

public service and his everlasting commitment to improving the quality of life for our citizens. I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to Congressman Mathis' family and friends during this difficult time.

We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the holy spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask at this time for the House to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the late Congressman Dawson Mathis.

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RECOGNIZING THE 17TH ANNUAL MIRACLE MAKERS FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Women's Committee of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami as the members gear up to celebrate the 17th annual Miracle Makers Fashion Show and Luncheon on April 27.

Through its mentoring programs, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami has given our community over 50 years of proven success in providing at-risk youth with the tools and resources to discover their true potential and thrive in their personal, academic, and professional lives.

Thanks to the invaluable dedication of its staff and volunteers, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami has rightfully earned its reputation as the gold standard of mentoring youngsters.

The upcoming Miracle Makers Fashion Show will highlight some of our community's most outstanding miracle makers while bringing attention to the positive impact that mentoring has on our youth.

I encourage all south Floridians who want to give back to our community to lend their time and their support to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami. Together, we can make a brighter future for all.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION NEEDED

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, today, as a member of the House Oversight Committee, I had the opportunity to view classified documents related to General Michael Flynn's disturbing foreign financial relationships.

I am very proud that Chairman CHAFFETZ and Ranking Member CUMMINGS worked together in a bipartisan fashion to bring those documents before our committee. The issue of Rus-

sian interference in our democracy is an issue that affects everyone. I hope that all Members will have the chance to review these critical materials.

While the information in these documents is classified, I remain profoundly disturbed by the additional questions they raised. Unfortunately, I also remain very concerned about how they are being portrayed by the White House.

This growing credibility gap between the administration and the American people only underscores the need for an independent commission to uncover all the facts. I am heartened, however, that today, Chairman CHAFFETZ and Ranking Member CUMMINGS came together in a bipartisan fashion regarding this issue.

COAL REGULATIONS

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of talk lately about President Trump's first 100 days in office.

The first 100 days of an administration offer a chance to watch a new President turn proposed policy changes into reality. In southwestern Pennsylvania, we are seeing President Trump fulfill his pledge to end the war on coal, and we are seeing real change.

For example, the very day that President Trump signed legislation overturning one of former President Obama's anti-coal rules, a coal company in Somerset County announced it would open a brand-new coal mine that will create at least 70 new middle class jobs. It would be great if President Trump can make it out to the mine's grand opening ceremony scheduled for June 8.

I have met with miners as their mines were closed during the previous administration, and I listened to their stories as they worried about their kids and paying their mortgages.

It is a new day, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to more employment opportunities being created as we begin to roll back the job-killing regulations in Washington, D.C.

REJECT DANGEROUS CUTS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last week in Michigan, I toured the Bay Area Women's Center, which provides emergency shelter and counseling to survivors of domestic violence or sexual violence and their children. I toured the Women's Center to get a better understanding of their important work and see what they do and how they would be impacted by President Trump's proposed budget cuts.

Two-thirds of the Women's Center's budget comes from Federal grants

through the Violence Against Women Act, one of the first bills I cosponsored. I saw it signed into law by President Obama.

I am concerned that the cuts that President Trump has proposed would effectively eliminate the important lifesaving care and rescue this organization provides to women, children, and others facing domestic violence. There are 15,000 citizens in mid-Michigan who could lose access to these life-saving, important services.

What kind of country are we if we don't provide this sort of support to our most vulnerable citizens at the moment of their need?

We need to reject these dangerous cuts.

GE'S ECONOMIC IMPACT IN NORTH CAROLINA

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, GE will hold its 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareowners in Asheville, North Carolina. The company will also be celebrating its 125th anniversary.

GE likes to hold its shareowners meeting in a different city each year to highlight the company's strong presence in communities across the United States. It certainly has significant business operations in North Carolina.

GE supports nearly 18,000 jobs in the State between its direct employees and its suppliers. For every one GE job, three North Carolina jobs are supported. The company also generates \$7.2 billion in total production output per year in North Carolina, and compensates its employees more than twice the State average.

GE makes this investment in our great State because it knows that the workers in North Carolina, especially those at the GE facility in West Jefferson, in the Fifth District, work hard and have a commitment to excellence.

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Autism Awareness Month.

It is shocking to know that at least 1 in 68 children have been identified with autism spectrum disorder in the United States. My own family has been affected by this situation with my nephew Joshua, who is now 20 years old, a bright and energetic young man who is autistic.

Mr. Speaker, early detection and treatment plans are crucial to the development of a child's social, behavioral, and communications skills. As such, we must invest in the research of new interventions, provide support to families and caregivers, and fund programs that assist those living with autism well into adulthood. Right now,

especially when they age into adulthood, those resources are not there.

Mr. Speaker, Sesame Street recently introduced a character with autism named Julia to teach audiences about inclusion. This month is part of a larger conversation about autism derived from a place of positivity.

