

As she continues to steer Broward County's 60 agencies and a budget of nearly \$5 billion, Bertha Henry deserves this award because of the way she has made Broward County a better place to live, to work, to play, and to visit.

Bertha, thank you for your outstanding service, and congratulations on the well-deserved honor.

#### HERKIMER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT MILLER TURNS AROUND GRADUATION RATES

(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 Robert Miller, superintendent of the Herkimer Central School District.

When Robert Miller became superintendent of the Herkimer Central School District in 2013, he was facing a problem that many superintendents across this country are facing: a low and decreasing graduation rate.

However, in the 4 years since Mr. Miller began in his new role, Herkimer has seen a drastic turnaround. The graduation rate has increased 11 percent, from 69 to 80 percent.

However, in 2006, Herkimer's graduation rates were at 87 percent. Mr. Miller has made it his mission to ensure that Herkimer Central School District reaches that number again.

Mr. Miller noted that it was the dedication of both teachers and administrators that led to the significant increase. Their ability and willingness to intervene with students at risk has helped these students successfully move to the next stage of their lives with the skills they need to contribute positively to our community.

Thank you to Superintendent Miller and the dedicated staff at Herkimer Central School District for your tremendous work and commitment to our next generation of leaders. I know your effort will continue inspiring our students for years to come.

#### BOY SCOUT TROOP 728 CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 728.

This troop's longstanding commitment to instilling positive social values and building self-esteem and self-reliance in young men has provided a great benefit to our community.

Opened in 1947, Troop 728 has produced a tradition of excellence. It has been led by many dedicated Scoutmasters over its 70-year history, each of whom has contributed to the legacy of the troop. These passionate,

active leaders allow the memories of past leaders to continue to flourish in the troop's culture today.

Traditions of Troop 728 include Scout breakfasts, hiking, camping trips, and summer camp. Additionally, Scoutmasters focus instilling leadership skills in troop members and developing leaders for the 21st century.

Troop 728 has produced over 30 Eagle Scouts, the most prestigious award that any young man can earn in Scouting. This demonstrates their continued commitment to their long legacy of service throughout the community.

On this special anniversary, I would like to congratulate the leaders and members of Troop 728 for all of their successes.

#### HALLE THOMPSON LIVES AMONGST THE HEAVENLY HOST

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, the image beside me is of a young lady named Halle Thompson, who was tragically killed in a car crash in my district. I penned this letter to her parents:

"Dear Mr. and Mrs. Thompson,

"Ryan, Janna, my own heart is rendered as I pen this letter of encouragement and condolence.

"Your beautiful daughter Halle is, no doubt, in the presence of our beloved lady and our loving, forgiving Savior. You are each, no doubt, surrounded by the angels of Christ, as you endeavor each day to endure the grief of your loss, even as you present a strong and determined front to honor the life and spirit of your daughter.

"I have personal insight relative to your pain, having lost my own first-born, my beautiful Daniela, long ago on the 10th day of November 1990.

"I wish to compassionately convey it has come onto my heart that your Halle is present at this moment with my own Daniela, looking upon you both with adoration as you prayerfully honor and respect our Lord's mysterious will.

"Please know that my prayers are with you and that my own quiet service to America and our fellow man is dedicated this day to the beautiful Halle, angelic now, as she lives amongst the Heavenly Host.

"Respectfully, I remain, your humble servant."

#### NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the House Paper and Packaging Caucus, I rise today to recognize the 57th anniversary of National Forest Products Week.

As an Oregonian, this week takes on special significance for me and my con-

stituents. Oregon is home to over 174 wood products, paper, and packaging manufacturing facilities that make nearly \$11 billion in products annually and contribute over \$2 billion to the State and local economies through wages and compensation.

I would like to recognize and thank the nearly 38,000 hardworking men and women employed by the forest products industry in my State. Your contributions to our State and your local communities are greatly appreciated.

In this country, we are fortunate to have the renewable natural resources and domestic manufacturing to be able to provide Americans with the paper or packaging tissue and wood products that are central to modern life and the modern economy.

I want to thank and congratulate the people and employees in the forest products industry for the valuable role they play in the economy not only in my State and district, but to rural communities across this country.

□ 1200

#### LET'S WORK ON BIPARTISAN TAX REFORM

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow the Republican majority to trade away creating jobs here in America for doling out massive tax breaks to wealthy corporations that have no intention of investing here in the United States of America. The Republican plan will actually fuel more job outsourcing and move benefits to shareholders and overpaid CEOs, not the workers of our country.

