

We ignore the long-term costs of budget programs for weapons, preferring to put that off to a future administration and future Congresses.

In so doing, we are playing fast and loose with the integrity of the Pentagon with the resources and the materials that are necessary to support our troops now and in the future.

It is not too late for this Congress to demand a spending plan, cost accountability, kill the new cruise missile program, and put us on a path of fiscal stability and sanity while we have appropriate priorities for the military strength and defense of our country.

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE COLLINS JEFFREYS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Goldsboro's own George Collins Jeffreys, who passed away on January 20.

Born over 90 years ago, in 1925, George lived a long and full life. The eldest of four children, he attended St. Mary's School and Oak Ridge Military Academy in Oak Ridge, North Carolina. During the Second World War, George served in the Pacific.

After the war, George returned home to work in the family business, which was originally established back in the 1890s by two prominent North Carolina families to market local produce, chickens, seed, and eggs. The business was successful.

In the 1920s, George's father and uncle took over the business, renaming it Jeffreys and Sons. The two brothers began offering beverage distribution. After the end of prohibition, they became a licensed distributor for Anheuser-Busch products.

It wasn't long before the company had grown so big that it was divided into separate seed, beverage, and cabinet companies. It continued growing and expanding in Goldsboro, Greenville, and other communities.

Today, R.A. Jeffreys Distributing Company is the oldest Anheuser-Busch distributor in North Carolina as well as one of the oldest family-owned distributors in the United States.

R.A. Jeffreys Distributing Company services almost every grocery store, convenience store, and restaurant in the area, supplying 36 counties in North Carolina.

Now, George Jeffreys was not only respected as a business leader. He was a thoughtful and generous member of his community, volunteering and contributing to local schools, Scout troops, churches, and community programs.

In addition to his company being recognized multiple times as an outstanding wholesaler by Anheuser-Busch, receiving the Dimensions of Excellence Award, George also received the Distinguished Service Award from

the Tuscarora Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

His dedication to business and to his community were certainly highlights of his long and full life. But the true foundation of George Jeffreys' life was his family.

His wife Lucy and his three children—his daughters, Leigh and Ellen, and his son Robert—and seven grandchildren will all remember him with love.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call George Jeffreys a friend.

I pray for God's blessings and God's peace to his family.

END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last week during our district work period, I spent the night at the Interfaith Hospitality Network, a family homeless shelter in Worcester, Massachusetts. This was my second time spending a night there in recent years.

It was a wonderful opportunity to hear firsthand the stories of families who are facing tough times and to see the incredible support provided by groups like IHN.

In today's media environment, where every development in the Presidential campaign gets a breaking news banner, it is easy to lose sight of the real issues impacting real families, and homelessness is one of those real issues.

In 2015, more than 500,000 Americans were homeless on any given night. Of that number, more than 200,000 were people and families and nearly 50,000 were veterans.

Even in Massachusetts, which is one of the richest States in the Nation, homelessness continues to be a challenge in many of our communities.

In recent years, State budget cuts have led to a record number of homeless children in Massachusetts, and the overall uptick in homelessness has led to overcrowding in shelters, with thousands of families being turned away.

In the richest country on the planet, it is simply astonishing that anyone is homeless, but the fact is this continues to be a persistent problem. Fortunately, there are amazing organizations like the Interfaith Hospitality Network that are making a difference.

IHN works in partnership with the faith community to provide shelter and assistance to families with children who are homeless. Their primary goals are to assist families by increasing their income and to help them secure permanent housing while providing critical support services necessary for them to succeed.

It is a community bed shelter that provides private bedrooms and shared quality living areas for six families at a time who are homeless, but don't qualify for State-funded shelters.

One of the points that the people I met made very eloquently was that

sometimes life is very complicated and sometimes things don't work out as you expect them to.

Many of the families that I met during my stay included at least one working parent, but they had fallen into the gap where they earned too little to make ends meet, but too much to qualify for other housing assistance programs.

