

Frank Stoltz of Miles City;  
Kevin Strickler of Belgrade;  
Kyle Sukhbir of Livingston;  
Loice Trotter of Libby;  
Stanley Watson of Forsyth.

On behalf of all Montanans, I thank the recipients of the 2017 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for their sacrifices and selfless service.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF JERLINE HARVEY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of my friend, Jerline Harvey of Forest Hill, Texas.

Since making Forest Hill her home in 1975, Jerline was a true champion for the improvement of the city. Among her many accomplishments, she was the first Black female elected to the Forest Hill City Council. She played a critical role in establishing the first library in Forest Hill, serving as its first librarian and also on the board of directors.

During her tenure serving on the board, Jerline coordinated the purchase of over five acres of land for the library district, and dedicated the Forest Hill Community Garden in 2011.

Jerline also made a mark in the community by operating and serving as the community outreach coordinator for the food bank at the Love Sanctuary Church of God in Christ for 15 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honor of her life. While the community will be sad that we are losing Jerline, I know that she is probably happy right now with Coach Harvey in Heaven.

I want to thank her for being the driving voice to help get that library created. When I see those kids on the computers in the library reading those books and having a good time, I think of Jerline and her vision of Forest Hill having their own library.

#### RECOGNIZING FSU PRESIDENT JOHN THRASHER

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a decorated combat veteran and distinguished public servant as one of the newest inductees into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

This week, Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs honored John Thrasher for his continued commitment to the State of Florida.

John currently serves as the president of Florida State University, where he earned his bachelor's and law degrees. John joined the United States Army after graduating from FSU and went on to receive two Bronze Stars while serving in Vietnam, eventually earning the rank of captain.

He has been an advocate for veterans throughout his entire life, especially while serving as the speaker of the house in Florida and later as senator. Under his leadership as president, FSU has become one of the top universities in the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating FSU President John Thrasher for being inducted into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame and thanking him for his continued service to our veterans.

#### MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SOMALIA

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm about our deepening military operations in Somalia.

This Monday, the United States conducted its 30th airstrike in Somalia since Donald Trump took office. This number is almost greater than the amount of airstrikes President Obama conducted in 8 years in office. What is worse, we now have the largest United States presence in Somalia since 1993—some 500 United States troops—which has doubled in 2017 alone.

Mr. Speaker, why are we conducting so many airstrikes and ramping up our military presence in Somalia with no congressional oversight?

Why are we sending our troops to fight a war that the American people know nothing about?

Congress has been left in the dark about these operations. At a minimum, we should have some basic knowledge of the missions we are asking our servicemembers to risk their lives for.

But we know it is not just Somalia. These U.S. shadow wars are taking place all across the world, as we saw so tragically in Niger last month.

Mr. Speaker, we need to rip up the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force and hold a real debate and vote on these new, ongoing wars. The people deserve to know the costs and consequences of these wars.

Yes, Congress has been missing in action once again. We owe it to our servicemembers to do our job.

#### WELCOMING DUCKS UNLIMITED

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the more than 40 volunteers from 26 States representing Ducks Unlimited who are on the Hill today.

As an avid outdoorsman and waterfowler myself, as well as a member of Ducks Unlimited for over 25 years, I have seen the wonderful firsthand benefits this group provides. Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 14 million acres of land in its 80-year history, 25,000 of which are in my home State of Kansas. I send a big

thank-you for all those folks up north of us who have done such a great job raising these ducks.

Work like this is vital to ensuring that the natural resources of our land are protected and monitored so that our children and grandchildren can come someday to rural Kansas, from Cheyenne Bottoms to the Quivira Wildlife Refuge, and enjoy those great outdoor moments.

I thank the folks at Ducks Unlimited for their work, and I welcome them to Capitol Hill.

#### SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate California's Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month and to recognize the contributions that Sikh Americans have made not only in California, but throughout the country.

This community originally came from Punjab, India, like other immigrant groups from all over the world, to have a better life for themselves and for their children.

In 1910, the Sikhs had become a cornerstone in California agriculture's Sacramento, Imperial, and San Joaquin Valleys. In addition to sharing the rich culture and the contributions that they have made to our economy, they are farmers, businessowners, physicians, and in all walks of life.

Sikh Americans stand with all Americans in their patriotism and values. Beginning with World War I, Sikhs have served in all of the American wars. Sikh communities promote the values of diversity, equality, freedom, justice, and giving back to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the many contributions of Sikh Americans, which have made us a stronger nation and play an integral role in the health of the San Joaquin Valley and our Nation.

#### VETERANS ESTEEM TEAM EVENT

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the veterans in my district and those who support them.

Earlier this month, I attended a Veterans Esteem Team event in Lapeer County. It is a dinner organized and prepared by local junior high and high school students from North Branch, Almont, and Dryden to honor area veterans. Those who served our Nation are the best 1 percent this country produces.