I am hopeful that Julia can help convey such a message to our youth, and I will continue supporting programs that help people with autism and their families by providing the tools they need to succeed.

CONGRATULATING WESLEY SO ON HIS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wesley So of Minnetonka, Minnesota, who earlier this month became the United States chess champion. At 23 years of age, Wesley is already one of the world's top chess grandmasters.

In St. Louis, for the U.S. Chess Championship, Wesley So and his opponent went into a playoff after a two-way tie for first place. In the two-game playoff, So won the first game handily and was able to force a draw in the second game with a perpetual check with his knight. He extended his no-loss streak to 67 games, one of the longest runs in the game's history.

Mr. Speaker, Wesley So has quickly made a name for himself in the world of chess since coming to America from the Philippines 5 years ago. He is now the world's number two ranked player and is in prime position to play the world's top player, Norway's Magnus Carlsen.

Congratulations to Wesley So on an impressive run of dominance. We will be cheering for him as he continues to work on becoming the first American chess grandmaster in more than 40 years.

AVOID GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this Congress to work together to avoid a shutdown of the Federal Government this week.

We must pass a clean funding bill that Members from both parties can support, without any ideological riders. We cannot allow the American public and central coast families in my district to foot the bill resulting from partisan gridlock. A shutdown would mean disrupting economic growth and potentially triggering job losses across the country, as we experienced in the partisan 2013 shutdown.

A shutdown damages both our economy and national security. It is vital that this Congress put forward a clean funding resolution. It would be irre-

sponsible for us to engage in partisan political games with the funding of our Federal Government.

HONORING NANCY LOMBARDO ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nancy Lombardo on her well-deserved retirement.

Nancy is the executive officer for the Clearfield County League on Social Services in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District. For the past nearly 20 years, she has been instrumental in leading several programs that the league provides for the betterment of local communities.

Nancy manages several programs, including Child Care Information Services of Clarion, Clearfield, and Jefferson Counties; Children First, which is a seminar for divorced parents to help cope with divorce and how it affects their children; Safe Haven, which provides a safe meeting place for custodial parents to have their children visit with the noncustodial parent; as well as the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Nancy has given her time to numerous boards to advocate for children's needs, day care services, child advocacy centers, children youth services, and more. She has been a valuable and dedicated leader to the league for many years, and she will be missed.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I wish Nancy Lombardo all the best in her retirement.

EDUCATION FUNDING IN THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, our children are this Nation's greatest asset. Our future is in their hands. We have to make sure that they have the tools they need to lead our country and tackle whatever challenges the future holds.

This is why I was shocked the President's budget makes drastic cuts to education—cuts that will have the biggest impact on kids who need our help the most.

In my district, a quarter of our kids live in poverty, with parents working long hours and multiple jobs just to make ends meet. Yet President Trump wants to cut before- and afterschool programs, as well as over \$4 million in programs to hire and train teachers and reduce class size.

As this Congress crafts our budget, I ask my Republican colleagues to reject these cuts and to truly invest in our future. We will never make America great if we leave our kids behind.

NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to April being National Donate Life Month.

There are currently 117,992 people who need lifesaving organ transplants. Of those, there are nearly 1,000 Kentuckians on that list. To put it in perspective, every 10 minutes, someone is added to that list.

Despite advances in medicine, there continues to be a gap between supply and demand. On average, 22 people die each day while waiting for a transplant. Kentucky legislation passed in 2006 enabling its residents to have their wishes documented through the Kentucky Organ Donor Registry. By joining the registry, an individual's wishes are documented electronically in a safe and secure database. Several States have also created their own registry.

Ninety-five of Americans are in favor of being a donor, but only 54 percent are registered. This is why registering to be an organ donor is so important.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize my field representative, Amelia Wilson, who received a liver transplant in 2005, and is currently awaiting a second transplant. Amelia, my longtime friend and a fellow Monroe County native, resides in Livingston County with her husband, Allen Wilson.

After courageously undergoing her first transplant, Amelia has dedicated herself to advocating for organ donation. We are lucky to have her serving the First District as our field representative. Beyond her service to Kentucky, her activism for this noble cause is what truly elevates her as an advocate, friend, and servant of the First District.

During National Donate Life Month, I encourage everyone to remember the bravery and diligence of people like Amelia. This April, please consider the importance of donating life.

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WE MUST AVOID A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to do everything in our power to avoid a government shutdown. Federal workers protect our public health and environment, they deliver our mail, they help our businesses and home buyers, and they keep us safe. Shutting down the government would suspend their paychecks, damage their morale, and shut off the essential services they provide.

My friend, Mr. WITTMAN, and I have drafted legislation to protect the pay of Federal employees in case Congress and the White House fail to reach an agreement. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor the