

the additional resources this legislation provides.

Mr. Speaker, this bill enjoys bipartisan support and could reduce the number of unnecessary pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths. By taking this important step, we can and will save lives.

NET NEUTRALITY

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, in 3 days, the internet as we know it could change forever.

On December 14, the FCC will be taking a vote on whether or not to get rid of net neutrality protections that keep the internet open, fair, and equal for everyone. Repealing these protections will allow internet service providers like Verizon, Comcast, and AT&T to control the levers of the internet—stifling access, deciding which websites you and I can visit and use, and making it virtually impossible for small businesses to compete against industry giants.

It will hurt our students, entrepreneurs, working families, and all who rely on the internet for things from education to healthcare to employment as a level playing field of opportunity.

The FCC must protect the people it is supposed to be serving, not big corporate interests, and make sure that the internet remains a place where everyone has a seat at the table.

SUPPORT YOUNG FARMERS AND VETERANS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Farmers of Tomorrow Act, a bill that Congresswoman CHERI BUSTOS and I recently introduced. Our bill was designed to make it easier for young farmers and veterans to purchase new land to begin a farming career.

New and beginning farmers can obtain ownership loans through USDA to buy land, but too many experience difficulty due to outdated experience requirements that do not take into account the variety of paths future farmers can take to prepare to run their operations.

The Farmers of Tomorrow Act allows new, beginning, or veteran farmers to count various experience toward the current 3-year experience requirement to make it easier to access USDA financing. This includes an honorable discharge from the United States military, successful completion of a farm management curriculum, at least 1 year as hired farm labor with management responsibilities, and more.

Access to land is essential for supporting the next generation of farmers.

This legislation will help get more Americans involved in agriculture, while strengthening rural communities. I encourage all my colleagues to support it.

TAX PROPOSAL

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, this week the Republican leadership will reconcile the House and Senate tax proposals. In doing so, I strongly urge my colleagues to put politics aside and put working families first.

To do this, we need to enable employers and workers to invest in new skills for emerging jobs in our evolving economy. We need to spur infrastructure investment. We need to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and new business formation. We need to ensure that every American has access to a quality education that prepares them for a successful career.

We need to do all of this without exploding the national debt. The plans before the committee do not pay for themselves. Unfortunately, they do not guarantee against cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security either, and they do not put working families first.

For the sake of our economy and for the sake of our seniors, students, and working families, I strongly urge the conferees to produce a bill that focuses on their needs.

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RECOGNIZING SERGEANT VINCENT SCALISE

(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 Sergeant Vincent Scalise, the founder of the Central New York Veterans Outreach Center in Utica, New York.

Sergeant Scalise has served our Nation in the Army National Guard for over 19 years and was deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq with the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry. Sergeant Scalise has also responded to multiple natural disasters and homeland security missions, and was awarded the New York National Guard's Colonel Gouverneur Morris Citizen/Soldier Award.

In 2008, Sergeant Scalise saw an opportunity in the vacant YMCA building in downtown Utica for a veterans outreach center to serve veterans and their families in times of need. His vision and hard work has created a safe and welcoming refuge for veterans and their families.

Currently, the Central New York Veterans Outreach Center administers a Federal grant to aid veterans in danger of becoming homeless, and it has a food pantry onsite for veterans and

their families, among a variety of other services. Work has begun to construct 18 onsite housing units, and the center has been awarded its fourth consecutive Federal veteran homeless prevention grant.

I commend Sergeant Scalise for his dedicated service to our country, community, and fellow veterans, and I wish the center many more years of growth and success.

HONORING ALBERT O. ORTA

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, the recent passing of the father of my district director brings me to the floor today to speak about the extraordinary career of Albert O. Orta and his selfless service to our Nation.

He began his career in the U.S. Air Force at Lackland Air Force Base in 1947, where he became an expert on radar and communications equipment. In 1949, he married Mary Louise Guerrero, which resulted in 12 children, 31 grandchildren, and 29 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Orta was a busy man, but he also served his country after leaving the U.S. Air Force. He became an expert in radar engineering and communications, working on the B-29, B-36, B-47, and B-52, as well as fighter jets F-84, F-86A, F-89, F-102, and F-106.

His outstanding accomplishments and his willingness to serve our Nation faithfully and to the best of his abilities brought him praise from President Jimmy Carter and a host of generals all around this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues and the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Albert O. Orta for his distinguished career and his proud service to our country.

CALLING AN ANGEL

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the Bible says angels come down from Heaven to end our pain.

On December 9, 2006, God called an angel home to end our pain. Her name was Chelsey Campbell. She died of cancer at age 16.

Our Lord put Chelsey in the hearts of two dear friends, Trish and Kevin Kline. They started the Snowdrop Foundation to end cancer for all kids. Kevin is a DJ on the 93Q Morning Zoo. Loyal listeners call Kevin "Gumpman." He is joined by two partners, Erica "La Reina Hermosa" Rico and Tim "Knucklehead" Tuttle.

