

Arkansas will have the honor of attending the service academies this fall. Benjamin, Kimberly, and Parker will be headed to West Point; Nicholas and Krisanna to the Air Force Academy.

Arkansas has a history of academy alumni. These include General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Allied Commander in the Pacific during World War II, and Brigadier General William O. Darby, leader of what would later become the Army Rangers. Their example is one of courage and excellence under any circumstances. With this rich tradition before them and through their own accomplishments, there is no doubt these students will do their very best, bringing honor to themselves, their families, and their State.

I wish them well in their service careers and success in whatever they pursue.

PLAYING GAMES WITH WOMEN'S HEALTH

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, at what point do we stop playing games with women's health?

Zika is becoming an epidemic, and American women across the country are helplessly watching as Congress refuses to act. Every day this disease spreads faster and impacts more men, women, and especially newborn babies.

It is unbelievable that so far the best response to stop the spread of this dangerous infection is to tell American women: Don't get pregnant.

That is unacceptable. We can do better.

Have Republicans learned nothing from the response of the Flint water crisis, where they focused on the price tag instead of on protecting Michigan's children from getting lead poisoning?

We cannot wait one more minute for Congress to act. We must do something now to prevent further spreading of the Zika virus. I am outraged we do not have a solution to something that can hurt an entire generation of our children.

Because of Zika's serious debilitating impacts, Americans are afraid to travel, Americans are afraid to go outside, and Americans are now terrified to grow their families.

I urge leadership to schedule a vote on H.R. 3299. This bill incentivizes the development of a vaccine to protect us from this disease.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DARLA SIDLES

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

Ms. MCSALLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Darla Sidles, superintendent of Saguaro National Park, on her recent appointment to

oversee the Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, and I thank her for her 7 years of service to the people of Arizona.

Under Darla's leadership, Saguaro National Park set record highs for attendance, attracting over 750,000 people last year. Her tenure saw the complete refurbishment of the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center and successful application of key resilient landscapes grants. She also spearheaded efforts to connect the park with local young and urban populations, helping expose them to the many treasures the park offers.

In addition to her role as director of one of southern Arizona's largest parks, she is a valued leader in our community who served for 4 years on the January 8 Memorial Foundation board.

I had the privilege to hike Saguaro National Park with Darla, pictured here, to talk about its value. We continue to work together on efforts to protect and improve this Tucson gem. We will be sad to lose her in August, and no doubt Darla's standout leadership of our park contributed to her appointment to oversee the third-most-visited national park in the country. I thank her for her service, and I wish her well in Colorado.

ILLEGAL ALIEN PROVISION IN LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my fierce opposition to the "illegal alien" provision that has been inserted into the legislative branch appropriations bill.

This partisan language will force the Library of Congress to keep using the term "illegal alien" even though the Library of Congress decided to remove that derogatory and totally inaccurate term from the Library's subject heading system.

"Illegal alien" is a form of dehumanizing rhetoric. The term has been used to justify continued discrimination against vulnerable migrants and minority communities.

The provision is politicizing what is supposed to be a bipartisan budget bill. This unprecedented interference by Congress will have huge ramifications. The Library of Congress sets the standard for subject headings used across America and internationally.

"Illegal alien" is inaccurate. The Library of Congress contains our most important records, and they should be accurate and reflect reality.

ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. This month is set aside as a time for us to raise awareness of what Alzheimer's disease is, the devastating impact that this disease has on millions of people throughout our Nation, and what we can do to help fight this condition.

In Michigan alone, over 180,000 of our seniors are currently facing Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the State. These numbers are only expected to go up over the coming years. As a doctor from northern Michigan, I have seen firsthand the struggle that those living with Alzheimer's face.

Here in Congress, I have supported numerous efforts to increase Federal funding for Alzheimer's research as well as plans to offer a higher quality of care for Alzheimer's patients.

While we have made great progress in the research and treatment of Alzheimer's disease, it is my hope that we will all continue to work together toward ending this plight.

21ST CENTURY STEM FOR GIRLS AND UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES ACT

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of STEM education and the critical role science, technology, engineering, and mathematics play in our Nation's economic prosperity.

