

and came forward to register with the Federal Government. There is no security reason that DREAMers should not stay and continue contributing to our community and our local economies. There is no way to disguise that their deportation would just be the worst of what our country is all about. We have to protect them.

Being Members of Congress, it is so important that we step up, that we answer the call, and that we offer these young people the opportunity to continue to stay in our country, continue to work, go to school, and contribute so much because they have already given our country so much.

I urge my Republican colleagues to work with House Democrats to immediately pass the Dream Act. It is the only way we can provide peace of mind to nearly 150,000 DACA recipients in my home State of Texas.

CONGRATULATING MISS NORTH DAKOTA CARA MUND

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

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Miss North Dakota Cara Mund, who was crowned Miss America last Sunday.

A native of Bismarck, Cara made history in our State when she became the first North Dakotan to be crowned Miss America. Throughout the competition, Cara shared her desire to make her home State proud, and boy did she do that, encouraging others to follow their dreams, saying: "... it doesn't matter where you come from geographically."

When asked what she hoped to gain from her year as Miss America, Cara said she is focused on what she can do for others. Cara has been giving back for years, having raised more than \$78,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation through her Passion for Fashion Show that she founded when she was just 14 years old.

As she travels the United States, I know she will inspire and impress everyone she comes in contact with. This former Capitol Hill intern plans to attend law school, become the first woman Governor of North Dakota, and perhaps even represent her State in Congress one day. I hope she waits a while. But anyway, Kris and I join all North Dakotans in congratulating our new Miss America.

We are proud of you, Cara, and we look forward to hearing the positive message you are going to be sharing throughout this Nation throughout the next year.

PROVIDING CRITICAL FINANCIAL AID

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

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of half a million students across the country who will lose access to critical financial aid without action by Congress.

Perkins loans are an important resource for low- and middle-income students. A majority of those receiving this aid come from families with household incomes less than \$30,000 a year. In my district alone, this program is used by students at Clarkson, Paul Smith's College, and SUNY Potsdam, SUNY Canton, and SUNY Plattsburgh.

Without congressional action, these students will lose access to these important loans after September 30 when this program expires. I have introduced H.R. 2482, the Perkins Loan Program Extension Act, that will reauthorize this aid for two more years. I have been grateful to receive support from 160 bipartisan cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, we must ensure that low-income students have access to a quality education, and the Perkins Loan Program is a critical tool to help them succeed. I urge the House to swiftly pass my bill before the end of the month.

RESTORING THE RULE OF LAW IN AMERICA

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government's first duty is to protect its citizens. For too long, dangerous gangs like MS-13 have exploited our Nation's immigration laws and made our communities less safe. Hoosiers are tired of it, and it is well past time to crack down on this illegal activity and restore the rule of law in America.

Today, the House passed a common-sense reform that does just that, ensuring violent gangs are kept off our streets. The Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act would allow law enforcement to detain and deport criminal alien gang members who pose a serious threat to our safety.

Instead of waiting on another tragedy, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement could remove these criminals before they have a chance to harm innocent Americans.

The bill would also prevent these criminals from ever entering the United States again. It is really just common sense. This bill will make America safer, and it is worthy of our support.

CONGRATULATING JOHNSON CITY ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary

of the village of Johnson City in Broome County. Founded in 1892, Johnson City was first named Lestershire. The village was later renamed Johnson City in honor of George F. Johnson, a factory worker who rose through the ranks at the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Company, a local manufacturing firm started in Binghamton in 1854.

Under Johnson's leadership, Endicott-Johnson evolved into an economic hub in the region. Through the square deal and his generosity to both the community and his employees, George Johnson played a pivotal role in shaping Johnson City into the village we know today.

Part of the Tri-Cities, Johnson City is now home to over 15,000 people and will soon be home to Binghamton University's School of Pharmacy.

On behalf of the entire 22nd District, I extend my sincerest congratulations to Johnson City on this landmark anniversary.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION MUST EXPLAIN IMPROPER USE OF FUNDS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, a recent Federal audit found that the Obama administration improperly used, via the Bureau of Reclamation, \$84 million on California Governor Jerry Brown's pet project, the Delta tunnels. In planning, this is a project that would transfer water from northern California, where my district is, to southern California.

This comes after years of assurance that no tax dollars would be spent on the Governor's controversial legacy project, nor was there even an appropriation made by Congress to do so, and that is where the problem is. It is the illegal use of Federal dollars in the planning of this project.

Taxpayers ended up paying for a large portion of this project's planning costs without their knowledge and, again, without Congress' authorization, which is obviously unacceptable.

The Bureau of Reclamation needs to explain to Congress how and why this happened, and the employees and the appointees who carried it out must be held responsible.

More importantly, California needs to repay every penny to the Federal Government and the taxpayers of the other 49 States for this illegal use and improper use.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a small thing. Congress and the American people need to know what is happening with this and not be lied to.

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TRIBUTE TO PAT HILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 60

minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

(Mr. RUSH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an activist, a crusader, an educator, a warrior in the fight for civil rights, and an American heroine, Ms. Patricia Hill.

For those who did not know Pat Hill, who passed away earlier this week, she was many things. She was an athlete, an educator, and a former Chicago police officer, just to name a few of her endeavors.

She was the eldest daughter of Lucille Fleming and Hercules Richardson. Pat Hill was an early track star. As a member of Chicago's Mayor Daley's Youth Foundation's track team, she was mentored by Olympians Willye White and Ira Murchison; and Pat missed making the 1968 U.S. Olympic Team by one-quarter of an inch.

