead, capitalize on this global effort by supporting a swift transition away from dirty fuels toward a future of low-cost, locally made clean energy.

This is our time to lead. Happy Earth Day 2016.

HONORING TONY R. RICHISON

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Tony Richison, a veteran from Ohio's 11th Congressional District who died on March 30.

Mr. Richison and I were friends for many years. He was a respected leader in our community and served as a member of my selection panel for military service academy nominations.

Known for his big personality and love of service to his Nation, Mr. Richison entered the Army at age 16. He served for 10 years during the Korean war and received a Bronze Star for his bravery.

As a champion for returning servicemen and -women, he founded Veterans

for Ohio, a nonprofit that provided assistance to veterans in Cuyahoga County.

Through his work, more than 30 veterans won disability claims and more than 80 gained much-needed housing and medical assistance.

Mr. Richison was a patriot, a community leader, and an advocate. The State of Ohio is indebted to him for his service and sacrifice. He will be greatly missed.

CONGRATULATING EAST BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work of East Brunswick High School's We the People team. We the People is a civic education program that has reached more than 28 million students since its inception in 1987.

Each year approximately 1,200 students from across the country demonstrate their knowledge of complex constitutional principles in both historical and contemporary contexts.

This week a talented group of young minds from East Brunswick High School in my district will compete for one of ten spots in the final round of competition. I wish both the coach and the team the best of luck and continued success.

CONGRATULATING SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT APPOINTEES TO MILITARY ACADEMIES

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

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the following young men and women from the Second Congressional District on their appointments to one of our Nation's military academies:

Miss Sara Elizabeth Burton from Hedgesville High School in Berkley County and Mr. Zane Kessler from Teays Valley Christian Academy in Putnam County have both received appointments to the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Drew Polczynski from Jefferson High School in Jefferson County received appointments from both the Merchant Marine Academy and West Point. His mother, Julie, informs me that he plans on attending West Point in the fall.

Mr. Charles Willis from Carlisle High School received a Presidential appointment to West Point.

Finally, Mr. Jeremy Hammes from Herbert Hoover High School in Kanawha County and Mr. Seth Kirby from Wirt County High School have both received appointments from West Point.

Congratulations to all of these hard-working, dedicated, intelligent, and patriotic young men and women on their appointments.

NATIONAL FINANCIAL CAPABILITY MONTH

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join President Obama in recognizing April as National Financial Capability Month and highlight the vital role that the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and State CPA societies play in educating all Americans.

CPAs have been leaders in increasing the financial capacity of Americans by creating and distributing free programs, tools, and resources.

Through the American Institute of CPAs' 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy program, some tens of thousands of CPAs volunteer to educate Americans and to open doors to the middle class.

The AICPA National CPA Financial Literacy Commission leads a nationwide effort to advance financial literacy. This is the tenth year of the Feed the Pig program, the AICPA's public service campaign along with the Ad Council that provides free resources to make smart saving decisions.

Literacy begins with the letters A, B, C. Financial literacy begins with the letters C, P, A.

POVERTY, OPPORTUNITY, AND UPWARD MOBILITY

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HILL. Mr. 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 this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, in today's Special Order, my colleagues and I will focus on the important work being done in all of our communities to expand opportunity, alleviate poverty, and promote upward mobility for all Americans.

I want to personally acknowledge Speaker RYAN for his focus and leadership on this important issue and his efforts to energize local leaders to explore new, effective policies for combating poverty in the United States.

In 2014, we marked 50 years since the Great Society program was commenced

by President Johnson. Over the past 25 years, Congress has taken numerous steps intended to reduce poverty in the United States, but these have not had the long-term effects that many expected.

This is largely because of an undue focus on welfare reform rather than just identifying specifically and focusing on addressing the underlying causes of poverty.

Identifying opportunities for self-improvement, addressing the increased growth in poverty and the pernicious effects across the U.S. are of keen interest to me, particularly given Arkansas' elevated poverty rate of 19.7 percent of our population.

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I believe it is crucial to focus our attention on identifying ways to empower individuals to take control of their own livelihoods and futures so that they no longer feel that they must rely on external programs that, at best, only play an ancillary role in improving economic circumstances and, at worst, perpetuate intergenerational cycles of poverty.

In these important discussions surrounding poverty in America, I also believe it is critical that we focus on our rural, as well as urban, populations. In my view, the President's policies and proposals have largely ignored the needs of our rural communities that continue to struggle.

Arkansas has a significant population of rural, low-income families, whose hardships are often overlooked in the bigger picture of poverty reduction. That is because rural poverty occurs in lower population concentrations, and some deem the plight of rural poverty to be less acute than that in urban areas. It is important that both faces of poverty be recognized and that solutions be applicable and readily adaptable to a variety of circumstances and regions.

This past year, all of us in the House were graced with a visit by the Holy Father, Pope Francis. The Holy Father has stated that the principle of subsidiarity affords freedom at every level of society to work and to innovate.

The Pope argued passionately that day that attempts to resolve all problems through uniform regulations or technical interventions can lead to overlooking the complexities of local problems which demand the active participation of all members of the community.

In tackling the social challenges of the globe, the Pope expressed there are no uniform recipes. There is no one path to a solution. Instead, the Pope called on the principles of stewardship, subsidiarity, and collaboration to seek solutions.

Last year I started the Community Empowerment Initiative in my hometown of Little Rock to consider key strategies for tackling poverty reduction in Arkansas' Second Congressional

District. The CEI also seeks to encourage community engagement and help educate communities to value their strength and identify their assets to foster community ownership and encourage individuals to be aware and involved in rejuvenating our communities and lives.

I am grateful for my colleagues who have joined me today to discuss this important topic. I look forward to sharing some of the success stories from my own district and highlighting action that Congress can take to support local initiatives.

I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER). I invite him to come to the podium and talk about his experiences. He is a freshman Member of Congress with me. I have very much enjoyed getting to know Representative WALKER. He brings a unique perspective to this. I welcome my friend from North Carolina.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas for taking the lead on this and talking about some issues that are very important to us. I do agree, since President Johnson's War on Poverty began in 1964, the United States taxpayers have spent over \$22 trillion on anti-poverty programs. Yet, for many places in this country, poverty is worse, hunger is worse. Even in our district in the triad, we have places where there are food deserts and food insecurities.

After 50 years, we have to ask ourselves, have we seen any real progress in our communities. Families have been caught up in this generational cycle of dependence that has depleted the resources in many of our communities.

Somewhere along the way, the Federal Government missed the mark. We have created programs that measure success on how many people we put on Federal programs, not measured by how many people we are able to move off programs for upward mobility.

Last week, former Congressman J. C. Watts and I toured North Carolina's Sixth District, my home district. We saw passionate community members working to combat many aspects of poverty. Some were working with limited Federal Government assistance; some were doing so without any involvement from the Federal Government. These community members have found successful ways to feed the hungry in our food deserts and educate former inmates to become employable, contributing members of our society.

One nonprofit that we toured was the Welfare Reform Liaison Project in Greensboro, North Carolina. They work with a coalition of community partners under Project Re-Entry. Their goal is bringing the inside to the outside by assisting former offenders returning to the community after serving prison sentences.

It is not just about the program. We have to love the least of these—as people of faith, we are called to do so—and understanding that sometimes we must