

there was none today, by taking \$2.3 trillion away from the men and women of this Nation.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BERGMAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be on the floor tonight with my colleagues on the Republican and Democrat side as we pay tribute and honor to the great State of Illinois on the anniversary of our bicentennial.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight with my colleagues in recognition of our home, the great State of Illinois. It has been the highest honor of my life to serve our State as a Member of Congress, and I am sure it is for the other speakers that we will have here tonight.

2018 represents something special for us and for every Illinoisan. It is our 200th anniversary of statehood. It was December 3, 1818, that Illinois was admitted into the United States. Today I wish to recognize and honor all that Illinois has offered our great Nation.

Illinois' path to statehood began in the 17th century, with Europeans first settling the territory that had been home to many Native American Indian Tribes. The territory would exchange hands several times over the following century, eventually ending up as part of the Northwest Territory after the Revolutionary War. Only a few short years later, Congress would finally agree on its borders and name Illinois the 21st State in the Union.

At that time, I am sure few expected that the largely unsettled area of land would go on to house the third largest city in our country with over 2.7 million residents, or produce agriculture goods that would feed people all over the globe. That these things came to pass is a testament to the hard work and determination of the people of Illinois.

That is why the theme for this year's bicentennial celebration is "Born, Built, and Grown"—again, "Born, Built, and Grown"—a chance to highlight not just the many goods and services our State offers, but also the many great Americans born and raised in Illinois, who have gone on to shape the world we live in.

I am proud to represent Illinois' 18th Congressional District, a district made

up of 19 counties in central and west central Illinois, including parts of Peoria; Bloomington-Normal; Springfield, our State capital; Jacksonville; Quincy; Macomb; and all places in between. My district borders Missouri and Iowa along the Mississippi River, on the western part.

It is a district with no shortage of great accomplishments and history. In fact, who knows where our entire Nation would be without the leadership of one Abraham Lincoln, a lawyer from Springfield, who represented nine of the counties in my current district. During his one term in the United States House of Representatives, he served from 1847 to 1849. People forget that he was Congressman Abraham Lincoln before he was President Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln would spend most of his life in Springfield, Illinois, as a lawyer; and also in Menard County, working in the post office there. He would also take river boats down the Sangamon River of the Illinois River, down to New Orleans.

Returning to Springfield to practice law in between his sole term in the House and running for President in 1860, during his administration, America would weather a bloody Civil War but come out having rooted out the evil of slavery. While he would die in office, Lincoln's leadership is why he continues to be named our greatest President. He earned the nickname "Honest Abe." Illinois would continue to play a role in the abolishment of slavery when it became the first State to ratify the 13th Amendment in 1865. While he would die in office, Lincoln's leadership is why he continues to be our greatest President today.

Over a century later, another man with ties to Illinois would be sworn in as President: President Ronald Reagan from Illinois. He is the only President who was born and raised in Illinois. President Reagan would go on being the Governor of California—from the Governor of California to the Presidency in 1981.

Born in Tampico, Illinois, Ronald Reagan spent his formative years growing up in Illinois. His father was a traveling salesman. They lived in Monmouth, in Galesburg, in Dixon, in Chicago for a short time, and also in Tampico. Of course, Ronald Reagan got a scholarship to play football at Eureka College in Woodford County, in my district. He was a student there, played football, and graduated from there.

His time as President and Governor was defined by optimism and a faith in the American spirit and a way of life, a faith that was instilled during his formative years at Eureka and growing up in Illinois. Like Lincoln, his leadership during tough times remains a point of pride for not only Illinois, but for the entire Nation.

Outside of politics, our congressional district is home to other famous Illinoisans who all called central Illinois home, including: the venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen of the Catholic

faith, future Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Thome of Bartonville, two-time NBA champion Shaun Livingston from Peoria, former Major League Baseball manager and World Series champion Joe Girardi, and even the late comedian Richard Pryor. Just imagine where America's sports and entertainment industries would be without their talents.

Despite Chicago being our Nation's third largest city and serving as a hub for many great industries, the largest sector of our economy remains agriculture. Last year, Illinois was the sixth largest producer of agriculture in the Nation, producing over \$8 billion worth of agriculture exports. Our district was no slouch, coming in as the eighth largest congressional district in the country in terms of agriculture production, proving once more that our State has some of the most fertile farmland in the entire world. Illinois farmers continue to grow soybeans, corn, and much more that keep America's economy growing and plates all over the globe full.

My district also has the distinction that 96 percent of the pumpkins produced in the world come from central Illinois, within a 100-mile radius of Peoria, and we are proud of that. So the next time you have a pumpkin latte or a pumpkin beer or pumpkin pie, it originated somewhere in central Illinois.

Our State's ties to agriculture don't just end there, but they also include several companies that are worldwide leaders in farming equipment and Earth-moving products. Whether it is John Deere or Caterpillar, just to name a few, they are known across the globe as producers of the finest construction, farming, and Earth-moving machines out there.

The Archer Daniels Midland Company, or ADM, is another Illinois agriculture institution with strong ties to Illinois' 18th District. Formerly headquartered in Decatur, the global agricultural giant is now headquartered in Chicago, operating more than 270 plants and 420 crop procurement facilities worldwide. This is where cereal grains and oilseeds are produced.

So not only is Illinois leading the way in growing crops, but also in turning them into products that show up in grocery stores across our country and across the globe.

