

those on the edges of life: the newborn and the elderly.

I am proud that our country spends \$115 billion every year to help those who need food assistance and spends another \$3 billion of nutrition assistance across the world. But what I am really proud of, though, is this gives everybody on food stamps and nutrition assistance a chance, an opportunity for some type of work training.

I think there is no greater gift we can give to people than teaching them how to fish, as well as giving them fish when they are in need. I think that this is a great thing to do. I think it is a great opportunity for people. Over 80 percent of Americans believe in this policy. I believe that this is not a punishment, but rather an opportunity we give to people.

I stand so proudly behind the nutrition component of this farm bill, which we have strived so hard to improve.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE PAUL W. DANAHY, JR., ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Paul Danahy, Jr., a leader of distinction from Tampa, Florida, and part of Florida's Greatest Generation. Judge Danahy is celebrating his 90th birthday this week.

Judge Danahy was one of the longest serving members of Florida's Second District Court of Appeals. The judge may also wish to be remembered for working his way through college at the legendary Tampa's Valencia Garden restaurant as the only Anglo member of the Spanish waiters for many, many years. Wherever Judge Danahy worked and served, he earned a reputation for working tirelessly and gaining the respect of all he worked with.

Born in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, Judge Danahy was drawn to Tampa to play basketball at the University of Tampa. In Tampa, he found both a new hometown and the love of his life, Georgia Reed.

Judge Danahy enlisted in the Army during the Korean war and has a very unique military record, including three honorable discharges from two branches of the military: the Marine Reserves, the U.S. Army Infantry, and finally from service in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps, a precursor to the CIA. Upon return from military service, he found his true calling and earned his law degree from the University of Florida in 1957.

Judge Danahy became an influential member of the Florida House of Representatives, serving from 1966 to 1974. True to form, Judge Danahy played a significant role as part of what many believe to be Tampa's greatest State legislative delegations during the 1960s and early 1970s.

There, amongst other progressive policies, he drafted and championed

the first ethics law in the State of Florida, which continues in force to this day and is now firmly enshrined in Florida's constitution. The Florida we know and love today would not be possible without the contributions of Judge Danahy and his partners in Florida's Greatest Generation.

After leaving the legislature, Judge Danahy's service was only beginning. He was appointed to the Second District Court of Appeals in 1977, and sat on the bench a record-shattering 33 years, serving as chief judge from 1986 to 1988. In his 30th year at the court, Judge Danahy received a fitting recognition: the largest conference room at the Tampa branch of the Second District Court of Appeals was named the Judge Paul Danahy, Jr., Conference Room. This recognition not only honored his record-setting time on the bench, but also his legislative accomplishments. He was largely responsible for obtaining the legislative funding to bring the branch to Tampa.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor and send many wishes to a great Tampanian, part of Florida's Greatest Generation of leaders, Judge Paul W. Danahy, Jr., on his 90th birthday. His legacy continues as the patriarch of an ever-growing family to whom he imparts his wisdom and through whom his lessons and beliefs will surely echo in the years to come.

POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR ECONOMY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is already having an incredibly positive impact on our economy. Hundreds of companies have already offered billions in bonuses and raises for their employees, far from the crumbs predicted by some of my colleagues, or the predicted Armageddon.

The best part is, this is just the beginning, as the law won't even take full effect until next year, when we retire much of the current tax calculation process and the burdens of it. That is when taxpayers will notice the biggest difference when filing their tax returns.

Despite these early positive signs, some individuals claim people should still pay more in taxes. They also think they themselves should pay more, like our friend Bill Gates. He says: "I need to pay higher taxes. I've paid more taxes, over \$10 billion, than anyone else, but the government should require the people in my position to pay significantly higher taxes." Interesting.

Not to be outdone, Mr. Gates' fellow billionaire buddy and Berkshire Hathaway CEO, Warren Buffett, has offered similar ideas about the need for people like himself to pay more in taxes. Fine. But the amount of financial security

established by people like this is obviously far from mainstream Americans and what they earn themselves.

Before they amassed their current fortunes, were they as considerably outspoken on the need for progressive taxation, long before establishing themselves as some of the richest men in the world?

I don't think so. Indeed, these days, much of their funds are stashed away in foundations and not voluntarily paid forward as taxes to the U.S. Government. I find that interesting. In short, no amount of taxation would truly impact their lives as it would for mainstream, middle-income Americans. It does impact everyone else.

What is more, I do hear some people in the mainstream who are middle-income folks saying they wouldn't mind paying more in taxes for this or that. What I don't get is why they demand that their neighbor does so, too.

In America, many middle-income families enjoying lower rates question how well their government is spending and managing what they tax them for now. For them, the government report card isn't so good. They don't wish to entrust government with more of their earnings and more of the hard work from the sweat of their brow to an inefficient bureaucracy, even if their neighbors demand that they do, or that the government demands it of them by its power of taxation.

So what I am proposing is a bill with my colleague, Majority Whip STEVE SCALISE, called the Donate Extra Money Against National Debt Act, or the DEMAND Act, for those who demand to pay more. This bill will allow those who want to pay more than required to simply check a box on their tax return and donate as much money to the Treasury as they would like.

Our bill would add to the 1040 tax form a check box and a line stating: By checking here, I signify that in addition to my tax liability, I would like to donate the included payment to be used exclusively for the purpose of paying down the national debt.

Before, there was no simple or obvious way to accomplish this. This makes it easy and obvious in how to do so. This way, anyone who feels the need to pay more in taxes has an easy way to do so. For millions of other hardworking Americans and business owners who suffered under our previous Tax Code and tax law, they will not be forced to do so under that Code any longer.