As our economy shifts toward STEM-oriented careers, we must ensure students have the opportunity to learn and succeed in these fields. That is why I introduced the 21st Century STEM For Girls and Underrepresented Minorities Act, H.R. 2773. I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to support this bill.

This legislation would help create programs and curriculum for girls and underrepresented minorities to pursue STEM careers. Just last week, I was reminded of the importance of STEM education while delivering the commencement address at Metro Early College High School, a STEM-focused high school in my Third Congressional District of Ohio.

I salute the graduates of the Metro Early College High School who achieved a 100 percent acceptance rate to college, and I commend their parents as well as the dedicated teachers and staff, including Principal Anthony Alston.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the names of the 106 graduates of the Metro Early College High School graduating class.

METRO EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2016, JUNE 10, 2016

Sundari Vudatala, Camryn Walker, Christopher Warren, Christian Wiget, Silas Young, Banan Zangana, Sophia Brown,

Simone Burden, Nicholas Burgett, De'Ciana Burnette, Seth Cabalquinto, Sydney Carroll, Anna Chin, Joseph Chiu, Spencer Churchill, Griffin Patterson, JaNai Rakes, Kennedy Reissland-Woods, Gus Roussi.

Michael Ruland, Mario Segovia, Sefora Seyoum, Riley Shaw, Wyatt Sheline, Adam Gill, Sarah Golding, Raquan Goss, Alexander Granato, Montgomery Gray, Connor Guarino, Kailyn Gullatt, McKenzie Hartman, Kelly Haubert, Jonah McKind, Eduardo Medina, Jen Miller, Jared Moehrman, Khalid Mohamed, Qiukui Moutvic, Yulia Mulugeta, Aida Ndiaye, Lan Nguyen.

Jennifer Kentner, Nathaniel Kolli, Renee Krainak, Maria Krantz, Ethan Laver, Caleb Lehman, Rebecca Lipster, Samantha Loeffler, Karsten Look, Justin Loring, Matthew Lowe, Anna Lowery, Miles Marchese, Hannah Martin, Sara McClaskey, Maya McGeachy, Madison McGraw, Lila Henninger, Elaff Hounsee, Grant Hughes, Nathaniel Huller, Christopher Hulse, Ally Hutchison.

Hamdan Ismail, Cherie Johnson, Cierre Johnson, Aaron Joseph, Meghan O'Bryan, Robert O'Shaughnessy, Armando Olvera, Igbino Oriakhi, Muwahib Osman, Xzavier Pace, Teja Parasa, Grant Parks, Autumn Patterson, Emma Clark, Tamara Cole, Amina Cusmaan, Angela Dang, Timothy Davis, Rebecca Dye, Nimco Essa, Nahom Eyassu, Charles Gauthier, Aarti Singhal.

David Sipes, Curtis Snead, Pauline Sohn, Sally Squires, Kate Swigert, Abigail Thompson, Devon Tinker, Alicia Tong, Jolene Tran, Hafsa Abdullahi, Mohamed Abdullahi, Zahra Abu-Rayyan, Saido Ahmed, Maxim Antonyuk, Gary Augustin, Kevyn Baden-Winterwood, Kaila Berry, Silas Birdsell.

□ 1330

SAVANNAH PURPLE HEART VETERAN GETS HUMANITARIAN AWARD

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special constituent of mine, Tech Sergeant Enos Garvin.

On May 2, at a Chatham County Veterans Council meeting, Sergeant Garvin received a long overdue Humanitarian Service Medal for his service in Rwanda.

In 1994, Reverend Garvin, turned tech sergeant, volunteered with the Georgia Air National Guard and worked on flying missions to help Rwandan refugees, called Operation Support Hope. In these missions, Reverend Garvin flew supplies and food to many refugees in Rwanda who were staying in makeshift tent villages during one of the worst conflicts in Africa's history.

Sergeant Garvin's service to our Nation and for a better world do not end with his involvement in Rwanda. He is also a Purple Heart recipient because of his courageous service in Vietnam. He was shot three times in the leg while Viet Cong troops killed his guards in the middle of the night and launched a surprise attack on his unit.