Her athleticism and pioneering spirit extended beyond the track, Mr. Speaker. Pat Hill was also a trailblazer in women's professional basketball when she joined the Chicago Debs in the early 1970s.

After completing her college degree, Pat Hill shared her love and knowledge of sports by becoming a physical education teacher in the Chicago Public Schools. She held that position until she left to become a member of the Chicago Police Department, where she would rise to work with one of Chicago's other trailblazers as a bodyguard for the late Chicago mayor, Harold Washington.

Mr. Speaker, even before Pat Hill became a member of the Chicago Police Department, she had been inspired by the work of the Afro-American Patrolmen's League to uncover the truth behind the murder of my dear friend, Fred Hampton, in the late 1960s. After Pat became a member of the Chicago Police Department, she worked with the Afro-American Patrolmen's League to improve minority hiring and women's inclusion, and, ultimately, she rose as the executive director of the AAPL.

After Pat retired as a police officer, she served as a lecturer at the Northwestern Illinois University's Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies, where she would take classes to, among many places, Selma, Alabama, to ensure that the lessons and experiences of Bloody Sunday and others will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult for me to summarize the life and accomplishments of an individual like Ms. Patricia Hill in a few short moments, but, suffice it to say, the city and the people of Chicago, and the people all across this Nation are forever dedicated to Pat Hill for the strides she made on behalf of all of us.

Mr. Speaker, my family and I are personally indebted to Ms. Patricia Hill for the decades-long friendship and love that she shared with my late wife, Carolyn, and my entire family.

Pat, while we are saddened by your departure and saddened that you are no longer with us in the Earth realm, we know that you have a better seat than all of us and that you are in a better place. We find comfort in the Bible, as written in the book of Matthew 5:4, that says: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Mr. Speaker, I rise today and honor Ms. Pat Hill—my friend, my family's friend, and a great American. We truly are comforted because we truly know that Pat Hill is blessed, and we are blessed also.

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

HURRICANE IRMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for his inspiring words.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to update the House on what has occurred in Florida after the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

First, I want to start by thanking so many Members of Congress for supporting a package that doubled from \$7 billion to \$15 billion, the emergency relief. Not only was it so critical for the great State of Texas, but it was absolutely essential for anticipating the effects that Irma would have on the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Florida, Georgia, up through South Carolina, and southeast United States.

When I arrived back on Friday—you know how important it is to go back to your district when there is a crisis on hand—I saw people taking the notice of evacuation seriously. I saw people stocking up on gas, stocking up on water, stocking up their cupboards, making sure to be ready.

While it was initially supposed to hit the southeastern portion of Florida, as you know, these predictions can be somewhat accurate, which is why we always need to be sure to always prepare, whether you think you are in the eye of the storm or not. Because, in fact, after it went through the central Keys and leveled a lot of Marathon and other central Keys islands, it hit southwest Florida. The eye went right through the Naples-Fort Myers area, and a lot of those folks are still struggling with that. It actually went up through the western center of the State, through the western portion of my district in Polk County, as well as Hillsborough County, Pasco County, and other areas, and then finally going up through the Big Bend.

That night, the wind was so loud and the rain was so hard that you couldn't even hear the trees snapping. When I woke up the next day, I knew it was bad, but, to my surprise, there were trees down everywhere.

Right outside our door, right down the street, in Osceola, Orange, and Polk Counties—all the counties that I represent—one of the first initial acts of courage that I saw was neighborhood folks with nice F-150s, chainsaws, and all of this construction equipment, volunteering their time to get these major trees out of the roads. We saw that throughout Kissimmee, east Orlando, Winter Haven, Haines City, Lake Wales, and so many areas, like St. Cloud, that I represent.

That debris removal that the State was approved for by FEMA is going to make sure, now that those trees are on the sidewalk or they are on the median, that they are going to get picked up. It is going to be so critical that we have that either 75 or 90 percent reimbursement for debris removal to make sure that these neighborhoods can come back to normal.

One of the other impacts of having all of these trees down, since we haven't had a hurricane with major winds since 2004, was that it absolutely decimated the power grid. If our fellow Members remember nothing else about what I have to say here today, it is that our power grid was absolutely annihilated—the worst that Duke Energy, FP&L, and municipal electricity providers like KUA and OUC said they have seen in their history.

There are people that are without power now—several hundred thousand—and it is primarily because we saw so many of these trees go down on power lines.

When I went through my district, I saw rivers swell to floods. We saw worse in Harvey—far worse flooding in Harvey. We know with the supplemental FEMA packages that we are going to have to take care of Texas and Louisiana. But there are areas that are still under water as of yesterday, as of last night, and as of this morning. A few of them in east Orlando, where the Econlockhatchee River swelled over into the swamps and over into apartment buildings.

There were still, unfortunately, some UCF students that needed to evacuate; and I think, after the firefighters got there with the fire trucks, they heeded that warning.

I saw in Kissimmee flooding in the Mill Slough area. The slough flooded over. And we saw in Buenaventura Lakes flooding in the streets in many neighborhoods.

I witnessed folks throughout the area in mobile homes suffer pretty extreme damage in certain areas of Polk County.

I commend FEMA for allowing these counties and many others on the central and southern part of the State to get the designation of individual assistance. These folks are still without power—many of them worried about the dangers that are still going on. So to know that the Federal Government—Congress—has their back is absolutely a hope that they can hang on to as they sit day after day without