Words will never be adequate to capture the debt of gratitude owed to the

men and women of our military who have enabled our Nation to continue to be safe and prosperous. I am honored to serve with them and the students in my district who took the time to recognize and organize the veterans at this event.

#### GOP TAX SCAM

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

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the Senate's version of tax reform would increase the deficit by \$38 billion in 2018. By 2027, the debt would increase by a whopping \$1.4 trillion.

I stand here today calling for tax reform legislation that would help my constituents and millions of other Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the GOP tax plan is irresponsible governing. Many of my constituents say that their families have yet to recover from the great recession, and I hear them loud and clear.

I cannot stand by silently while my colleagues on the other side of the aisle rush through a bill for which it will take years for our economy to recover. This bill raises taxes on 82 million middle class households solely to create giveaways for the wealthy few.

We have only 9 legislative days left this calendar year. It is time to focus on legislation that will give Americans a better deal. We need commonsense, reality-based legislation that will create opportunities for all Americans, not just the select few.

#### WE NEED LOWER TAXES

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, it has been proven all over the world that the most wasteful, least economical, least efficient way to spend money is to turn it over to the Federal Government. If this was not true, then places like Cuba, North Korea, and Venezuela would be heavens on Earth. Socialism simply does not work.

Money left in the private sector does much more to create jobs and hold down prices than does any money turned over to government. A business that continually wastes money and operates inefficiently will eventually go out of business.

A government agency that wastes money or operates inefficiently just uses that as an excuse to ask for higher appropriations. This is what the tax cut bill is all about: an effort to leave more money in the private sector, where it will create jobs and hold down prices.

Wealthy elitists come out ahead, even under our socialist, Big Govern-

ment systems. Lower income people come out better when more money is left in private hands to create jobs and hold prices down.

College graduates often wonder why they can't find good jobs. In large part, it is because our Federal, State, and local corporate taxes are too high, and this has caused us to lose millions of good jobs to other countries.

Mr. Speaker, we need lower taxes.

#### HBCU 9

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the HBCU 9, the nine Historically Black Colleges and Universities who are celebrating 150 years of academic excellence.

These schools hail from six States and count great African-American leaders such as Eva Clayton, JOHN LEWIS, and Martin Luther King, Jr., as members of their illustrious alumni.

The nine include: Alabama State University, Barber-Scotia College, Fayetteville State University, Howard University, Johnson C. Smith University, Morehouse College, Morgan State University, St. Augustine University, and Talladega College.

Their achievements for the past 150 years are remarkable. They have cultivated a long history as incubators of innovation and continue to produce the next generation of leaders.

Twenty-five percent of African-American STEM graduates, 40 percent of African-American lawyers, 50 percent of African-American teachers, and 21 current members of the Congressional Black Caucus are proud HBCU grads.

These schools were born out of necessity and have endured the test of time to spark a movement and create the African-American middle class, fundamentally changing this country for the better.

Please stand with me in recognizing the HBCU 9 for their years of leadership in African-American communities and their dedication to helping students realize their dreams.

#### CONGRATULATING STATE CHAMP PRAIRIE RIDGE WOLVES FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Prairie Ridge Wolves football team on their second straight Class 6A State Championship.

The team repeated last year's outstanding performance of finishing the season without losing a single game. Beating the Nazareth Roadrunners in the State final 28-21, the team now has a 28 game winning streak. Their last loss was in 2015.

The team is ranked second in the State overall by the Chicago Tribune. Coach Chris Schremp has been a critical and central figure in their success. A 21-year veteran at Prairie Ridge High School, he was named IHSA Football Coach of the Year and is now competing for the national recognition.

Another crucial part of the team is quarterback Samson Evans. He had a fantastic season. Dubbed "Superman" for his exploits on the field, Evans was named the Chicago Sun-Times 2017 Player of the Year. He will continue his career as an Iowa Hawkeye alongside teammate and lineman Jeff Jenkins.

Congratulations, Prairie Ridge Wolves, for your excellent season, and here is to a continued undefeated winning streak.

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#### TAX REFORM BILL PRESERVES ADOPTION TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the importance of adoption and what Congress can be doing to help more kids get adopted into loving, caring families.

November is National Adoption Month, and it is time we talk about how the GOP tax reform bill, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, will help children in need of loving families by supporting those whose lives have been touched by adoption.

Our tax reform bill preserves the adoption tax credit, which allows taxpayers to claim expenses related to the adoption of a child, including fees, court costs, and travel expenses. This credit ultimately helps get more children into permanent, loving families, and the credit costs only about \$3.8 billion over 10 years, a small fraction of our overall budget.

Mr. Speaker, I worked tirelessly with my colleagues to ensure that this adoption tax credit was included in the House's tax bill, and I am pleased that the Senate's version also preserves it in their draft.

I urge my colleagues to work quickly to pass tax reform that preserves the adoption tax credit while bringing tax relief to all American families.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4182, ENSURING A QUALIFIED CIVIL SERVICE ACT OF 2017, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1699, PRESERVING ACCESS TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING ACT OF 2017

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 635 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows: