

This, my friends, is a tax that strips families of the American Dream they worked so hard to achieve.

The inheritance tax takes money from folks who know how to use it to create jobs and donate to charities and puts it in the hands of those responsible for a \$20 trillion national debt.

Mr. Speaker, I came up here to speak on behalf of the job creators that employ more than half of America's workforce. These are the men and women who suffer directly from politicians' knee-jerk reactions, politicians who have never met a payroll and have never worked in the private sector.

Congress has talked about tax reform for decades, but we haven't seen major reforms in 30 years. Again, I am asking this Congress and this President to act now.

In God we trust.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND THE WOMEN OF DETROIT

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month and to show some R-E-S-P-E-C-T to a real Detroit and Michigan legend, my dear friend and Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin.

Aretha has taught us to be a proud "Natural Woman." She has forced us, not just to "Think" about it, but also to act. Once called the voice of Black America, Ms. Franklin has been a champion in the African-American community for decades and in her hometown of Detroit.

With a Hollywood star, 20 R&B number one hits, 18 Grammys, and a Medal of Freedom from President George Bush, she represents the best of Detroit and of our country.

This month and every month, we must stand up to lift women up across this country, ensuring that our laws and policies empower and protect all women.

I am proud to call Aretha Franklin my friend and to wish her a happy birthday, which was March 25, and to stand alongside this great champion for women everywhere this month, Women's History Month, and every day.

IN MEMORY OF CAPTAIN JOHN JOSEPH KEARNEY, USN

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Captain John Joseph Kearney, who passed away on Pearl Harbor Day last year at the too-young age of 62.

After graduating just 2 years before me at Catholic High School for Boys in Little Rock, John received a Presidential appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Upon gradua-

tion and commission, he followed in his father's footsteps and pursued a lifetime career in the Navy, ultimately retiring at the rank of captain.

Captain Kearney dedicated his life to his distinguished military career and received numerous honors and medals for his service, which included work here in Washington and on the 7th Fleet staff in Japan.

John leaves behind a legacy of warmth and passion, and his example is one all Americans and Arkansans can admire. I extend my respect, affection, and prayers to his fine family and loved ones.

RECOGNIZING THERESA LOPEZ

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Theresa Lopez from Madera, California. Theresa was chosen by my office to be March's Heroine of the Month for the 17th Congressional District.

For nearly 10 years, Theresa has served as a veterans service representative at the Madera Veterans Service Office. Theresa understands that our valley veterans and their families deserve the best care and service that they can have because the men and women who have served our Nation's military, members of your family and members of my family, have made sacrifices that we should never, ever forget.

Theresa knows. She's been working with my office since 2008, and I know that she works hard every day to ensure that local veterans are receiving the VA benefits they have earned.

Theresa also does outreach to the Chowchilla State men's prison and the VA community-based clinic in Oakhurst, and she is a member of the county veterans court. She has also served as secretary of the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers since 2012.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service of Theresa Lopez and her strong commitment to serving valley veterans, for we can never, ever say thank you enough not only for our veterans, but for the good work that Theresa has done.

God bless her, and God bless the United States of America.

HONORING CAPITOL POLICE SPECIAL AGENT ANGEL MORALES

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible man, Capitol Police Special Agent Angel Morales, who is retiring after 21 years on the force. Angel has dedicated his entire life to serving our country.

From 1986 to 1991, he put on the uniform of our country serving in the U.S.

Army, working his way up to sergeant. From there, Angel traded his Army uniform for a police uniform and served with the D.C. Metro Police.

Starting in 1996, Angel joined the Capitol Police force, where he has protected thousands of visitors, staff, and Members of Congress who come through our Nation's Capitol every single day.

Since 1998, Angel has been assigned to the United States Capitol Police Dignitary Protection Division, working with many House leaders, including Dick Armey, ROY BLUNT, Eric Cantor, and, for the last 3 years, as the leader of my detail team.

I would like to thank Angel's wife, Susan, and his two kids, Tatiana and Mike, for selflessly allowing Angel to serve our Nation in these roles.

Angel, on behalf of my family and the entire Capitol family, thanks for your service. We will miss you, young man.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TIES TO RUSSIA

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, the American people are demanding a real investigation into President Trump's ties to Russia and Vladimir Putin.

I was a journalist for nearly two decades, and for part of that time, I was an investigative reporter. I could tell you that, where there is smoke, there is usually fire. Right now, smoke is billowing out of the White House.

No matter how many times President Trump tries to distract us with a tweet, no matter how many times President Trump advisers have held secret meetings with the Russians, no matter how many times the Republican chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence changes his story to protect President Trump, sooner or later, the truth will come out.

