

He instilled in his children and seven grandchildren to be kind, to be respectful of others, to work hard, to get the things you want in life, to be active citizens of the United States, and, most importantly, to know Jesus.

These words and this biography were put together by the daughter of Mr. Esco. What a man. What a daughter. What a family.

Mr. Speaker, these are the kind of people who I am fortunate to represent, and I am indeed pleased to share them with the rest of the world.

With much love and respect, I am U.S. Representative DANNY DAVIS from the Seventh District of Illinois.

MONTHLY MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING MILITARY MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, in 2008, I introduced a resolution amending House rules, which would require that we open the first session day of every month with a moment of silence in honor of the military members who had been killed in war. Speaker NANCY PELOSI got word of my resolution and her office informed me that amending the rules would not be necessary.

Speaker PELOSI decided that she, and only she, would open the legislative month with that moment of remembrance. She kept her word and, monthly, met her commitment to our fallen American heroes.

Yesterday, I introduced the same legislation, H. Res. 643, and I called on the Speaker of the House to initiate this policy of honoring the military members we have lost fighting for this country.

Since Mr. RYAN became Speaker of the House in 2015, at least 165 brave American men and women have been killed in service. We in Congress have not sufficiently recognized or remembered those who have died for America.

It is my belief that since Speaker RYAN is in the line of succession to become President of the United States and Commander in Chief, it is his constitutional responsibility, and solely his responsibility, to show gratitude to those who have died for this country. I wrote to Speaker RYAN on December 5 asking that he begin this tradition in January of 2018.

In closing, I hope all of my colleagues will join me in support of H. Res. 643. America is at war. American military members are fighting and dying for this country. It is only through remembrance and prayer that the United States House of Representatives can truly show the bereaved families of those we lost that we share in their sadness.

Mr. Speaker, when I come to the floor to talk about death and war, I try to show the pain in the faces of those who have lost loved ones. The least we can do in this House is, once a month,

have a moment of prayer in remembrance of those who have died for this country.

COMMEMORATING ADMIRAL LLOYD R. “JOE” VASEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Hawaii and the veterans of the Pacific war, I speak today in support of H.R. 4300, the Admiral Lloyd R. “Joe” Vasey Pacific War Commemorative Display Establishment Act, which will establish a Pacific war memorial at Pearl Harbor.

Pacific Historic Parks, a nonprofit organization based in Honolulu, will design and build the memorial in coordination with the National Park Service. The project will not require Federal funds, and I am grateful for their partnership.

My sincere thanks to my friends and colleagues, Congressman ROB BISHOP, for joining me in introduction of this bill, and working with Ranking Member RAÚL GRIJALVA to ensure its swift consideration by the Natural Resources Committee.

“Thank you,” “mahalo,” to our over 990 cosponsors who built bipartisan support for this measure. I understand it will pass by unanimous consent later today.

Seventy-six years ago today, Imperial Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, pulling our country into World War II in the Pacific. The Pacific Theater was the scene of fierce fighting, and more than 150,000 U.S. casualties on the Philippines, Guam, the Solomon Islands, and many places in-between.

Brave Americans lost their lives in defense of our Nation. Today, at Pearl Harbor, the USS *Arizona* symbolizes the start of the war, and the USS *Missouri* marks its conclusion. But there is no memorial recognizing the experiences and sacrifices of those who fought in the Pacific.

Admiral Vasey served on the USS *Gunnel* during the Pacific war, and it is his vision that we are realizing with this memorial. After fighting for his country, he dedicated his life to the pursuit of peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

In addition to his service in the U.S. Navy, he founded the Pacific Forum Center for Strategic and International Studies—CSIS. Admiral Vasey served as the Senior Adviser for Policy, Pacific Forum CSIS; the former chief of strategic plans and policies for the U.S. Pacific Command; and the Secretary to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Admiral Vasey is 100 years old, and he will turn 101 on January 31, 2018. He carries with him the memories of those lost in combat and the honor and responsibility of the veterans who survived. Hopefully, with passage of H.R. 4300, Admiral Vasey and the remaining survivors will find some peace, knowing that the fallen soldiers will be

properly honored and future generations will visit the memorial and learn of the battles that they fought.

