

America have molded young boys into men of character, compassion, and commitment.

Last week, I had the honor of attending their annual leadership dinner, where four of our local Eagle Scouts—Nathaniel Degear of DeRuyter, Devyn Guy of Middleburgh, Paul White of Clinton, and Gannon Frisbee of Downsville—were honored as finalists for the Eagle Project of the Year. The four finalists represented more than 120 new Eagle Scouts, who gave over 2,500 hours in service to our community.

It was an honor to finally present Gannon Frisbee with the Eagle Scout Community Service Project of the Year Award. Gannon began his project intending to upgrade lighting and wall decor at a local American Legion.

Soon after beginning his project, Gannon realized the building's structural integrity was at risk. Gannon worked tirelessly to repair the walls and the floor of the American Legion. His project was critical in ensuring that the American Legion was able to return to normal operations.

These young men offer us a glimpse into the Boy Scouts' outstanding tradition of service and commitment to community. They are truly a testament to the strength and the potential of America's next generation of leaders.

GO HOUSTON ASTROS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, go Astros.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, so many impacted, our boys of summer brought it home this weekend. In the words of David Barron: "With their season on the line, the Astros drew comfort from the familiar ground on which they stood, the sea of noise that greeted their every move, and the collective will that exemplifies the way they played and the city they represent."

Astros strong, Houston strong.

I am so delighted to have a friendly wager with a dear friend. I don't know for how long. I think he represents the Brooklyn—oh, the Los Angeles Dodgers.

I yield to the gentleman from California, and whether he will accept this friendly wager, I offer you Texas barbecue, Congressman JIMMY GOMEZ.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

In the spirit of good sportsmanship, I accept the gentlewoman's wager and the barbecue that I will get to enjoy next week.

The Houston Astros are an amazing team, with 101 wins, but the Dodgers are better, with 104. I know that the Astros stumbled across that finish line to make it to the World Series. I know it is going to be a hell of a game between the two teams.

If we lose, I will bring some French dip sandwiches from the Louisiana in-

stitution, Philippe's, in downtown Los Angeles.

Let the best team win. Play ball.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Reclaiming my time, barbecue is good everywhere in Texas.

Where there is a will, there is a way. The Astros have the will and the way. Go Astros.

GO LOS ANGELES DODGERS

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Los Angeles Dodgers for winning the National League Champion Series. They will appear in the World Series for the first time in 29 years. I hope they win it all.

Earlier this year, I had the honor of wearing the Dodgers uniform to the Congressional Baseball Game. I am a huge fan, and we Angelinos love our Dodgers.

When I was a kid, as my father battled Parkinson's disease, we watched every game together. It was our bonding time.

As we watch the game this week, may every kid enjoy our national pastime with a loved one—in person or in spirit.

Go Dodgers.

CONGRATULATING FORT LEE ON 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

Mr. McEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the 100th anniversary of the United States Army's Fort Lee in Prince George County, Virginia.

The fort that we know today began as Camp Lee in 1917. Camp Lee served as a training base for hundreds of thousands of our country's bravest as they prepared for service in World Wars I and II, a tradition that has continued ever since, often in pathbreaking ways.

In the late 1940s, Camp Lee became the home of the Women's Army Corp Training Center, which established a high-quality training facility for women who wished to serve their country.

Mr. Speaker, Fort Lee continues to prepare men and women for their service as the home to the Combined Arms Support Command, the U.S. Army Ordnance School, the U.S. Army Quartermaster School, the U.S. Army Transportation School, and roughly 20 other organizations and units.

Today and every day, we are grateful to all who have served at Fort Lee for a combined 100 years of dedication and honorable service.

CONTINUE PROVIDING AID TO PUERTO RICO

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Friday marked 1 month since Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico.

According to my constituents, current conditions are as follows: more than 1 million Americans there lack access to clean water; mothers cannot make infant formula; people are getting sick from infected water; and nearly 80 percent of the island still lacks electricity.

Struggles are everywhere: where there is help trickling in, there are lines, always lines; supplies simply aren't enough; medical facilities are running on hope; there is no reliable means of communication, so people cannot even register for aid; entire communities are cut off from modern civilization; millions desperately need assistance.

President Trump visited the island for as long as it takes to play a round a golf, and he went to the wealthiest part of the capital city. Last week, he granted himself a perfect score for his response to the devastation. But the Trump administration continues to fail our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, 3.4 million Americans live in Puerto Rico, and they deserve our full support.

Mr. President, can't you at least airdrop fresh water packets, food provisions, and telephones? Our military can do this anywhere in the world, why not Puerto Rico?

RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO HELPED IN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

(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, California, northern California, where I am from, has been suffering, as so many people know, from devastating fires these last few weeks. I think it is very appropriate to point out the incredible efforts of our first responders and our firefighters in saving so much valuable property and the lives that have been saved, as well as citizens pulling together to help each other.

We see the best in Americans during these times of crisis, and that has not gone unnoticed in northern California as well. Our hearts are with those folks who have suffered losses and more loss of life than could be imagined in modern-day America with all the fire-fighting apparatus and prevention we have. Still, it shows you have to have preparedness; you have to have defensible space; and you have to be ready, at any given time, during this type of fire season.