Some of the residents included college-educated parents with families that fell on hard times. Maybe a parent is sick or a child is sick or a parent got laid off from a job. Those families are not there because they made poor choices. There were a series of events that led to this.

One thing parents at the shelter have in common is that they love their kids more than anything and they are working tirelessly to get back on their feet.

The families at IHN are not charged rent and work with a caseworker to budget and save money for their own apartments. The caseworker also helps families access necessary health care or counseling, learn job skills, enroll in job training or educational classes, and assists them with other life issues.

Mr. Speaker, IHN is a very special place. It is a home. It is comfortable. It is safe. Families prepare and eat dinner together. Children do their homework together, color in coloring books, and play games. IHN provides a sense of normalcy during these times of turmoil and uncertainty for these families.

With each visit to the IHN shelter in Worcester, I am inspired to see that within our community there are so many wonderful people who care about their neighbors who are going through difficult times and who want to get back on their feet.

The volunteers and staff are incredible people. Places like IHN represent the best of our community. There is a real need for places like this.

Too often in this Chamber I have heard colleagues demonize and disparage America's poorest families, but those who are homeless don't fit into a stereotype.

Every family faces different challenges. It is hard work to be poor in America. The families I met are working hard for a better life for their kids.

We should be helping them get back on their feet, not kicking them while they are down. Certainly we should not be indifferent to their struggles.

To help more of these families get ahead, we must do more at the national level to strengthen the social safety net and to better address homelessness, food insecurity, poverty, and many other issues which deserve to be front and center.

Looking at the big picture, we need to be talking about how we can make sure that work pays enough so that all working families can afford rent and a place to live and be able to put food on the table for their kids.

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We might start by increasing, at long last, the Federal minimum wage so

that it is a livable wage. If you work in this country, you ought not to be poor, and you certainly ought not to be homeless.

Mr. Speaker, in the richest country on the planet, I know we can do more to solve homelessness. Spending the night at the Interfaith Hospitality Network was a learning experience. I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same in their districts.

Those of us who serve in Congress are blessed that we don't have to worry about whether or not we will have a roof over our heads on any given night, but there are many families, too many families all throughout this country who do. We need to do a better job of listening to their stories, of trying to lend a helping hand so that they can get out of their difficult situation and move on to a better life.

I urge my colleagues to listen to what I said today and to do what I did and spend a night in a shelter in their own district.

STACIE WALLS STORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the war on coal touches every family in my home State of West Virginia. Whether you are a miner or not, you feel the consequences of this administration's regulations that are shutting down our coal mines.

Closing a coal mine doesn't just affect a miner and his family. It affects everyone in the community, from the small town mom-and-pop stores who depend on customers, to our schools that depend on tax revenue. A decline in coal hurts us all.

Stacie Walls contacted me. She is a wife of a coal miner and a mother in Boone County. She sees the consequences firsthand.

Here is what she wrote me: "My husband has been laid off four times since last April.

"Because of the war on coal, my county is closing my son's school due to not having the coal tax to help keep it opened.

"My son's education is now going to suffer because of the war on coal. I've watched many families leave the State because they must find work.

"There are more 'for sale' signs up than there are kids riding their bikes."

This, Mr. Speaker, is Stacie. This is Stacie's family. These are the true faces of the war on coal.

West Virginia's families deserve peace of mind. It is time for the EPA to get off the backs of West Virginians and let them do the work that powers our Nation and puts food on our tables.

I am working every day in Congress for our coal families, for all families. I believe in the future of West Virginia coal.

President Obama must stop his war on coal, and we must pass policies that

create jobs to ensure a future for West Virginians in West Virginia.

TWO GREAT AMERICAN HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Bipartisan Policy Center for the establishment of the Congressional Patriot Award and naming SAM JOHNSON and JOHN LEWIS as its first recipients.