Finally, we cannot conclude without noting the presence of Forbes' 33rd ranked business in the country: State Farm Insurance in Bloomington-Normal. The insurance giant has been providing insurance coverage and financial services for 95 years and is headquartered in my district in Bloomington, Illinois. Our "local good neighbor," State Farm, brings not only peace of mind to millions of Americans as they buy or rent a home or an automobile, but they also assist in planning for the future.

I couldn't be prouder to be here tonight with my colleagues. Those are

some of the ways that Illinois' 18th District has contributed to the State's story and how it will keep Illinois at the forefront of our Nation and global economy.

Now I would like to recognize a number of my colleagues that are here tonight. I yield to the gentleman from southern Illinois (Mr. BOST), my colleague.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Peoria, Illinois, for hosting this Special Order on the State's bicentennial year.

You know, Illinois is a State of threes. You know, we had three State capitals: Kaskaskia, Vandalia, and Springfield. We have three State seals. A lot of people don't know that.

If you know Illinois well, you know that there is three distinct parts of Illinois involved. Whether you are in politics or business, it is always referred to as Cook County, the Collar counties, and southern Illinois. In southern Illinois, we like to capitalize the "S" on "southern."

There is one other thing that is in threes. If you listen to the Illinois song, three people are mentioned: Lincoln, Grant, and Logan.

Now, the reason why I bring those up is because, tied with southern Illinois and Illinois' 12th Congressional District—the district that is the most southern and most western of the State of Illinois, which I am proud to represent—actually was and had the first State capital. Also, it has John A. Logan in that mentioning of those three names.

John A. Logan, if you heard that name before, if you are in D.C., there are many things that are named after Logan, including "Logan Circle." Logan was actually the gentleman who was laid in state—the eighth person laid in state here in this Capitol, and that was because he had established himself from deep southern Illinois. As a matter of fact, his hometown was—my hometown was his farm, which was subdivided to make that hometown.

□ 1945

As a matter of fact, the deed in abstract of the home that I was born and raised in and the house that I later bought from my parents and raised my children for the first 10 years of my marriage in that home, my great-grandmother actually bought that property from his father.

John Logan established himself, which is really wild, and he actually was such a large part of Illinois history. He first ran as a Democrat; he was a district attorney. He then became a State representative, then a State senator, then went on to be a Member of the U.S. Congress and later a U.S. Senator.

It was during the time of the Civil War, when the Civil War broke out, that there were questions on what would happen, because deep southern Illinois was split during the war, though stayed united as a State.

John Logan came back and led troops for the North. What is really wild is after becoming a field grade general and a decorated war general, he came back to southern Illinois, then went back into politics as a Republican, and stayed a U.S. Senator but as a Republican and was part of the reconstructionists.

The amazing thing about John Logan is that he actually ran for vice president. They lost, he and Blaine. He then was running for president and gave a long speech, actually, in the gentleman's hometown who is hosting this tonight, for about 8 hours in the rain, got on a train, came back to the capital here, and passed away with pneumonia.

Another great thing that happened in deep southern Illinois in the Illinois 12th is the Lincoln-Douglas debates. I am blessed to have the only district in the State of Illinois that has two Lincoln-Douglas debate sites.

I am being questioned here that maybe there is one other.

Jonesboro, September 15, 1858; Alton, October 15, 1858. Very proud of that. And, you know, these two went on after Douglas wins as Senator, but then Lincoln ends up winning the Presidency.

There are several other things, but one other thing about deep southern Illinois, look, many people don't realize that deep southern Illinois has the smallest national forest in the Nation. The Shawnee National Forest is located in JOHN SHIMKUS' and my district. We share it. It is truly a beautiful part of Illinois, wonderful rolling hills, deep forests, much good there.

Also the Illinois 12th has Murphysboro, my hometown, which is the barbecue capital of Illinois. We have teams that have won as many as four grand championships and went on to create businesses all over this Nation in that business and in the barbecue business, and we are very proud of that. I would argue that maybe it is the barbecue capital of the world. There may be others that would argue different with that.

How many of you, as children, remember the cartoon "Popeye", who came from Chester, Illinois, in the Illinois 12th?

I am sure many of the other people who speak here tonight, Mr. Speaker, are also proud of their home districts in the State of Illinois, and should be, because I am going to tell you, whether it is from Cairo, to Galena, to Chicago, to Mulkeytown, from Danville, to East St. Louis, the State of Illinois is a great State. We love it.

We have good things and bad things that happen, but it has been a great State that has helped this Nation, provided great leaders, provided great people involved in all kinds of fields throughout this Nation and this world.

I have no reservations in saying, and I am sure others would say this about theirs, but I am so blessed, because I live in the most beautiful part of Illi-

nois, the most beautiful part of Illinois where it starts out as the flatlands, what is commonly known as the prairies of Illinois up around St. Louis and Alton, and it comes south. When you get down to my area, it turns into rolling hills, rolling hills that produce peaches and apples and grapes, the beautiful wineries, areas of tourism, the land between the lakes, the land known as Little Egypt, and I am so privileged to be able to represent that part of the State of Illinois.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know we are going to have a lot of other speakers tonight, but I do want to tell you that Illinois, as I said, has had good times and bad times, but there are a whole lot more good times to come. It is a great place to live, it is a great place to raise your children, and I thank God that I had the opportunity to be born and raised there.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BOST for his comments here tonight. I appreciate it very much.

