

It is in our hands. We cannot keep deferring a vote on a clean Dream Act. A deferred vote is a dream denied. Justice delayed is justice denied.

But I tell the Dreamers this: Don't be afraid. Don't be discouraged. Don't be deterred. Don't be dismayed. You have to continue to fight for the most important issues facing America. You have done a tremendous job. Keep this fight moving forward for justice in America.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 22ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE SHOOT-DOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the Brothers to the Rescue shoot-down, where three U.S. citizens and one U.S. resident were murdered by the tyrannical Castro regime.

On February 24, 1996, Carlos Costa, Mario de la Pena, Armando Alejandro, and Pablo Morales were on a humanitarian mission over international airspace, over international waters when they were illegally and brutally shot down. This mission over the Florida straits sought to save the lives of Cubans fleeing Castro's grip of power in search of freedom.

Sylvia Iriondo was rescued in a Cessna and brought to the safety of our shores. You see, Mr. Speaker, Sylvia was aboard the only plane that survived on that fatal day. She recounts how, after seeing the burst of smoke over the skyline, the pilot, Jose Basulto—who, along with Sylvia, has testified before the U.S. Congress—pleaded on the radio for his colleagues to respond. Twenty-two years have passed and justice for the deaths of our American heroes has yet to be achieved.

Ruben Martinez Puente, Lorenzo Alberto Perez y Perez, and Francisco Perez y Perez have all been indicted in our U.S. courts for their roles in the murderous Brothers to the Rescue shoot-down, but they have yet to be held accountable.

I have urged administration after administration to bring these perpetrators to the United States so that they can be prosecuted and justice can be served.

Furthermore, the Obama administration made the grave error of releasing Cuban spy Gerardo Hernandez, who was convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage and conspiracy to commit murder for his role in the deaths of these brave pilots—released.

I will continue to urge our Department of Justice to pursue legal action against all current and former Cuban regime operatives who perpetrated that murderous attack against the Brothers to the Rescue aircrafts, its unarmed victims, and all Cuban operatives who planned or otherwise participated in the shoot-down.

To this day, the same regime that violated international law to kill Carlos, Mario, Armando, and Pablo remains as oppressive as ever, routinely beating and harassing peaceful protesters and incarcerating journalists.

We cannot let anyone forget the blood at the hands of the Castro regime. The Brothers to the Rescue and their families will forever serve as an inspiration to those who are willing to endure great sacrifices for the sake of a free Cuba.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 2018 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY TORCH AWARDS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the recipients of the 2018 Torch Awards from my alma mater, Florida International University.

The Torch Award is the highest honor given to both faculty and alumni by the FIU Alumni Association, highlighting the excellence that they bring to their professions and the pride they bring to FIU as an educational institution. Their exceptional achievements and contributions not only to our university but to our Miami community at large have earned them this prestigious award.

This year's honorees include:

Alumnus of the Year Chad Moss, class of 1994. Chad currently serves as the executive vice president of Moss and Associates, one of Florida's largest private construction companies.

Outstanding Faculty Award Recipient Dr. Mark Allen Weiss. Dr. Weiss is an eminent scholar chaired professor and the associate director of academic affairs for the FIU School of Computing and Information Sciences.

Community Leadership Award recipient Seth Crapp of the class of 1998. Seth is a pediatric radiologist and has demonstrated exemplary service and civic engagement in his community through his activism at Knots4Kids, T. Leroy Jefferson Medical Society, and two-time chair of the group's annual health fair which has benefited thousands of underserved children in Palm Beach.

Lastly, the Charles E. Perry Young Alumni Visionary Award recipient, Manny Varas, class of 2010 and an MBA in 2014. Manny, the president and CEO of MV Group, a full service construction company, has made great strides in the early stages of his career.

These individuals, Mr. Speaker, and the many other distinguished alumni honored this year exemplify what it means to be an FIU Panther. Their service to the betterment of our community makes them valuable and deserving of this great honor. I congratulate them all.

Go Panthers.

#### VALENTINE'S DAY DOMESTIC ABUSE REMINDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, today is Valentine's Day. Children will pass around

cards and candy at school. Young men and women will gather the courage to speak with their crush, and many couples will get engaged to marry.

I sent my first Valentine, my mother, flowers. I will spend this evening telling my wife, Monica, and my girls, Sky and Sage, the many ways that I love and appreciate them over FaceTime.

But for many, today is not a joyous day. There are too many victims of domestic abuse who live in homes of broken hearts and who search for love but find violence instead. No form of mental, emotional, sexual, or physical abuse is acceptable no matter who it is from or under any circumstance, period.

I thank the many organizations, like Shelter From the Storm, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, and others in my district, for the refuge and support that they provide.

To the victims: I want you to know that you are not broken and you are not at fault. You are a survivor and you have the courage. Help is only one phone call away. Happy Valentine's Day.

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#### ILLEGAL ALIEN AMNESTY FINANCIAL COSTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, America cannot afford to be the world's orphanage because we simply do not have the money. America's 2015 deficit was \$438 billion. America's 2016 deficit deteriorated to \$585 billion. America's 2017 deficit deteriorated yet again to \$666 billion.

Now, thanks to last week's debt junkie spending bill, America faces a trillion-dollar deficit this year. By every account, America's deficit threatens a dangerous insolvency and bankruptcy that will destroy the America it took our ancestors centuries to build. Let there be no mistake about it, illegal aliens are a large part of America's debt problem. Per a recent Federation for American Immigration Reform study, illegal aliens are a \$116 billion per year net tax loss to American taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. America tried amnesty in 1986, and it failed miserably, turning a 1 to 2 million illegal alien problem into today's 15 million illegal alien disaster. Why? Because amnesty does not stop illegal conduct; rather, it encourages illegal conduct.

