

I was proud to sponsor that bill with Congressman RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI. It will help all Americans across all sectors and industries because all education is career education.

As chairman of the Nutrition Subcommittee of the Committee on Agriculture, I want to talk about food service careers.

Earlier this spring, I had the opportunity to visit the DC Central Kitchen right here in our Nation's Capital. DC Central Kitchen feeds the most vulnerable among us, but it fights hunger differently: it offers skills-based education, empowerment, and career opportunities that allow people to finally be free from hunger and poverty.

The CEO there said, "You can't feed your way out of poverty," and I wholeheartedly agree. DC Central Kitchen feeds the hungry, but also teaches people the skills needed to find employment in the hospitality industry. That is a CTE program: helping people find jobs that pay living wages and obtain lasting careers.

Now, that is something we can all get behind.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE REVEREND NATHANIEL DIXON

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Reverend Nathaniel Dixon. On Sunday, Reverend Dixon will be giving his last sermon at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church.

While this Sunday may be his last sermon, I have no doubt that the lives he has touched, parishioners, colleagues, neighbors, all of us, will continue to uphold the lessons he taught us and will remember the action he has taken over a long and hard-fought career.

Reverend Dixon is a true renaissance man whose life has always been committed to New York City. For 27 years, he was a music teacher and, later, an administrator, and also an executive director of the Saxrack Learning Center.

Old Satchmo, the great Louie Armstrong, once said: "Musicians don't retire; they just stop when there's no more music in them."

Reverend Dixon never stopped teaching music, and he has inculcated this love and passion into the lives of students and parishioners. "Music helps," he said, "because there is awe in them."

Thank you, Reverend Dixon, for your commitment and willingness to become a leader and a role model for many years to come in New York's 13th Congressional District.

We love you and wish you the very best.

HONORING ROCKY CARROLL, TEXAS BOOTMAKER

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in Texas, whether you are two-stepping, herding cattle, or sitting in the summer heat enjoying some barbecue, you will rarely find Texans without their boots. And, Mr. Speaker, the finest boots in Texas were made by Houston legend, Rocky Carroll.

This week, after a long and colorful life, Rocky died.

The moment I met Rocky, I was immediately struck by his swagger. He looked like an outlaw out of an old western movie. He was proud of the fact that he worked 25 years with the Harris County Sheriff's Department.

Through the course of his life, Rocky also handcrafted boots for seven Presidents, celebrities, the Queen, the Pope, and many others.

I once performed a small wedding ceremony for Rocky and his new bride, Judge Denise Collins. And right before the wedding started, in walked Rocky's friend, President George H.W. Bush. Rocky knew everybody.

And while the walls of his shop, which really looked like an old barn, were adorned with photos of famous people, most of his customers were regular folks like me.

Rocky Carroll was larger than life and uniquely Texan to the core. We will miss our dear friend, bootmaker for the Presidents, bootmaker for the stars, and bootmaker for regular folks. And that is just the way it is.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF JEFFERY M. SANDERS

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, sometimes this well feels like the well of sorrow, and such is the case today.

I rise to honor a true and selfless public servant whose life was tragically taken before his time. Mr. Jeffery Sanders, a lifelong resident of Mayview, Missouri, and a firefighter, was killed in the line of duty on Monday, June 19, 2017. I have decided that I will be praying through the weekend and next week for his family.

Mr. Jacob Hayward was a man who gave a great deal to his community. He was seriously injured also in the same heartbreak accident.

Jeff was well known in the close-knit community of 200 residents, having been a farmer in Mayview all of his life. He and his wife, Connie, raised two wonderful children, who continue to live in Lafayette County in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

Mr. Sanders dedicated much of his time to Mayview and its Fire Protection District. He could always be counted on to make a fire call and help someone in need.

In all of his activities, Mr. Sanders demonstrated dedication and commitment to the greater good of others. He

was actively involved in the Mayview Lions Club, the Mayview Area 4-H Club, the Antique Tractor Club, and the Odessa FFA Advisory Board, along with his work as a volunteer firefighter with the Mayview Fire Protection District. He also spent time serving on the Mayview Special Road District.

Mr. Speaker, this family has given a great deal, and we owe a great deal to them.

CONGRATULATING THE DONEGAL WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Donegal women's softball team on their PIAA State softball title. They beat Cedar Cliff 9-7, but it wasn't an easy victory.

Donegal trailed 7-3 heading into the bottom of the fifth inning, but never gave up. They scored six runs that inning to take a 9-7 lead, and they never gave that up the rest of the game.

This team has been to the State tournament the last 4 years, but, obviously, this one was special. Donegal head coach Wayne Emenheiser said of the season: "This was our dream since we lost last year in the semifinals. We wanted to get back here. It was a magical season."

A victory like this is a display of years of dedication and hard work. So today I want to congratulate the Donegal players, coaches, and staff on this remarkable achievement and let them know how proud we are of them.

I would also like to recognize the families, students, faculty, and fans that supported them along the way.

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SENATE REPUBLICANS SHUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OUT OF AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the recently unveiled Senate healthcare repeal legislation. The Republicans have shut the American public out of their debate and, with this bill, they aim to shut them out of affordable healthcare, too.