Vladimir Putin has a driving mission and that is to weaken America from within.

So to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I ask one simple question: What would President Ronald Reagan do?

Well, I can tell you. He would put our national security ahead of partisan politics. He would follow the facts, and he would leave no stone unturned.

Our democracy demands a complete, thorough, and independent investigation into President Trump's ties with the Putin regime.

RUSSIA'S THREAT TO OUR DEMOCRACY

(Mr. MCEACHIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, before my time in Congress, I was a trial lawyer. As a trial lawyer, I learned that,

where there is smoke, there is fire. Mr. Speaker, I am here to tell you that there is a fire threatening our Republic.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it: Russia attacked our country when it tried to meddle in our elections. But we have a Commander in Chief who will barely acknowledge this act, much less condemn it.

Mr. Speaker, we hear tough talk from the President when it comes to Iran, North Korea, and China; but when Russia moves missiles in violation of treaty obligations, when a Russian spy ship patrols just outside our coastal waters, we hear crickets. As evidence mounts that Russia is interfering with the democracies of Europe, we hear crickets. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, this President sees no moral difference between our democracy and the Putin regime.

Mr. Speaker, there is smoke; there is fire. Our Republic is being threatened. We are the first responders, and we can only put this fire out with the truth. We need to establish an independent commission to investigate the Trump-Russian ties and find our way to the truth.

COMMEMORATING 20 YEARS OF THE GLUCK FELLOWS PROGRAMS OF THE ARTS

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate 20 years of the Gluck Fellows Program of the Arts at the University of California, Riverside.

Since 1996, the Max H. Gluck Foundation has supported undergraduate and graduate students as they bring innovative arts programming to schools, libraries, and community centers in my district.

The Gluck Fellows Program of the Arts has provided students, families, and other community members with the opportunity to experience art, music, dance, theater, and art history through workshops and performances. Over the past 20 years, more than 300,000 Inland Empire residents have benefited from this program.

I congratulate UCR's Chancellor Kim Wilcox; Dean of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Milagros Pena; Gluck Fellows Director Erika Suderburg; and especially the Max H. Gluck Foundation and its chair, Dr. Jon Kaswick.

I wish continued success to the Gluck Fellows Program of the Arts at the University of California, Riverside.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 29, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 29, 2017, at 9:28 a.m.:

Appointments:
Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1431, EPA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD REFORM ACT OF 2017

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 233 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 233

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1431) to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the House Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 233, providing for consideration of H.R. 1431, the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2017. This legislation will reform the Environmental Protection Agency, or the EPA, Science Advisory Board to ensure that it is unbiased and transparent in performing its duties.

The SAB, the Science Advisory Board, was first established by Congress in 1978 and plays a vital role in reviewing the scientific foundation of EPA's regulatory decisions, while also providing critical advice to us here in Congress as well as the Agency. The information it reviews is used to justify important policy decisions at the EPA and should be held to the highest standards because it is imperative that the regulated community and the public can have confidence that EPA decisions are grounded, that science should be both reproducible and transparent.

However, shortcomings with the current process have arisen in recent years, including limited public participation, EPA interference with expert advice, potential conflicts of interest, and serious deficiencies with the process to select the board members. Far too often, the SAB's authority has been used by the EPA to silence dissenting scientific views and opinions, rather than promoting the impartiality and fairness that is the cornerstone of unbiased scientific advice.

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At its inception, the SAB was intended to function independently in order to provide candid advice and guidance to the EPA. Yet, if the Agency undermines this autonomy, then the SAB's value to both the EPA and Congress, I believe, is severely diminished.

Mr. Speaker, to address these issues, H.R. 1431 would reform the SAB and reaffirm its independence so the public and regulated entities can have that confidence that sound science is driving policy decisions at the EPA.

The bill makes several important reforms to the SAB, such as requiring board members to be qualified experts; disclosing conflicts of interest and sources of bias; and ensuring that the views of members, including the dissenting members, are available to the public. It provides the public with the opportunity to participate in the advisory activities of the board and gives people the ability to view the agency's responses to issues raised by the SAB.

Additionally, the bill requires that at least 10 percent of the board is comprised of State, local, and tribal experts; that board members do not participate in advisory activities that involve reviews or evaluations of their own work; and that EPA publicly disclose all board member recusals; and that comments are published in the Federal Register.

So these reforms will improve the existing regulatory process, while also reinvigorating the scientific judgements that are often directly linked to regulatory decisions.

The EPA relies on SAB reviews and studies to support new regulations, new standards, assessments, and other Agency actions. A transparent and accountable Science Advisory Board is critically important and can assure the public that the data that Federal agencies rely on is scientifically sound and unbiased.