Mr. Speaker, next I want to yield to and recognize the Congresswoman from Matteson, Illinois, ROBIN KELLY, who we are so glad found her way from New York to Bradley University as a student in Peoria, Illinois, and has served our State well in the State legislature and throughout government there. We are happy to have her here tonight.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LAHOOD for yielding and for organizing tonight's Special Order about our great State, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am Illinois proud, and I rise today to celebrate our State's upcoming 200th birthday.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent Illinois' Second Congressional District—in my opinion, the best district in the entire country. This community starts at 53rd and Cornell around the Museum of Science and Industry, it then reaches south to include many suburbs in Cook and Will Counties. It stretches all the way to the border of Indiana and the border between Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, to include some of our Nation's most productive family farms.

While I am humbled and honored to represent the remarkable people and families of Illinois' Second District, as you have heard, I first moved to Peoria to attend Bradley University.

While at Bradley, I joined the Zeta Phi chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho and completed my BA in psychology and my MA in counseling. I am proud to have been a Bradley University trustee, since 2003, and to continue to be a part of this amazing institution that is preparing the next generation of leaders.

I lived in Peoria until 1992, when I moved to Matteson, Illinois, my current home in the great Second Congressional District, to become the village's director of community affairs.

In 2002, I was elected to the Illinois General Assembly, where I first met many of my current colleagues in the

Illinois delegation while serving together in Springfield. At the time, I also served with the State senator who would eventually go on to become President of the United States, Barack Obama.

As someone who has been privileged to live throughout Illinois and travel it extensively while working as a chief of staff to the State treasurer, I couldn't be more proud to represent this great State and the great people who will call it home, especially those who call the Second District home.

The Second District is truly a microcosm of Illinois and the entire U.S. It is urban, suburban, and rural. It includes parts of the city of Chicago and more than 1,200 farms.

In the Second District, Nucor makes American steel and our Ford facility makes American cars. We grow corn, soybeans, and raise American pork. We have local breweries and giants like Amazon, alongside world-class bike trails, scenic vistas, and the historic Pullman neighborhood, and we will soon be home to the new Obama Presidential Library and Museum.

Mr. Speaker, the Second District is home to many universities and Blue 1647, a tech incubator, that are training the next generation of businesses, tech, and innovation leaders.

Our small, medium-sized, and family businesses like Pullman Cafe, K&S Tire, SA Piggush Financial Consultants, South Creek Animal Hospital, Two Whisks Bakery, Homewood Bat, and Affordable Flooring By Rodrigo drive forward our regional economy and create local jobs for Illinois families.

Our farms, like Van Drunen Farms and FutureCeuticals, feed people in more than 70 countries around the world, and our manufacturers, including Crown Cork and Seal, Best Diamond Plastics, and Chicago Heights Steel continue the proud tradition of Make It In America.

While we are proud to build and grow products used around the State, country, and globe, you might be surprised to learn that many of the things you buy every day cross through the Second District. For generations, Chicago has been the crossroads of America, a hub for transcontinental and global commerce, and the Second District is the beating heart of that transportation infrastructure that creates good-paying American jobs.

The Second District is also home to a vibrant faith community that is committed to serving their community by putting their faith into action. Leaders in these movements have their houses of worship in the Second or they serve many people in the Second: Reverend Dr. James Hunt of New Hope Christian Community Church; Rami Nashashibi, executive director of the Inner-City Muslim Action Network and a recent MacArthur Foundation Fellow; Rabbi Ellen Dreyfus, B'nai Yehuda Beth Shalom; Father Mike Pfleger, a tireless champion to end gun violence; Pastor

Andrew Singleton from Victory Apostolic; Apostle Ron from Full Gospel Christian Assembly.

Our local nonprofits are helping to create a better, fairer, and more just world, organizations like Chicago Family Health Center; Aunt Martha's; Polished Pebbles; Alliance of the Southeast; the Dovetail Project; Centro de Trabajadores Unidos; and Kids Off The Block, which provides at-risk young people with positive alternatives.

In the Second District, our young people are active and engaged. They are dedicated to being a force for positive change in their communities, in our country, and in their world. In the face of any darkness, they stand proud and allow their personal life to shine through circumstance.

Now, we have had a few famous people coming through the Second also: Quinn Buckner, the basketball player; Shonda Rhimes, famous from "Scandal," "Grey's Anatomy," and "How to Get Away With Murder;" Eddy Curry, basketball; Tom Dreesen; Mary Matalin, who worked for Dick Cheney; and Mike Tomczak, who was a player for the Bears.

So, yes, Mr. Speaker, I am Illinois proud. As we, the congressional delegation of families throughout the State, celebrate our 200th birthday over the next year, we are focusing on what makes Illinois great, things that I have discussed and you will hear tonight.

Illinois greatness is born, it is built, it is grown, and we are proud of it. Happy birthday, Illinois. Here is to 200 more years of growth, innovation, and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LAHOOD for yielding.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman KELLY very much for those inspiring words about Illinois. I appreciate it very much.

Mr. Speaker, next I yield to Congressman RANDY HULTGREN from Plano. Congressman HULTGREN served in our Illinois State senate. He is a proud Illinoisan, he serves our Nation very well. I yield to him now for a few comments.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am grateful to Congressman LAHOOD for hosting this, pulling this together, and it really is a great beginning of an anticipation of celebration for the next year's bicentennial of the statehood of my home, Illinois.