We can't allow Republicans to cut education, cut Medicare, cut Social Security, cut Medicaid, which serve the elderly and the ill. Eighty percent of the tax giveaways in their plan go to the top 1 percent.

Untargeted tax cuts don't create jobs. In fact, when Congress, during the 1980s, passed a tax cut, companies couldn't outsource middle class jobs fast enough. It was a bad deal then, and it is a bad deal now.

Our country can't afford to balloon the deficit by \$1.5 trillion so Wall Street can appease their shareholders a little more and stack the decks against American workers. Tax reform should not result in the outsourcing of our jobs. It should result in investing here in the United States of America, and that begins with real tax reform, not scam tax reform.

#### COUNTRY BEFORE PARTY AND PATRIOTISM BEFORE POLITICS

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 60th anniversary of the publication of "Profiles in Courage." John F. Kennedy's famous volume tells the stories of eight American leaders who put country before party and patriotism before politics, men for whom personal integrity was more important than personal popularity or power.

Unfortunately, the kind of political and moral courage that is described in Kennedy's book is in tragically short supply within the modern Republican Party.

Faced by a President intent on undermining the values and norms that sustain our democracy, frighteningly few Republicans have been willing to do more than wring their hands and roll their eyes. While Senator CORKER and Senator FLAKE have been boldly denouncing Donald Trump, they are exceptions to a well-established rule.

Indeed, when a new "Profiles in Courage" is written for the 21st century, we can be certain that no one from the current House Republican leadership is going to be featured in its pages.

When questioned about Trump's attacks on women, minorities, the disabled, and Gold Star families, Speaker RYAN has been equivocal and evasive.

When called upon to condemn Trump's outrageous embrace of the White nationalists, Speaker RYAN has deferred and deflected.

When asked to defend Trump's reckless rhetoric on North Korea, Speaker RYAN has done so enthusiastically.

Earlier this week, on the Senate floor, Senator FLAKE complained that "reckless, outrageous, and undignified behavior has become excused and countenanced."

Mr. Speaker, PAUL RYAN and the GOP leadership are the very people who are doing that excusing. They are normalizing and condoning actions that should shock us as Americans and shame us as a body.

But don't take my word for it, Mr. Speaker. With the help of my good friend, Congressman LIEU of California, we will now read for you, in chronological order, Speaker RYAN's responses to Donald Trump's most outrageous and abusive behavior.

Congressman LIEU, let's get started.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, before we do, let me just first say that today is Thursday. That means we all need to ask: Why do Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner still have their security clearances?

But I digress. We are now going to read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD outrageous and stupid things the President of the United States has done or said, and then Representative GALLEGO is going to give you Speaker RYAN's response. So I am going to start.

On May 11, Donald Trump fired FBI Director James Comey, and this is what Donald Trump said:

"Regardless of recommendation, I was going to fire Comey, knowing there was no good time to do it. And, in fact, when I decided to just do it, I said

to myself, 'You know, this Russia thing with Trump and Russia is a made-up story.'"

Mr. GALLEGO. Speaker RYAN's response: Trump "acted and that's what a President should do." Real profile in courage there.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. On May 16, it was revealed that Donald Trump asked Director Comey to drop an investigation into General Flynn's collusion with the Russians before he was fired.

Trump said to Comey: Flynn "is a good guy. I hope you can let this go."

Mr. GALLEGO. The Speaker's response: Trump's "new to government, and so he probably wasn't steeped in the long-running protocols that establish the relationships between DOJ, FBI, and the White Houses. He's just new to this."

Mr. TED LIEU of California. On May 22, Donald Trump confirmed he leaked classified information to Russian officials at a meeting in the Oval Office.

Mr. GALLEGO. The response from RYAN's office is, "The Speaker hopes for a full explanation of the facts from the administration," an explanation that the American people are still waiting for, by the way, 5 months later. There has been no explanation, and I am pretty sure there was no follow-up.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. On July 17, Donald Trump defended his son, Don, Jr., for holding a highly inappropriate and likely illegal meeting with agents of the Russian Government.

Donald Trump said: "Most politicians would have gone to a meeting like the one Don, Jr., attended in order to get info on an opponent. That's politics!"