Again, our hats are off to our first responders and our firefighters for the amount of property and lives they have been able to save under these conditions. God bless them.

RECOGNIZING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF PATH

(Ms. JAYAPAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is United Nations Day. As we reflect on the value of global partnerships to solve problems, I want to recognize the 40th anniversary of the international global health organization known as PATH, Program for Appropriate Technology and Health.

PATH is headquartered in Seattle, and since its founding, it has been an incredible force for good. It is a place that I had the opportunity to work at for many years in the 1990s.

PATH works in more than 70 countries, improving health for 150 million people each year. PATH has made a difference in countless lives, from stopping preventable deaths of mothers and children to keeping people safe from infectious disease outbreaks.

PATH has also helped make Washington State a global center of development for lifesaving health equity, innovations, and solutions. In 2013 alone, this global health industry generated \$5.8 billion in direct economic impact and employed more than 12,500 people.

PATH collaborates with governments, the private sector, and NGOs to advance more than 100 health strategies and technologies. It has saved \$14 million per year doing things like preventing undamaged vaccines from being discarded.

Congratulations to PATH.

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TAX REFORM

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this House and its committees will discuss what is being called tax reform, what is being told to the American public is a middle class tax break.

Well, I am here to tell you it is a con job. It is a tax giveaway to the wealthiest people in this country like never before at the expense of people in the middle class, lesser incomes, who will not get benefits, and if they do, it is chump change. It is the change you give somebody at a restaurant when you get your meal.

Billionaires will get to get away without having to pay an estate tax, like Donald Trump—billions of dollars they will not have to pay to the government to help fund Pell grants, LIHEAP, and other programs that help people who need something. That is something they will not come off of.

They may raise a little rate and say: We are going to put a little higher rate on the wealthy because it is not in there now.

They may say: Give the State and local income tax exemptions back.

But they are not going to go back on the estate tax because that is for the superwealthy, and that is who this bill is for.

Wake up America. It is a con job.

CIVIL RIGHTS

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to co-anchor this CBC Special Order hour. Also, I want to acknowledge the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Mr. CEDRIC RICHMOND, from the State of Louisiana, and other Members who are here to participate. For the next 60 minutes, we have a chance to speak directly to the American people on issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, the constituents that we all represent in our various districts.

For this particular Special Order hour, I am going to open it up and begin to talk about something that is very important and has been widely discussed within the Congressional Black Caucus, and that is civil rights and some of the things that we are worried about that are going on within the Justice Department.

We have several important Members here to speak on these. Before I go any further, I want to go ahead and recognize them. The first speaker we have is from the State of South Carolina, representing that State's Sixth Congressional District, and also our caucus' assistant leader. That is Mr. JIM CLYBURN.

I thank Representative CLYBURN for joining and being a part of this Special Order hour to talk about this subject matter that is very important to so many members of the Black Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding to me.

I also thank him and our colleague, Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, for joining me at the Center for African American Studies at the University of Texas at Arlington last Thursday evening. It was a wonderful experience for me. President Vistasp Karbhari, Dr. Jason Skelton, and my longtime friend, Dr. Marvin Delaney, were perfect hosts.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, Sergeant La David T. Johnson died a hero's death in a distant land on a mission few Americans know about or understand. This weekend, his grieving

family, including his pregnant wife, took him to his final resting place in Florida. Sergeant Johnson's tragic death leaves this young family fatherless.

Mr. Speaker, in his second inaugural address, President Abraham Lincoln called on our Nation to endeavor to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.

Unfortunately, rather than comfort Sergeant Johnson's grieving family, the current occupant of the White House has chosen to use them as his latest prop in his constant effort to sow discord and division in this country.

The President and White House Chief of Staff John Kelly, who happens to be a four-star general, have insulted and smeared an honorable public servant who happens to be a five-star Congresswoman, and, in effect, called her and her grieving widow constituent liars.

Congresswoman FREDERICA S. WILSON has been a champion for the people of south Florida for decades. It is no mystery—and it was not political—that she was accompanying Mrs. Johnson and her family to receive her husband's remains. She had mentored Sergeant Johnson throughout his childhood.

I have participated in several of Congresswoman WILSON's 500 Role Models events and have spoken for one of their graduations. I also wear this red tie to this floor helping her highlight their efforts. Her passionate work on behalf of those kidnapped girls of Boko Haram is unmatched.

As the husband of a five-star African-American woman for more than 56 years and the father of three African-American daughters who are working hard to earn their stars every day, I feel compelled to respond to General Kelly and completely disregard his concocted misrepresentations.

Mr. Speaker, we can have political differences here in Washington. That comes with the territory. But people need to have the common decency and basic humanity to refrain from exacerbating the pain of those already suffering so much. I was taught from childhood that silence gives consent. I want the White House to know this: I and the members of the Congressional Black Caucus will not be silent, and we will not be silenced.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) very much for his timely and very serious comments. I hope that all of the Members who are here on both sides of the aisle realize the seriousness of the comments. There is nothing humorous about them all, nothing to be smiling or laughing about. It is very timely in light of the unfortunate incident that happened with our colleague. I thank the gentleman very much for bringing that to light.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to my fellow Texan from the 18th Congressional District in Houston. I thank very much