Tonight, we are mentioning just a few things that make Illinois such a great State, and I look forward to continuing to highlight many more important facts, figures, stories, and pieces of history about the Prairie State and, more specifically, about the 14th Congressional District throughout 2018, all the way up until our 200th birthday on December 3, 2018.

Illinois is the breadbasket that feeds the Nation and the world. Our State enjoys a global city with world class transportation hubs and small towns filled with the hardworking Americans

who make this country what it is. The suburbs of Chicago, where I grew up, are opportunity-filled and family friendly.

I was born in Illinois, grew up in Illinois, and am proud to be raising my family in Illinois. By the way, for the record, just to set it clear, it is Illinois, not Illi-noise—phonetic—so we just make sure that is out there.

I am so proud to represent the 14th Congressional District, the Fox River Valley, the Chain O'Lakes, and so many dozens and dozens of wonderful small- and medium-sized towns that, again, are the heartbeat of Illinois and the heartbeat of this Nation.

Tonight, I also would like to take a moment, as has already been done, to highlight a special giant that hovers over our State, Honest Abe himself.

As a history buff, especially Illinois history, I cannot emphasize enough the impact that Abraham Lincoln has had on our State and also on our Nation and our world.

While he wasn't born in Illinois, his formative years were spent there, and no doubt our State helped shape his vision for what America was meant to be. His moral leadership, his persistent fight against the evils of slavery, his ability to bring diverse coalitions of people to unify the country, all this and more is why we have proudly called Illinois the land of Lincoln.

So, again, it is a great honor and privilege for me to be able to be with my great colleagues, bipartisan, celebrating our State that we are so proud of, and we are looking forward to these next 12 months of ongoing celebration of the great State of Illinois.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman HULTGREN for those important words and comments about our great State.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to and recognize Congresswoman CHERI BUSTOS, who represents the 17th District of Illinois. We share Peoria, Illinois, together in our district. Mrs. BUSTOS was born and raised in Springfield, currently lives in the Quad Cities in East Moline. I yield to the gentlewoman tonight for some comments.

□ 2000

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LAHOOD for putting this together as we celebrate the 200th birthday of our great State of Illinois.

The congressional district I serve stretches from Rockford to the north; the western border is the Mississippi River; and then we go into central Illinois, as Congressman LAHOOD said, to the city of Peoria. I am very proud to be able to share that city with Congressman LAHOOD.

My congressional district also represents the Quad Cities, which is where I call home. So in between all of these towns is 7,000 square miles of scenic farmland and vibrant towns like Monmouth and Canton and Thomson. We are a proud region with a proud history of manufacturing, agriculture, and service to our Nation.

Let me tell you a little bit about the congressional district I serve. We are the home to John Deere in Moline, the birthplace of Caterpillar in Peoria, and home of the iconic Sock Monkey, which was created in Rockford, Illinois. I kid you not.

In Rockford, we hosted the Nation's very first National Football League game at Douglas Park, where the Rock Island Independents defeated the St. Paul Ideals 48-0, a real romping.

More than 40 years before the world also fell in love with them through a movie called "A League of Their Own," the Rockford Peaches were the four-time champions of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League—also, I kid you not. This is amazing history.

I want to mention a few athletes as well. Jim Thome, Congressman LAHOOD knows him. He was the five-time all-star who played for eight different major league teams. He also came from the city of Peoria, and my brother was very close with him. My brother, my late brother, was a baseball coach at Eastern Illinois University and Southern Illinois University, and he was good friends with Jim Thome.

We have also had several other brilliant performers come out of our region. Comedian Richard Pryor was born and grew up in Peoria. The town of Aledo in Mercer County is the hometown of two country megastars: Suzy Bogguss and Margo Price. And we even have a member of Destiny's Child, Michelle Williams, who came from Rockford. So we are a proud people.

We also are very proud of our agricultural heritage. Our region is one of the top corn producers in the country. We have corn and soybean farms all across Illinois that have been worked by generations of farm families. And they even go through the rolling hills of the Driftless Area in the Galena Territory. What the Driftless Area means is that this is a gorgeous stretch of land where the last ice age actually didn't flatten, and so we have wonderful farmland in that region as well.

A little bit to the east of the Galena Territory, we have a town called Freeport, which is also known as Pretzel City, USA, and it is home to the Union Dairy, which recently celebrated its centennial birthday.

Our region has played a pivotal role not just in our State's history, but also in our Nation's history. Senator Everett Dirksen, a Senate office building right down the road here is named after Senator Dirksen. He came from Pekin, Illinois, which is in my congressional district. If you don't know the history of Everett Dirksen, he was actually one of the authors of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 1968.

Let's go to where I live, Rock Island County. It was the location of the very first railroad bridge over the Mississippi River, built in 1856. And since we are all getting into this Abraham Lincoln part of our State's history,

Abraham Lincoln was the attorney for the bridge company that I just mentioned. Then, 2 years after that bridge was built, our region was the host—I know Congressman BOST said that his district was the only district that had two Lincoln-Douglas debates. Well, there is actually another congressional district that had two debates. One was in Freeport in 1858, in August of that year, and then another was in Galesburg in October of 1858.

So, in fact, President Lincoln's congressional district—I know Congressman DAVIS is going to lay real claim to Congressman Lincoln, but he also—let's see. Congressman DAVIS had part of his district; Congressman LAHOOD had part of his district; and he also represented Tazewell County, which is part of my congressional district.