Mr. GALLEGO. Speaker RYAN was then asked whether he would have taken a meeting with a Russian official who offered opposition research on a political opponent. His evasive answer, of course, is: "I am not going into hypotheticals."

Mr. TED LIEU of California. On July 26, Trump announced a ban on transgender Americans serving our Nation in uniform.

Let me just digress for a moment. Representative GALLEGO is a combat veteran. I served on Active Duty. We know that to have our strong, all-volunteer military, the best in the world, we need to recruit the best and the brightest. To discriminate against an entire class of people is not only wrong, it is harming our military readiness.

This is what Donald Trump said: Our military "cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail."

Mr. GALLEGO. And to respond, and I will riff a little, the cost is minimal in terms of the medical costs. It is just an excuse for the President to be homophobic.

But Speaker RYAN's condemnation of this, or renouncement, did not exist. He responded by pleading for more time, and said: "The DOD is reviewing

this with the White House. I want to see what it is that they actually produce."

And, of course, that is another non-answer.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. And we are still waiting.

On August 8, Donald Trump reacted to escalating tensions with North Korea by irresponsibly threatening military action.

Trump said: "North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States. They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen."

Mr. GALLEGO. Speaker RYAN's response, in regard to a potential nuclear war: "I think the President, in my own view of it, he likes the unpredictability side of this."

That is right. Speaker RYAN thinks our Commander-in-Chief enjoys the unpredictability of bringing the world to the brink of a nuclear war.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. On August 16, Donald Trump repeatedly refused to condemn a White supremacist rally in Virginia. Trump said: "I think there is blame on both sides. But you also had people that were very fine people, on both sides."

Mr. GALLEGO. Speaker RYAN's response: "I do believe that he messed up in his comments on Tuesday . . . he has since then cleared that up."

But Trump never clears up anything. He certainly did not in this case.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. On September 5, Trump announced his intention to terminate the DACA program, a move that will expose 800,000 undocumented young people, Americans in every respect except on paper, to deportation from the United States.

Mr. GALLEGO. Before that decision was made, RYAN had said: "Actually, I don't think he should do that."

However, after the announcement was said, RYAN pulled an embarrassing U-turn so fast it would cause whiplash, saying: "President Obama was wrong to do it in the first place. . . . So President Trump was right in his decision. He made the right call."

Shameless.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. On October 3, with millions in Puerto Rico without electricity or basic necessities, Donald Trump congratulated the people of the island on not losing hundreds of lives like in "a real catastrophe" like Hurricane Katrina.

Despite massive flooding and overwhelming devastation, Trump called his administration's response "unbelievable" and "incredible."

He attacked the mayor of San Juan and other local leaders who had pleaded with his administration for additional resources. Trump even criticized the brave people of Puerto Rico, claiming they are "throwing our budget out of whack."

And I would just also note that Trump was kind enough to dedicate a golf trophy cup to Puerto Rico.

Mr. GALLEGO. Speaker RYAN's response: President Trump "has tremendous compassion."

You can see the compassion.

"He is flying to these emergencies as soon as he can . . . it shows me that the people who are suffering from these tragedies are in his mind, front and center."

I am pretty sure the millions in Puerto Rico who still lack electricity and running water do not feel that way. They don't feel that way about Trump, and they don't feel that he has any compassion for them. And they definitely aren't "front and center" for this President or his incompetent administration.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Finally, beginning October 17, President Trump repeatedly attacked one of our colleagues, Congresswoman WILSON from Florida, and he essentially said that a Gold Star widow was lying.

Mr. GALLEGGO. So what was Speaker RYAN's response? Actually, we are still waiting to hear from him. He hasn't commented or issued a statement. When Trump repeatedly denigrates the personal integrity of a Member of this body, Speaker RYAN says nothing.

When Trump demeans a grieving widow whose husband has made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation, Speaker RYAN stays silent. Frankly, it is embarrassing.

Congressman LIEU, what do you think these responses from Speaker RYAN say about the House Republican leadership and the state of the Republican Party?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative GALLEGGO. There are really only two choices here. Either all of us in Congress can follow the leadership of Republican Senators JOHN MCCAIN, BOB CORKER, and JEFF FLAKE and tell the truth, or we can be complicit.

Senator JEFF FLAKE is unwilling to be complicit. We are unwilling to be complicit.

And keep in mind, when Senator BOB CORKER, who is not a flamethrower, he is the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and he comes out and says that he is concerned that the President of the United States could lead us to world war III, Americans need to listen.