This bill sets us on a dangerous path backwards, back to a time when cancer patients could be kept out of coverage or kicked off of their insurance because the cost of their care was too high, and to a time where pregnancy could be considered a preexisting condition.

Congress must work collaboratively to bring down insurance premium costs and work together toward insuring every American, but denying millions of people access to insurance by repealing protections for individuals with preexisting conditions, gutting Medicaid, and threatening the solvency of

the Medicare trust fund all in order to give the wealthiest Americans a tax cut is wrong.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to reject this misguided proposal.

UNSEAL RECORDS INTO AGENT BRIAN TERRY'S DEATH

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, in December 2010, U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry was killed with a gun that was traced back to the Department of Justice's Operation Fast and Furious. His family awaits answers.

Agent Terry's family recently testified before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee that the Obama administration continually denied all efforts to release any additional information about his death. They are now calling on President Trump to finally unseal the records and expose the dirty secrets behind this tragic scandal.

It is shameful that the Trump administration has been repeatedly accused of collusion and coverups based on unsourced rumors, while little attention was given to the Obama administration's blatant efforts to cover up the truth into Agent Terry's murder.

Under Operation Fast and Furious, roughly 2,000 firearms were purposely sold to criminals, which were later smuggled into Mexico, and have been linked to multiple homicides.

The Obama administration stonewalled Congress, investigators, and Americans for years and, to this day, refuse to take responsibility for their mistake.

It is time for the truth. We have an opportunity to return transparency and trust to our government, and I fully support the Terry family's request for the records to be unsealed.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHECHNYA

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, during this Pride Month, I rise today to speak out about the human rights violations occurring in the Russian republic of Chechnya.

It has been reported that in that country, men are kidnapped, detained, tortured, and even murdered just because of their sexual orientation. Families have been shamed by these kidnappings and have resorted to taking their own sons' lives.

In April, I, along with 48 other Members of Congress, signed and sent a letter to Secretary of State Tillerson asking him to raise the issue of this horrible violence against innocent men with the Russian officials, but to date, neither Secretary Tillerson or President Trump or anybody else in the ad-

ministration have committed to taking action on this issue.

The United States must speak out about this atrocity, and Russia must investigate such human rights violations so that there is accountability for an end to these senseless crimes.

During this Pride Month, we here in the United States celebrate our equality. However, every month we must say and act for the men in Chechnya as we fight for equality across the globe.

THE CITIZENS OF PUERTO RICO HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR WILL TO JOIN OUR NATION

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, the American citizens of Puerto Rico overwhelmingly voted in favor of becoming the 51st State of our great Nation. This is the second time in the past 5 years where my constituents have expressed their will to join our Nation.

Soon I will introduce legislation to set forth the terms of admission for the new State of Puerto Rico.

Our people have, in war and peace, made countless contributions to our Nation. They have fought in every conflict since the Great War. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice, and when they do, their casket is flown back to this country draped in an American flag bearing the 50 stars, but no star that represents them.

It takes a special kind of patriotism to fight for a nation that does not treat you equally, a nation that is a champion of democracy and self-determination, yet denies those same principles to 3.4 million of its own citizens in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents have spoken, and they deserve Congress' response.

IMMIGRATION HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, during Immigration Heritage Month, I want to recognize the great spirit and desire for a better life that lives within our Nation's immigrants today and those before them.

America's immigrants have started companies big and small, contributed to their local communities, and have been our friends, family, and neighbors. But our immigration system is broken. It is failing the many children who are brought to the United States outside of their own control.

That is why I have sponsored and co-sponsored the BRIDGE Act and the Recognizing America's Children Act to protect these children who only want to live the American Dream.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we have to work together, we must work to-

gether to pass a long-term immigration reform bill that secures our borders, yes, but just as importantly, protects our children, protects the families and the workers who want nothing more than to be a part of this great country and live the American Dream.

CANCEL THE AUGUST RECESS

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

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I stood before you in this very spot not long ago urging this Congress to do the work of the American people that the American people sent us here to do. Yet, 2 months later, not much has changed. Distrust in government is still at an all-time high, and it is not hard to see why. Our Federal debt continues to approach \$20 trillion. Our Tax Code remains broken and burdensome. Threats continue to rise abroad. And here at home, by the way, our veterans are still not getting the care they deserve despite the progress that we have made this week on that issue. From my perspective, this is unacceptable.

Despite the fact that Congress, by any metric we devise, is not doing the basic job the American people sent us here to do, in 7 weeks, we are going to adjourn on a month-long vacation without reforming the Tax Code or getting our appropriations done. And just 30 days after returning from the August recess, if we don't make some hard choices, the government may shut down, cutting our constituents from access to the programs they depend on for their livelihoods.

My message is simple: let's work through the August recess because in what other job would you grant yourself a month off if you hadn't gotten your work done?

I know we need to get back home to meet with our constituents, but more than anything else, I believe our constituents sent us here to do our job, to work together to fix problems, rather than punt them to the next generation.

So, please, let's stay here and let's do the work for the American people.

WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE

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

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER).

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act.

Not only is this bill critical to giving American workers the skills they need to lead in an increasingly competitive world, but also to making sure that our