Another legend of the Civil War, Ulysses S. Grant, made his home in Galena, Illinois, and his Presidential campaign headquarters was in a place called the DeSoto House, which is a hotel today in downtown Galena. It is a place where my husband and I like to stay when we visit Galena.

During the Civil War, Rock Island was used as a Union prison camp before it was converted into the Rock Island Arsenal, where, today, it is the Army's only active foundry. The hardworking men and women of the Rock Island Arsenal have produced munitions for every single one of our conflicts and our wars dating back to the Civil War.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the northwestern and central and western part of Illinois have always had a special connection to the veterans who have served in our country. There is one particular street, the last point I want to make talking about my congressional district that I am lucky enough to serve, and its place in history over the last 200 years, but we are very, very proud of the street that we call Hero Street in Silvis, Illinois. It is a 1½-block street, and there is no street of that similar size that has had more men and women serve in the military than Hero Street USA in Silvis, Illinois.

More than 100 people have come from that street of a block and a half long to serve in the military, and 8 of them, all Mexican Americans, made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II and the Korean war. Hero Street has long been a source of pride for the congressional district that I am lucky enough to serve, and I am proud to mention them as part of this Special Order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I know all of us from this great State of Illinois who are speaking tonight are only scratching the surface about how important our region of the State is to our State's history. I am very proud to be part of this.

I thank Congressman LAHOOD for putting this together so we can talk about the bicentennial of the State of Illinois.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman BUSTOS for her valu-

able comments and advocacy for the State of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to a colleague from Taylorville, Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), somebody who serves a district just to the south of me. We share Springfield together. He represents some of the best institutions of higher learning in our State, and I am proud to share many of the Lincoln sites with my friend.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Congressman LAHOOD, and all my good friends from the Illinois delegation who are here today.

This is really a privilege for me to be able to be here to talk about Illinois' 200th anniversary. It is my home State. It wasn't always my home State. As a matter of fact, my family moved us from our hometown of Des Moines, Iowa, to Taylorville, Illinois, when I was 7 years old, in 1977.

Taylorville was a new experience for me, but it was a home that we established. My parents were able to achieve their dream of owning their own business, which gave my family the chance to achieve the American Dream, and it was right here in Illinois. It was in our home State that celebrates our 200th anniversary.

Taylorville is the place where my wife grew up, and it is where we choose to raise our three children. But it is also my proud hometown, and I love to talk about it because it is where I grew up, but it is also where so many things have happened. Because I have taken this job as a Member of Congress, this opportunity, I have learned a lot more about my hometown.

A couple of highlights that I want to bring out: one, of course, was Taylorville's basketball team from the 1940s still holds the IHSA record. I believe they were 45-0, with big-name players like Johnny Orr and Ron Bontemps.

Edward Mills Purcell was born in Taylorville and raised in Taylorville. He actually was the Nobel Peace Prize winner in physics. He actually created nuclear magnetic resonance, which is the backbone of what we know today as an MRI. It came out of my hometown in Taylorville, Illinois.

I am so honored that, since 2013, I have been blessed to be able to walk this floor and serve the 13th Congressional District with these great colleagues from our home State. The 13th Congressional District goes way beyond my hometown of Taylorville. It stretches in 14 counties, and one area that I know that has been talked about tonight is Springfield, the State capital, Lincoln's hometown.

I have got to give it to my colleague, Mr. LAHOOD. Yes, he represents more geography that Lincoln represented in his one term here in Congress, and Mrs. BUSTOS represents part of Lincoln's old district. I understand that. But as somebody who represents Lincoln himself in Lincoln's tomb, I think I represent Lincoln the most.

What this tells you, this friendly rivalry that we three have, it goes to show you that, in one term in Congress and then his time as the President of our great Nation, Abraham Lincoln took three Members of Congress to follow in his footsteps in his one district. There is no way any of us in this institution can follow in the footsteps of Abraham Lincoln, but it is such a privilege to know that we three share such history. And that is exactly why we are here today, to talk about the 200th anniversary of our home State, and we would not be talking about Illinois without Abraham Lincoln.

There is a story and a statue in my hometown that has Lincoln and a pig. The old stories are that Lincoln came to practice when he was a lawyer and complained about the pig squealing under the steps of our local courthouse. So we in Taylorville honor Abe and his comments on the pig. Come visit, see the statue, and come celebrate Abraham Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln was a leader that, obviously, our Nation needed at that time. We stand here in the House of Representatives and we debate issues that may seem important today, but, compared to what our great President Abraham Lincoln and the Members of Congress at the time leading up to our Civil War, the issues that they had to discuss and they had to debate, I believe history has shown us that we will never—and, hopefully, never ever—experience what those elected officials did in Lincoln's time.

But it took the courage of Abraham Lincoln to actually keep our Nation together and keep the stability and the growth of the great State of Illinois as part of this United States of America for 200 years. His leadership and ability to unite people is something I strive to do in Congress every day.

We certainly have a diverse State, and I want to highlight some of the things that Abraham Lincoln is probably not known for.

Abe Lincoln actually was the inspiration for landmark legislation that he signed that created the Morrill Land-Grant Acts that gave us land-grant universities, including the greatest land-grant university that I joke with my colleagues about from throughout this great Nation. The greatest land-grant is the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, which I am proud to have in my district.