Every Christmas, 93Q partners with Snowdrop and the Texas Children's Hospital for a radiothon. All December, stories are aired on iHeartRadio from parents and kids who are fighting cancer.

Please tune in. If you listen closely, you will hear Chelsey's voice and feel her heart.

APP CHALLENGE WINNERS

(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, I rise today to recognize West Seattle High School students Will Rasmussen and Aidan Day as the winners of Washington's Seventh District Congressional App Challenge.

Will and Aidan developed an app that helps students and teachers maximize learning time in the classroom by automating the checking of attendance, which often takes several minutes of class. Will's and Aidan's design uses RFID technology to let students quickly tag into class using a keycard similar to ORCA cards, our region's transit access cards which allow passengers to pay their bus and train fare by swiping their cards.

Our diverse group of App Challenge judges praised Will's and Aidan's ingenuity. Microsoft enterprise specialist Hammad Rajjoub called it "a great idea to bring to life," because "time is the most important asset we all have." Other judges suggested scaling it up for use in other school districts.

Will's and Aidan's winning project is a model for all of us to use our creativity, knowledge, and ultimately the technology we create to benefit the greater good and improve our communities.

Congratulations, Will and Aidan.

GIRL SCOUTS OF WATAUGA COUNTY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Christmas, many of us consider the season of giving and some also think of Christmas cookies. Equally, when many consider giving back, or cookies, they think of the Girl Scouts. However, Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that Girl Scouts do more than sell cookies. They actively work to improve their communities all year long.

Five Girl Scouts in Watauga County recently received the bronze and silver awards for outstanding community service. A few troops earned awards for redecorating a library reading cave to encourage classmates to spend more time learning. Another Girl Scout taught a free dance class so that children who couldn't afford lessons wouldn't miss out. Last, one Girl Scout sought to help end hunger in Watauga County. She wrote thank-you cards to sponsors that provided funds for healthy Thanksgiving meals to feed the hungry.

These young women are a credit to their parents and to our communities. I congratulate these young women on

their well-earned awards, and I look forward to their continued success.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM ADAMCAK

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. William Adamcak, who passed away on November 23, 2017, at 98 years of age.

Mr. Adamcak was a true patriot and an American war hero, serving in World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war. He received the Purple Heart for his service in D-day during World War II. Even though he and the rest of the Allied forces faced heavy Nazi resistance, Mr. Adamcak led his men through the infamous Omaha Beach and into the French uplands, where they dug foxholes.

Huddled in their foxholes, they faced heavy mortar attack from the Germans. But through Mr. Adamcak's bravery, training, and leadership, he led his men to a successful completion of their mission.

Mr. William Adamcak was a living legend and hero, and I could not be more honored to recognize this man from the Greatest Generation on the House floor today. He will truly be missed.

CLOSE THE INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, there is an intractable bias and prejudice that infects Robert Mueller's investigation of President Trump and his team.

Look no further than Peter Strzok. He was central to clearing Hillary Clinton by changing the information in her exoneration statement from grossly negligent to extremely careless. Then, somehow, he gets drafted into the Mueller probe and starts sending anti-Trump, pro-Hillary text messages to his mistress.

Then we learn that Bruce Ohr, who was also involved in the investigation, met with Fusion GPS officials proximate to their interactions that impacted the election. Now we have learned that the wife of Bruce Ohr—the wife of a senior official involved in this investigation—was moonlighting, working for Fusion GPS and bringing up scandalous, unverified, and salacious accusations against the President.

Even Mueller's number two, Andrew Weissmann, praised Sally Yates for defying a direct order from the President.

It is time to bring this witch hunt of an investigation to a close and move on to Make America Great Again.

150 YEARS OF HBCU EXCELLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, 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 Congress, our constituents, and all Americans.

I acknowledge all the members of the Congressional Black Caucus who are here, and most specifically, Congressman RICHMOND, who helped to organize this Special Order hour.

As we convene tonight, we are going to recognize our HBCUs, and more specifically, the nine HBCUs under the caption of: 150 Years of Excellence.

I rise today to honor our Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and in particular, the nine schools that are celebrating 150 years.

As a member of the CBC's Task Force on HBCUs and as co-chair of the bipartisan HBCU Caucus, I have the distinct pleasure of honoring all of the following schools of the HBCU 9 for this remarkable achievement: Alabama State University; Barber-Scotia College; Fayetteville State University; Howard University, Morehouse College; Morgan State University; St. Augustine University; Talladega College; and from my very own 12th District in North Carolina, Johnson C. Smith University.

The achievement of these schools across the past 150 years are beyond remarkable and their reputation as incubators of innovation and Black leadership is an incredible accomplishment in and of itself.

From humble beginnings, these schools have been able to persevere, despite decades of discrimination and intentional neglect, in order to provide African Americans a first class education.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today as a living testament to the necessity and the importance of HBCUs. My mother, who raised me, was not an educated woman. She wasn't able to obtain a high school education. She didn't attend an HBCU, for that matter. But she understood how important education would be in my life. She did domestic work. She cleaned other folks' houses so I wouldn't have to because she understood how important it was for me to go to school.