It baffles me that Washington's "Surrender Caucus" refuses to learn from history and anxiously seeks to repeat 1986's bad mistake, at great cost to America. And the cost is great.

A 2015 Center for Immigration Studies report disclosed that more than 60 percent of households that have an illegal alien in them are on welfare, compared to only 30 percent of households

with no immigrants in them. Consistent with that data, the Congressional Budget Office determined that the Democrats' Dream Act that gives amnesty to illegal aliens and that Democrats recently shut down the government over costs Federal taxpayers \$26 billion. And that \$26 billion net tax loss to Federal taxpayers does not include even larger State and local tax losses.

By any measure, any amnesty, including amnesty for DACA illegal aliens, makes the illegal alien problem worse and, over the long haul, costs American taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars America does not have, has to borrow to get, and cannot afford to pay back. Of course, the leftist mainstream media rarely shares these facts with Americans because it undermines their fake news narrative that Dreamer amnesty pays for itself.

Mr. Speaker, the executive branch must do its job. The executive branch must catch and evict illegal aliens. It is that simple. Further, the executive branch must enforce section 212 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which states that no person may seek admission to the United States or become a permanent resident if the individual, "at the time of application for admission or adjustment of status, is likely at any time to become a public charge."

If the executive branch will simply enforce America's immigration laws, there will be no illegal alien problem and taxpayers will, over the long haul, save hundreds of billions of dollars that could be better spent on debt reduction or American citizens. Unfortunately, instead of insisting that the executive branch enforce the law, Washington's "Surrender Caucus" wants to give up and grant amnesty to illegal aliens, thereby, again, naively rewarding illegal conduct at great cost to American taxpayers.

In so doing, Washington's "Surrender Caucus" betrays American families and taxpayers who must foot the bill for yet another bad mistake by Washington that is motivated by election-year politics, not America's best interests.

#### DEFENDING FREEDOM OF SPEECH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EMMER). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am always honored to stand in the well of the House.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise as a liberated Democrat, a liberated Democrat who will not only speak truth to power but who will also speak truth about power.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to defend freedom of speech. I rise to defend the freedom of speech of The Hill newspaper. I defend the freedom of speech of The Hill newspaper when it printed these words: "'Morning Joe' host"—I

won't mention his name—"said on Sunday that the Democratic Party should take away funding from Democratic candidates who talk about impeaching President Trump on the campaign trail."

I am such a candidate. I have talked about impeaching the President, and I will continue to talk about impeaching the President.

I am defending The Hill for printing this, by the way. The Hill goes on to say: "Any Democrat mentioning the word 'impeachment' on the campaign trail should have their campaign funds pulled by the Democratic Party."

This is what was tweeted by the host of "Morning Joe":

"I defend The Hill's right to print it, and I defend the right of 'Morning Joe' host to say what he said, and I hope people will defend and respect my right to say what I'm about to say."

"I will not be intimidated. I want the host to know that, if those who have threatened my life couldn't intimidate me, he will not. I want the host to know that I spoke about impeachment just this weekend that passed."

And I am looking to future engagements to speak about impeachment. And I will bring Articles of Impeachment to the floor of the House of Representatives again if conditions require it. I am not afraid. I have no fear of these people who would have me abrogate my constitutional rights. I will stand and defend them, and I will exercise my rights.

The truth is this: We all have a duty to speak up and speak out and stand up. That is what I will do.

God bless you. Happy Valentine's Day.

#### RECOGNIZING BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF BUCKS COUNTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bucks County, which has served tens of thousands of kids in our community since its founding in 1963.

The Bucks County chapter is unique. Since 2015, they have piloted an expansion of their mentorship program, which pairs elementary schools with high school mentors to include children with autism spectrum disorder. This tailored program caters to the students' unique needs, providing these children with two specially trained high school mentors rather than one to ensure a greater level of stability.

The program has been so successful that Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bucks County is now looking to expand it. Their community mentorship program matches at-risk youth ages 6 to 16 with volunteer mentors. This program provides caring adult role models who consistently spend time with their "littles" to help them make good

choices so that they may become productive, responsible, and engaged young adults.

I want to highlight the story of John Wilson, the board president and an individual who himself benefited from Big Brothers Big Sisters. John's father passed away when he was 5. He was matched with a big brother when he was 12 at a point when, in his own words, he was at a significant risk of heading in the wrong direction. He credits his mentor with having a profound impact on his life, without whom his life could have turned out very differently, in John's words.

John graduated from college, enjoyed a successful career, and now gives back as president of the board. John is still in contact with his big brother and working hard to pay back the investment made in him years ago. To all those involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters, including John, we thank you for your work in helping our youth in Bucks County.

#### SAVE STONE MEADOWS FARM

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, growing up in Middletown Township in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and as a current Middletown Township resident now representing my hometown in Congress, I have seen my community change throughout the years. The one constant, however, has always been the presence of Stone Meadows Farm, one of the last remaining active agricultural lands in our township. The 168-acre farm has a rich history that connects the present to the past; and, as development continues throughout our region, Stone Meadows Farm reminds residents why we chose to live in beautiful Middletown Township, Pennsylvania. I firmly believe that this is something worth preserving.

In Bucks County, we are fortunate that our local and county leaders continue to make concerted efforts to preserve our open spaces, and here in Congress I am working to support preservation and land conservation efforts nationwide. I stand ready to work with any government official and our citizens, like members of the Save Stone Meadow Farm movement, who share this goal to preserve our quality of life and the character of our community.

Whether in our hometown or across our great Nation, we must stand ready to preserve and protect our open spaces from overdevelopment.

#### HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning, I had the opportunity to attend part of Fulton Bank's 39th annual Agriculture Seminar, which is a day-long informational event that draws individuals from all over the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The event is free and