As we move on to talk about important issues, I cannot leave this floor tonight without talking about the importance of agriculture in our home State of Illinois. This past August, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue; chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, MIKE CONAWAY; and so many Members, including Congressman LAHOOD, Congresswoman BUSTOS, and others, joined me and other members of the House Agriculture Committee for a farm bill listening session at the largest outdoor farm event in the country, the Farm Progress Show in Decatur, Il-

linois. Just the fact that this show is in Illinois every other year truly highlights the importance of Illinois agriculture to the rest of the world.

I am proud to be able to serve on the House Agriculture Committee and serve as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research. And when we talk about agriculture and our ability to feed the world, it stems right from our home State of Illinois.

With 72,000 farms and over 2,600 food manufacturers, Illinois is a national leader. We are the leading producer of soybeans, corn, swine, and one of the largest producers of ethanol. As we move ahead into the next farm bill debate, I am proud to be able to take Illinois' voice to the House Agriculture Committee with my colleague Congressman BOST and my other colleague Congresswoman BUSTOS.

I am proud to represent central Illinois and the 13th District here in Washington, and I hope that those who follow us for the next 200 years enjoy legislating in a bipartisan way as much as we do together in the Illinois delegation.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman DAVIS for those wonderful words regarding Illinois. I think we can agree there is enough Lincoln history and heritage to go around to all of us. So I thank the gentleman for his advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Deerfield, Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), who represents many of the northwest suburbs and part of Cook County.

□ 2015

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring our home, the great State of Illinois, on its bicentennial anniversary of its statehood in 1813.

Over the next year, we are celebrating all that Illinois has contributed to American history, culture, innovation, and more over the past 200 years.

On December 3, 1818, Illinois became the 21st State to join this Union. From humble beginnings with only 34,000 people, today, Illinois is the fifth most populous State, with almost 13 million people. Then a frontier prairie State, Illinois now sits firmly at the center of our national life, playing an indelible role in fueling, building, and transporting America's rise.

We are proud of our history as the Land of Lincoln, where, arguably, our greatest U.S. President began his career, raised his family, and first ran for office.

As we have talked about, Abraham Lincoln was not the only President with roots in Illinois. President Grant and President Obama all called Illinois home, and President Reagan was the only President who was actually born in Illinois.

Illinois is my home, too, and like those Presidents, I wasn't born in Illi-

nois. I moved to Illinois 35 years ago—hard to believe it has been that long—to attend college at Northwestern University, immediately falling in love with this great State.

At Northwestern University, I met my wife. She grew up in Glencoe, we settled in Deerfield. We have raised two boys, made our career and our home in Illinois, and, most importantly, made our family in Illinois.

Some of the interesting things to share about Illinois: Illinois had the first aquarium built in Chicago in 1893. The very first skyscraper in the entire world was built in Chicago in 1885. The tallest building in North America, formerly the Sears Tower, now the Willis Tower, is in Chicago. Evanston, home to Northwestern University, is also the home to the ice cream sundae.

Illinois has a lot to be proud of, and will continue to be. Illinois has offered me and my family a tremendous opportunity, but now the task before us—the 18 members of the Illinois delegation who stand before you today thank you for organizing this. Our task now is to make sure that Illinois continues to work to create the same and better opportunities for the next generation.

Personally, I am incredibly lucky to represent the 10th District of Illinois, which stretches from the edges of Cook County all the way north along Lake Michigan to the borders of Wisconsin, from the lake all the way west to Fox Lake. It is an incredible district. It is one of the most thoughtful, engaged constituencies in all of Congress.

My constituents reach out and talk to me about what matters, what they care about. They freely share their opinions, and I welcome the opportunity to hear what is important, to hear their priorities and values, and I have the greatest privilege in my life to represent them in this great body.

What I hear about from my constituents is hope for the future, the belief that Illinois, Chicago, the 10th District, is going to lead this Nation. My district is a district that focuses on education because we know that educating every one of our children, from kindergarten all the way through high school, to college and even grad school, to making sure all of our kids have the skills and lessons they need to succeed, is the way we are going to continue to lead in a global economy.

When it comes to economy, my district has the fourth largest concentration of manufacturing jobs of any district in the entire country. We have innovation, we have manufacturing, we have transportation, because we know, if we are going to grow our economy, we are going to invent things in America, make them in America, and ship them around the world; and Illinois and the 10th District of Illinois is leading the way.

Our district has a great focus on the environment. I have the privilege of representing the largest part of Lake Michigan in the Illinois delegation; Lake Michigan that provides fresh

water to 30 million people. But Illinoisans know that we need to protect our environment to invest in our future, to make sure that our children have clean air, fresh water, and a good, healthy future. That all comes out of Illinois.

For 200 years, Illinois has been a place where people could achieve the promise of a better future. Looking to the future, we will continue to succeed by offering high-quality education, good, well-paying jobs, and a secure, dignified retirement for all our citizens.

I am proud to represent this great State. I am proud to have the privilege to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, fighting for the priorities and values of Illinois. I am proud of the history our State has provided; of the example we have given not just today, but for 200 years. 2018 is going to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of the State of Illinois, but I know that our best days still lie ahead of us. I know that, together, we are going to work to make our future solid and our kids' opportunities secure.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman SCHNEIDER for his very complimentary words of his district and the State of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I next yield to the gentleman from the Illinois delegation, Congressman RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY, one of our newest members whose hometown is Schaumburg, Illinois, but his roots go downstate to Peoria, Illinois. We are proud to have him as a Peorian. His parents live in my district as constituents. He has hit the ground running here in Congress and is proud of his Illinois roots both downstate and now representing the suburbs of Chicago.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LAHOOD for organizing this Special Order. I am so honored to be a part of it.