We must share their stories of sacrifices in the hopes that we prevent future generations from waging war and participating in the historical racism that resulted in the internment of Japanese Americans, including both of my grandfathers.

This spirit of American history must not be forgotten. The lessons were hard, but they helped shape a better nation. This country owes Admiral Vasey and the members of the Greatest Generation a heartfelt “thank-you,” “mahalo.”

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THE KATE STEINLE VERDICT AND THREE PRINCIPLES FOR IMMIGRATION POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, on July 1 of 2015, Kate Steinle was walking with her father on a pier in San Francisco. While she was on the pier, she was shot to death by an illegal immigrant who had been deported five times. He had been convicted of seven felonies.

Before he murdered Kate Steinle, the Federal Government had asked the city to turn him over so that he could be deported again. The city, following its policy of not cooperating with Federal immigration officials, released him from jail. He murdered Kate Steinle 3 months later. A few days ago, her killer was declared not guilty by a San Francisco jury. For now, there is no justice for Kate Steinle.

There is a question in this, though, for all of us. It is a question we should ask when we are confronted by a terrorist attack conducted by the asylees like the Boston bombing or the San Bernardino massacre, where one of the attackers was in the United States on a K-1 visa.

The question is: Why was this person in our country? In the case of Kate Steinle, we now know exactly why: the city of San Francisco’s policy. The city is an accomplice to Kate Steinle’s death. It is pure and simple.

They have defied and continue to defy Federal law. They defied it in general by refusing to cooperate with Federal immigration authorities as a blanket policy, and they defied it in the specific case that led to the death of Kate Steinle.

This is a radical policy, and I don’t use that word lightly. You have an illegal immigrant convicted of multiple crimes, in addition to coming here illegally five times. The Federal Government tries to send the guy home a sixth time, and the city lets him go because they ignore the law, and then he murders someone.

The results of this city’s extremism is a shattered family. The result is a

father who will never see his daughter again. The result is a mother who has to face the worst nightmare of every parent. These are the terrible facts of this tragedy, Mr. Speaker, and there is nothing we can do in this body to change them.

What we can do is move forward towards an immigration policy that is based on sound principles. For the radicals, this will be a radical change. For everyday Americans, this is just common sense.

On this front, there are three fundamental principles to a sane immigration policy. First, Americans have the right to determine who becomes citizens through laws. It is right there in the Constitution. Article I, section 8, provides Congress with the explicit authority to regulate naturalization. A country without borders is not a country. It is just a geographic destination.

Second, who comes here should be in the best interest of Americans. The number of known criminals we need to be letting in is zero. The number of people who cannot read and cannot speak English we need to be admitting is zero. The number of radical Islamists and of drug addicts we need to be letting in—zero. We are ready and willing to welcome hardworking immigrants who are ready to pay taxes, to follow our laws, and to build our country together.

Third, we have the right to enforce our choices through immigration laws. We should stop sanctuary cities and enforce sanctions against those who hire illegal labor. We should build President Trump's border wall, a policy that has worked unbelievably well in Israel. Most people agree that law enforcement is an effective deterrent against committing crimes. Illegal immigration is no different.

Mr. Speaker, according to the Pew Research Center, the population of illegal immigrants in my State of North Carolina has gone up 1,400 percent from 25,000 people in 1990 to 350,000 in the year 2014. We have got to get this under control. Any country where the Kate Steinle tragedy can happen is not a country with a sane immigration policy.

I hope we never again have to ask the question after a tragedy: Why is this person in our country? Because I hope the answer will be widely known, that we have a reasonable immigration system that benefits all Americans and does everything within reason not to bring in people who will hurt us. Kate Steinle proves that we are not there yet. But I believe that we can get there one day.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF FEDERAL DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the American public has caught on to our Republican colleagues' tax scam. They

know their bill takes from our struggling middle class and rewards bountifully the billionaire class and transnational corporations—the very ones that will use the money to ship more of our jobs overseas.