So we call on Speaker RYAN to not be complicit and enable the reckless and dangerous behavior of our President, and that he have the courage to stand up and tell the truth and to really make sure that our President does not take our country off the rails.

Mr. GALLEGGO. Our Founding Fathers knew that there was danger in putting so much power in one person. They knew that giving too much power to one person, an irresponsible and immature leader, could use that to both effect democracy or enrich themselves.

There is a reason why we have what we call the checks and balances. But one of those checks needs to be the U.S. House of Representatives. Under that, the person who is in charge of the U.S. House of Representatives is Speaker RYAN. He is not providing that

check. He is only helping this administration carry on with their abuse and with the destruction of what we understand are the norms of this democracy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Members are also reminded to formally yield and reclaim time when under recognition.

□ 1215

#### ISSUES OF THE WEEK

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting, when I am watching the news or looking at a newspaper, I can see what kind of pictures are there in the news story, and having been at press conferences where print media that is extremely slanted will come up, the photographer from such media source will come up and get right in front and then start taking pictures and have their camera on nonstop, just click, click, click, second after second. So you know they have got 100, 200 pictures.

It is easy to know what they are doing. They are taking as many pictures as fast as they can. And you know that they are going to go through and they are going to take the picture in which your mouth is in the most contorted position, or where it looks like you are saying a word that would be inappropriate for an elected official to say. You know that is the picture they are going to put up, trying to make you look as stupid as possible before you ever read the article.

For some of us, it is not difficult to make us look stupid. We can't help our looks. But you just know before you ever read the article, when you look at the picture, whether it is going to be a fair and objective article, or whether it is going to be totally skewed and totally subjective.

I notice that, too, sometimes when friends across the aisle come with blown-up pictures. I can look at the pictures and tell whether it is going to be a fair and objective dissertation I am going to hear from my fellow Representatives across the aisle. But it is true of Republicans as well. I just don't see those type of skewed pictures very often at all, if at all, from the Republicans. But, anyway, it seems to be a good rule of thumb. You look at the pictures and you can tell whether it is going to be fair or it is going to be a total hit piece.

I have been very interested, though, to watch during the course of this last 9, 10 months as we come through 2017, the story nonstop from Representa-

tives across the aisle has been about Russia, Russia, Russia. It sounds a bit like Sean Hannity, Russia, Russia, Russia, yes, but I don't mind sounding like somebody I greatly admire.

But isn't it interesting that in the revelations that have been coming out in the last few days, our friends across the aisle have not been as anxious to run down and talk about Russia?

But somebody needs to talk about it. I have been talking about it for quite some time, and for most of this year I have been pointing out that we actually need a special prosecutor, a special counsel to investigate former FBI Director Comey and to investigate the Clinton ties to Russia and the over \$100 million in contributions that came from stakeholders, apparently, of Uranium One. It is just absolutely incredible.

What is amazing, though, there are bound to be so many fingers going out emanating from that deal that we have not seen or heard of. We didn't know what was going on, and now we know that the FBI headed by Director Robert Mueller, at the same time that he was purging the FBI training materials of anything that offended radical Islamists that want to kill us, at the same time he was not investigating properly tips about the older Tsarnaev being radicalized that he was going to kill people. Let's face it, when we get a tip that somebody has been radicalized as an Islamist, it means they are likely going to commit a terrorist act and try to take innocent lives, as Tsarnaev and his brother did.

The FBI didn't properly investigate. They didn't know what to ask. They didn't know how to investigate whether or not somebody had been radicalized because Robert Mueller had purged the training materials so they couldn't know what to ask, how to know if somebody has been radicalized, or they are a peace-loving Muslim, or they are radical Islamist.

Mueller prevented that from happening because he was so taken up with the idea of being friendly and neighborly, he called it his outreach program. He even testified before our Judiciary Committee years ago after I was there about—he kept wanting to make the point that the Muslim community is exactly like every other community. Again, the Muslim community is just like every other community.

He kept making that point over and over as Democrats asked him questions. And then he talked about his lovely outreach program with CAIR—the Council on American-Islamic Relations—that has ties that were named as codefendants supporting terrorism with those who were actually convicted of supporting terrorism.

Yet, even though the FBI had the evidence that convicted these supporting terrorists, and even though there was plenty of evidence that the people who he was trying to be friends with had radical terrorist ties, he continued his so-called outreach program