As the Congressman mentioned, my name is RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY, a Congressman representing the great Eighth District of Illinois, which are the west and northwest suburbs of Chicago.

I am proud to join my colleagues tonight in celebrating Illinois' bicentennial—the 200th year—of statehood. There is something special in celebrating the anniversary of Illinois' entry into the Union, as it was the State which produced the man who would save it.

I am proud to be from the Land of Lincoln, but for all of its national and historic importance, my love of our home State is also very personal. I did not have the honor of being born in Illinois, but it is my home and always will be because our State welcomed my family with open arms, as it has for so many others over the last 200 years.

You see, I was born in New Delhi, India, and when I was 3 months old, my parents brought our family to the United States so my father could continue his education and our family

could embrace all the opportunities of this great country.

It wasn't easy and there was struggle, but my family came to know that the American Dream of building a better life was possible because the people of Illinois made it so.

We had our challenges, but everything changed for the better when my father was offered a position as an engineering professor in a mysterious place called Peoria, Illinois. They did not know where Peoria, Illinois, was at the time. They unfurled the map, found out where Peoria was, packed the U-Haul in New York State, and started driving and driving and driving. They made it to Peoria, but that was when the golden years in our family started. That is where they educated their two sons in wonderful public schools. That is where they bought their first home. That is where they entered the middle class.

Every night, my father would say something at the dinner table along the lines of: Think of the greatness of this country and of Illinois, and make sure that the governments in both places are there for the next families who need it.

My father began teaching. My brother and I went to school in Peoria, and Peoria became our home. More than three decades have passed. My father is still teaching at Bradley University, and he and my mother still live in the house I grew up in.

Though I went away for college, I always knew where I would be when it was time to start my own family. My wife, Priya, and I were married in Illinois, and all three of our children are being raised there. It will always be our home, for all the joys of the Cubs' wins and for all the challenges of its winters.

As I look back on the opportunities my family had, that I have had, and that my children will have, I will feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude to Illinois.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KRISHNAMOORTHY for those heartfelt words about Illinois. I appreciate those very, very much.

Mr. Speaker, next I yield to one of the deans of our delegation from the city of Chicago, a strong advocate for our State and the city, Congressman DANNY DAVIS.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank Representative LAHOOD for organizing this opportunity for all of us from Illinois to talk about the greatness of our State.

We have had on the floor individuals from very different parts of the State, but Illinois has always had a reputation of having one of the most congenial delegations in Congress any way you cut it. We have always had that during the time that I have been here, and to be able to talk about the diversity.

As Representative KRISHNAMOORTHY was making his comments, you could hear the emotion in his voice as he

talked about how Illinois had welcomed his family. And that is what Illinois has done. It has welcomed individuals from all parts of the world. Individuals, large numbers of Puerto Ricans who came from Puerto Rico; Mexican Americans; individuals who were immigrants; African Americans, like myself, who migrated from the rural South.

No, I didn't grow up in Illinois. I wasn't born in Illinois. As a matter of fact, I was born in Arkansas. Of course, it is the only State in the Bible that Noah looked over his ark and saw.

Large numbers of individuals from my State, from Mississippi, from Louisiana, from Texas, from Tennessee, from Alabama, and from other places migrated to Illinois, and especially to Chicago.

I have the opportunity to represent what I consider to be the most fascinating piece of geography in North America that is compressed into a political subdivision. My district begins at Lake Michigan. You can't go any further east. It abuts the lake. It is downtown Chicago. It is The Loop. It is the Magnificent Mile. It is Water Tower Place. It is the future's industry. It is the big banks. It is home to corporate America. Major corporations have their headquarters in downtown Chicago.

But it also has more hospitals than any other single district in America, which means that it is a health mecca. It also has some of the first of the community health centers, the federally qualified health centers, that were organized, the Mile Squares, the Near Norths, the Martin Luther Kings, Access Healths.

It is a fascinating place, but then a part of it is home to Ernest Hemingway. There are more Frank Lloyd Wright structures in my district in a place called Oak Park than any other place in the world.

With the exception of a few places, it is the museum capital of the Nation, every kind of entity. But the diversity of its people, some very wealthy individuals, but then the areas that were devastated by the riots after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

But some of the greatness of people like John H. Johnson, who started, developed, and owned Johnson Publishing Company. Parker House Sausage. We don't do a great deal of farming, but we do a lot of other kinds of things, businesses like Ariel Capital, Loop Capital.

□ 2030

These businesses provide an opportunity for others to interact. Great people, I have had the good fortune to just know a whole bunch of young athletes: Isaiah Thomas, Kevin Garnett, Doc Rivers, and Darryl Stingley. All of these guys grew up in my district—not just in Chicago, but in my district.

I represent the Chicago Bulls. I represent the Bears, the Black Hawks, and a little bit of the White Sox. Unfortunately, the Cubs are a little further

north where Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY is and represents, but we embrace them also.

President Barack Obama lived right at the edge of my district.

Chicago, Illinois, is filled with inclusivity. Carol Moseley Braun was the first African-American woman to be elected to the United States Senate from the State of Illinois. Of course, Barack Obama was also elected to the Senate. Roland Burris was a member of the Senate, and Abraham Lincoln.