I can think of no two people who are more deserving than SAM JOHNSON and JOHN LEWIS, both of whom serve in this Chamber with distinction, both of whom I have the honor of serving with on the Committee on Ways and Means who do an extraordinary job on behalf of the citizenry of this great Nation. For all of our membership here, we can all be proud to say that we served with both SAM JOHNSON and JOHN LEWIS.

I want to thank and commend TOM COLE, my co-chairman in this effort, on behalf of our two esteemed colleagues. By now every Member should have received, and the public will become increasingly aware of, an invitation to this event on March 15. The event will be held at the Library of Congress. What a fitting place for us to honor our colleagues. The Library will have on display photos and documents from the Vietnam war and photos and documents from the civil rights movement.

It was 50 years ago that SAM JOHNSON was shot down over Vietnam. It was 51 years ago that JOHN LEWIS made that historic trek from Selma to Montgomery and crossing over the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Most people don't realize today that SAM JOHNSON was imprisoned by the Vietcong for 7 years, 42 months of which he spent in solitary confinement, nearly beaten to death but never said a word. What an incredible American.

JOHN LEWIS, nearly beaten to death by the Alabama police as he had the temerity to lock arms and cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge, faced with undaunted courage an unwelcoming crowd who could never deter the will of a movement that he is so identified with.

To have the Bipartisan Policy Center recognize a conservative, a progressive, a Republican, a Democrat, people who served this Nation extraordinarily with their patriotism long before they ever got here, to have a medal named in their honor and to present that once in a biennium to deserving Members of this body, past and present, is a great notion.

It demonstrates to the American people that at the end of the day it is not about conservative or liberal or it is not about Democrat or Republican, it is about the great nation that we serve. There are no more exemplary figures than SAM JOHNSON and JOHN LEWIS.

JOHN MCCAIN will be presenting on behalf of SAM JOHNSON. No one under-

stands what SAM JOHNSON endured better than Senator JOHN MCCAIN. Andrew Young will be speaking on behalf of JOHN LEWIS. He was alongside of JOHN LEWIS during that historic march. No one knows better what they endured.

We are so fortunate to both have the Library of Congress but also to have David Rubenstein, who will be there, who will conduct an interview that evening with SAM JOHNSON and JOHN LEWIS. It will be a wonderful evening, made more special by what the Library of Congress will present in terms of what transpired 50 and 51 years ago respectively, but made greater by the presence of everybody here recognizing the great contribution of our colleagues, SAM JOHNSON and JOHN LEWIS.

I look forward to having everybody on March 15 at the Library of Congress to recognize these two great American heroes.

HISTORIC ROSENWALD SCHOOLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, for recently freed African Americans, education denied to them under slavery was a critical component of understanding freedom.

In the wake of the Civil War, with the widespread awareness that education was essential to the advancement of a free people in this society, African Americans flocked to schools established by the Freedmen's Bureau.

The recognition of this relationship between schools, community, and the broader ideal of the American Dream led African American parents and teachers to be among the first Southerners to advocate for universal public education.

However, the dual education system that arose, determined by race and based on the fiction of separate but equal, brought about a hand-me-down approach to Black education in the South. This flawed duality resulted in the perpetuation and exacerbation of institutional inequity.

In the face of such obstacles, leaders like Booker T. Washington, founder of the Tuskegee Institute, embraced and expanded on the early belief in education as the great hope of a truly democratic society.

Washington's vision inspired many, including philanthropist and president of Sears, Roebuck, Julius Rosenwald.

The philanthropic and educational partnership between these two men led to the construction of 5,000 Rosenwald schools across 15 Southern States. In Arkansas, 389 school buildings were constructed in 45 of our 75 counties, with communities pooling their often meager resources to fulfill Rosenwald's pledge to match their contribution.

For many, these buildings were not simply schools but monuments to Black achievement and symbols for an ardent hope in a better future. Rosenwald schools contributed to the education of thousands of African American students across the American