I want to thank Tech Sergeant Garvin for his service and the United States Department of Defense for recognizing the remarkable service of Ser-

geant Garvin and the 156th Airlift Wing.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it is good to be back on the House floor to pick up on an issue that concerns most every American that has gone to college, who is now in school, or beyond.

I remember a day 3 weeks ago at the Calaveras County Fair. The security guard at the gate greeted me.

He said: Congressman.

I said: Yes.

He said: I need your help.

I said: What can I do for you?

He said: Well, I had to go back to school to get the license and the education for this job. I now run the security program here. I will be over 70 years of age before I am able to pay off my student loan.

He was probably in his early fifties at that time.

I said: How can that be?

He said: The interest rate is killing me.

And, indeed, not only killing him, but all across this Nation, the issue of student debt is harming families, holding back the formation of families—not getting married because you have to pay off the debt, and who would want to marry that person with all that debt? I don't think so—buying houses, getting a car, carrying on in your life.

Student debt is an incredible burden on the American public. And not just the students but, in many cases, the parents of students.

Here is what has happened with student debt:

It is now over \$2.2 trillion. Probably today it is much larger than the debt on credit cards. The growth has been almost exponential. And we are continuing to see this rise. It is not over. Continuing the debt is part of America's reality.

Here are some astonishing facts about student debt:

Not only is it \$1.2 trillion, but it is continuing to increase at \$2,726.27 every second. So we are going to see this go way beyond \$1.2 trillion to, and probably approaching, nearly \$1.5 trillion by the end of this decade.

The number of borrowers and the average balance of their debt has grown by 70 percent between 2004 and 2012. That is more than 7 percent per year.

And finally, down here, we can say that the average student loan debt for graduate students is now over \$35,000 per student. This is an extraordinary burden.

Now, tell me, what family in America has not refinanced their home? I think we all have. Certainly, Patti and I have refinanced our home. And I suspect

most Americans, if they haven't yet refinanced, are watching the interest rates and looking for that moment when they, too, will refinance their home.

So the question for us today is: Why not refinance student loans just the same as we refinance our homes?

Well, the loans are owned by the Federal Government. So this is a question for us in Congress to say: Yes, let's do something to give the American economy a boost. Let's give something to those families, those young students that are out of school and those that are still in school—an opportunity to refinance their loans and to recalculate the interest on loans that they will be taking out in the months and years ahead.

Take a look at this. Undergraduate loans from the Federal Government are now 4.29 percent. If you are in the other programs, it may be 5 percent. And if you are in the graduate program, it is 6.84 percent.

The Federal Government can borrow money somewhere less than 2 percent, or right around 2 percent for 10 years. If you add another percent for administrative costs, we could refinance all that \$1.2 trillion of student loans down to 3.23 percent.

What a break that would give to students in school and out of school and those that are going to be borrowing money for the next school year, 3.2 percent versus 4.29 percent. Or, if you are a graduate student, 3.2 percent versus 6.84 percent—less than half the interest rate.

We can do it. We can do this. And when we do it, we can help those students that are now carrying that incredible burden of having to pay these extraordinary interest rates to the Federal Government, which is actually making a \$138 billion profit on the backs of students.

So I go back to that gentleman there at the Calaveras County Fair who now has a business, but also has a student loan that he took out to get the education he needed to start that business. I would go back to him and say: I will tell you what. Instead of a 6 percent or 7 percent loan, we can refinance your loan down to 3.23 percent.

And what does it mean to the individual student? It means a great deal.

So we have introduced H.R. 5274, the Student Loan Refinancing and Recalculation Act. It will do the following. It would set all student loan interest rates at 3.25 percent—new ones that come up, existing ones, graduate loans, low-income family loans, and the like.

If you happen to be a low-income family, and many of these students are—in fact, the great majority of low-income student are, in fact, taking out loans. For those borrowers, it will be thousands of dollars of interest saved, because we also calculate that the interest will not begin to accrue until after graduation.

Also, we know that the average savings for students will be over \$2,000 on their loans.