I grew up as a fan of Abraham Lincoln because of the role that he and Illinois played in the abolition of slavery. My mother was a great Abraham Lincoln fan, so as a little boy, I knew every story that you could think of about Abraham Lincoln.

The thing that I am most proud of, though, is the inclusivity and the diversification of our State.

Representative LAHOOD has represented and demonstrated what Illinois is all about, and that is bringing all of us together to extol some of the virtues of our great State. I thank the gentleman for his leadership, and I thank the gentleman for his action.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman DAVIS for those wonderful words about the State of Illinois, its history, and the city of Chicago and all his advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, as you can see, each of our districts has played a role in not only shaping Illinois' history, but that of the entire Nation and the whole world. Whether it is the business hub of Chicago, the farmers downstate, or the many Main Street businesses in every city, Illinois' influence can be seen every day no matter where you are.

That is why our bicentennial theme of "Born, Built, and Grown" is so appropriate. As 2018 begins and we continue to get closer to our State's birthday on December 3, 2018, bicentennial events all across Illinois will help us recognize the important people and products that our State has to offer. For example, a bicentennial beer has already been judged and selected, hailing from the Hand of Fate Brewing Company in Petersburg, Illinois, within my congressional district.

I encourage everyone to check out the full list of events at illinois200.com. I am sure I will be running into many of my colleagues at several of them throughout the year as they happen across the State.

While Illinois' first 200 years have included both struggle and success, our State should be a point of pride for all of us. I think we heard that tonight. While we have accomplished so much, as my colleagues and I have talked about here tonight, there remains much to be done. Illinois remains on the path of prosperity, and the hard work and determination that the people of Illinois are known for will surely get us there.

Mr. Speaker, I will just close by wishing Illinois a happy early birthday.

We look forward to celebrating over the next year.

I am proud to be born and raised in the State of Illinois and that my wife and I are raising our three boys in Illinois. We hope they stay and prosper in Illinois, and we look forward to this next year of celebration for 200 years of Illinois being in this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

GRADING THE GOP TAX PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it was really fun interacting with my colleagues and learning about the great State in which we live and have the opportunity to represent.

But, Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to vote on the GOP tax plan, I decided that I would grade the bill and look a little bit at the difference between what has been promised and the reality of what is in the final legislation.

We were told that there would be middle class tax relief and that nobody in the middle class is going to get a tax increase. We have been looking for it, but instead, after 10 years, millions of middle class taxpayers will be paying more, and the majority of the tax cuts will go to the corporations and to the 1 percent.

We were told that it would eliminate tax breaks for the wealthy and that wealthy proponents of the bill will personally take a hit from the GOP tax plan—another failure. This bill and this plan violates every principle and every tenet of economic justice.

The vast majority of the benefits go to the large corporations and the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans. All major tax breaks remain and many new ones have been added, including the insidious new 20 percent deduction for so-called passthrough entities like real estate developers and others. Because of the fact that the new language wasn't in the bill passed by the House and Senate, floor amendments to eliminate the provision will not be permitted.

The alternative minimum tax, that safety net designed to thwart clever tax dodgers, is gone. The biological heart of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska is handed over to oil companies for minimal return of Federal tax dollars.

We were told that Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid would be protected, that this was going to be a revenue-neutral tax reform and that the bill would pay for itself—failure again. The trillion-plus dollars in new deficit spending will be blamed on these programs, and pressure to cut them will begin shortly after the new year.

We were told that tax cuts will spur economic growth—again, failure. U.S.

corporate profits are already historically high, but corporations are not making investments in plants, research, and new technology to grow the economy.

What we need is increased demand, higher wages, returning dislocated workers to the economy, rebuilding aging cities, and rebuilding infrastructure to revitalize communities. The redistribution of income away from low- to high-income households reduces consumption spending, which reduces demand.

The bill will be disastrous to the work of charitable nonprofits, reducing charitable giving by \$13 billion or more, annually, destroying more than 220,000 nonprofit jobs and impairing the ability of nonprofits to address community needs.

Repatriating overseas corporate profit will stimulate the economy; that is what we were told. U.S. multinationals currently have \$752 billion in taxes on the \$2.6 trillion in profits that they are holding offshore. They have already found creative ways to use those dollars here at home without paying taxes. Worse yet, the repatriation provision helps conceal the permanent and growing costs of tax provisions that would lose revenue over the next decade.

What is needed is linking tax breaks to specific targeted investment here at home, such as the new market credit, which, as of the end of fiscal year 2016, had generated \$8 of private investment for every \$1 of Federal funding; created 178 million square feet of manufacturing, office, and retail space; and financed over 5,400 businesses.

We were told that we were going to be able to reduce health costs and health insurance for everybody—failure again. The elimination of the penalty for people who go without health insurance will result in some 13 million Americans losing their health insurance. That includes more than 500,000 Illinois residents.

Healthcare premiums will rise by about 10 percent in most years, and for the lowest income working families, with 10 million children under 17, there will either be no improvement in their child tax credit or a token increase of \$1 to \$75. Low- and modest-income working families, with another 14 million children, will receive a child tax credit increase of more than \$75 but less than the full \$1,000 per child increase that families at higher income levels would receive.

We were told that we were going to be able to file our taxes on a postcard, simplify and reduce the size of the Tax Code. That is not going to happen.

Final grade, corporations and the 1 percent—the wealthiest people in the country—will win, and the rest of society will lose.

For me, Mr. Speaker, that is not an acceptable result. I could never vote for this bill, so count me out. I vote "no."

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.