In fact, the only permanent tax giveaways this bill will cause are for big corporations. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates their bill will add \$1 trillion additionally to our debt minimum, and that doesn't count the interest.

This chart shows over time how much more of our gross domestic product—our economic prowess, what we produce every year in our country—is related to the national debt. The national debt has been exploding over time. Their bill makes it worse, not better. We should not so highly leverage our economy.

Their bill flies in the face of fiscal responsibility, and to what end? The bill would decrease Federal revenue by a projected \$5.5 trillion, tragically putting our national economic security at grave risk. What is put on the table for cuts? Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid—all on the chopping block.

There is little in the Republican bill good for average Americans. With their legislation, our Republican colleagues will actually push America into deeper financial servitude to foreign investors buying our debt like China and Saudi Arabia. How does this make America great again? Foreign investors will be financing more and more of U.S. debt.

This chart shows how much now is being financed by foreign interests. Way back, the American people used to buy Treasury securities, and we financed our own debt. But over time, what has happened is that because we were leveraging our economy too highly with debt—borrowed money—foreign interests started to buy our securities. They now own nearly half. Do you know what? That means we owe not just the principal they have borrowed, but interest. So over time, the hole is being dug deeper, and foreign interests literally have now become the largest holder of U.S. debt.

Under their scheme, foreign nations will snap up and buy more U.S. Treasury securities, and this will rob future investments that would benefit Americans because we are required to pay back not just the principal but the interest to foreign creditors. Imagine if that money that we are paying on interest to foreign creditors could actually be invested here in America through tax cuts that actually target middle class families to increase their buying power. But with this massive debt, the American Government is sliding on a slippery slope more beholden to foreign creditors, not the American people.

China is now our largest foreign creditor. If you look at the debt that we owe, you will see China has been growing as an owner of the United States of America. Over time, they already own \$1.2 trillion along with other Asian

powers, or 19 percent of our foreign-owned debt. Our taxpayers are paying China principal plus interest—not a good formula for American independence.

Yet China's authorities are not hesitant to undermine American interests starting with democracy itself. But on economic issues, they dump steel to such an excessive level on global markets that it has crushed our domestic steel industry. They manipulate their currency to advantage the yuan, and they continue to rob intellectual property from American companies and universities every day. Being in the pocket of China to finance our debt is not in America's interest.

Other top countries buying U.S. debt include—get ready for this—the Cayman Islands with \$260 billion, and India and Saudi Arabia with between \$135 billion and \$248 billion; and that is a conservative estimate. Even Russia—Russia—owns \$86.2 billion of our debt—a country that interfered in our election process and in our closest allies in Europe's elections.

America best be careful because we are ending up in foreign servitude through the ownership of the U.S. debt. Defeating the Republican tax plan is one way to start righting the ship of state.

NORTH CAROLINA IS THE NUMBER ONE STATE FOR BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, recently, Forbes magazine reported something that we North Carolinians have known for some time: North Carolina is the number one State for business.

To give credit where it is due, the Tar Heel State's successful business atmosphere is in large part due to the North Carolina Legislature which has cut personal and corporate tax rates since Republicans assumed the majority in 2010. This year the legislature enacted a budget that reduces the State's flat personal income tax rate from 5.499 to 5.25 in January of 2019.

In 2013, elected officials in Raleigh created an impressive probusiness policy agenda that reduced the State's corporate income tax from 6.9 percent in 2013 to 3 percent in 2017, which will drop to 2.5 percent in 2019. This progrowth corporate income tax reduction has played a pivotal role in making North Carolina attractive to businesses.

The State of North Carolina is a wonderful place to start a business and to live, and people from other States are moving to the State in droves. Migration rates to North Carolina consistently rank in the highest percentiles in the Nation. Our State ranks second in lowest business costs in terms of labor, energy, and taxes. With rankings like that, it is no wonder that businesses rightly choose to operate out of North Carolina.