This bill, indeed, is one of those rare win-wins. Bill Gates and Warren Buffett or anyone who feels they are not paying enough can donate as much money to the Treasury as they would like, while everyday American businesses will thrive in a probusiness and progrowth climate, all this without Congress demanding more or people harranguing their neighbors.

After all, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is already working. U.S. companies are already paying out more than \$4 billion

in bonuses, while over 4 million American workers have already received a pay raise, bonus, or other financial investment. Even Warren Buffett recently referred to the new law as being a “huge tailwind” for American businesses.

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As much as Senator SCHUMER or Minority Leader PELOSI would like to trumpet tax reform as unpopular, bad for the economy, Armageddon, or just crumbs for people, they are missing the point. Tax reform grows more popular each day, especially as more and more Americans see more in their paychecks and begin to realize how they stand to benefit under this new law, especially when the full extent of the law has not yet been felt until next year.

Instead of taking away those savings and benefits, the majority whip and I are giving the people who feel so strongly the option to help pay down the deficit on their own accord voluntarily. I applaud the philanthropic work of Mr. Gates, Mr. Buffett, and others, but the DEMAND Act doesn't force anyone to do anything; it allows certain individuals who demand to pay more in taxes to put their money where their mouth is.

Indeed, Senator Biden, a few years ago, said paying taxes is patriotic, so let those who demand to pay more, who want to pay more, lead the way in the new patriotism.

THE WHITE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address another egregious misrepresentation coming from you know who. How dare anyone refer to an overpriced luxury golf course as the Southern White House.

Let's be clear about something: The Civil War is over. Jefferson Davis failed. The Confederacy lost. There is no such thing as the Southern White House.

Thousands of Americans died on the battlefield and shed blood, sweat, and tears to make certain that, in this country, only one institution connected to the executive branch stood in the land of the free and the home of the brave. That institution is located right here in our Nation's Capital. The address is 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. It was built by slaves.

The White House does not belong to the ghosts of the Confederacy. The White House does not belong to Vladimir Putin or his indigenous collaborators. The White House does not belong to a privately owned real estate cartel to be used and abused as a prop for an infomercial.

We are a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. The White House belongs to the American people.

TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to dispute the absurdity that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act benefits only the wealthy, leaving nothing but crumbs for the rest.

As someone who started contributing to my family's household income at age 12, I am all too familiar with the many struggles of our country's working and middle classes. Despite their steady perseverance in the face of politicians whose fiscal philosophy was “government knows best,” the working poor and middle class have been chewed up by the system that same philosophy promulgated.

Republicans' Tax Cuts and Jobs Act delivers a modern Tax Code that is fiscally responsible, levels the playing field, and supports working-class Americans. Republicans understand that progrowth tax reform means simpler and fairer taxes that provide much-needed relief to the middle class and our small businesses. It also means security for American jobs, more take-home pay for the workforce, and a level playing field for Americans' farms and businesses.

By doubling the standard deduction, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will move more low-income Americans into the zero tax bracket. For married couples filing jointly, this translates to \$24,000 yearly that is free—free—from Federal taxes. This also means that working-class Americans will be able to take home more of their hard-earned paychecks.

Currently, over 70 percent of the people in the United States already take the standard deduction. By doubling the standard deduction, even more Americans will be spared from itemizing, and the process will be so simple that they can file on a postcard. For those few Americans who do elect to itemize, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act preserves the child and dependent care tax credit, the adoption tax credit, the deduction for charitable contributions, the home mortgage interest deduction for existing mortgages, and the deduction for newly purchased homes for interest on up to \$750,000 of mortgage principal.

It also continues to allow for writeoff of State and local property taxes up to \$10,000. Finally, it expands the medical expense deduction in 2018 for medical expenses exceeding 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income and rises to 10 percent beginning in 2019.

Last, by lowering the crippling taxes on businesses, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act translates to an increase in employment and workers' wages. We are seeing the lowest unemployment rate since 2000, and 4 million workers and counting have seen the benefits of these historic tax cuts in their income. Businesses across the country are giving bonuses, pay raises, and new in-

vestments. Bonuses alone amount to over \$4 billion across businesses countrywide.

The evidence that tax cuts provide substantial relief for the working and middle classes is clear. The Democrats' approach was to defend a Tax Code riddled with high taxes and loopholes, but I am proud that Republicans delivered on our promise to bring relief to American workers and happy to say that we are only beginning to see the benefits of this historic tax cut for America's businesses, workers, families, and job creators.

THE HEROIC ACTS OF JAMES SHAW, JR., AND TAMMIE JO SHULTS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, malevolent actions and accidents give an opportunity for people to rise to heroic actions. America is a country familiar with heroes.

At a sad and awful event this weekend in Nashville, Davidson County, at a Waffle House where four individuals were killed and four injured by a crazed individual with an AR-15, a man named James Shaw, Jr., rallied all of his courage and strength to rise to the occasion of heroics, to get the assailant, take his gun from him, and to save his life and other people's lives.

James Shaw, Jr., is a lifetime Nashvillian. He didn't plan to be a hero that day, but he rose to the occasion. I take my hat off to him and commend him for his actions in saving other lives.

Just a week or so earlier, we had a Southwest Airlines plane that would have crashed if it weren't for a great pilot, possibly, a plane that, tragically, had a piece of the wing come off and fly into the airplane and cause the death of a passenger and chaos on the plane.

The pilot, a trained Navy fighter pilot, Tammie Jo Shults, stayed calm and brought that plane in safely without any other loss of life or injuries. She is a Sully part 2: Sullenberger, who took that plane in New York and landed it in the river and saved a lot of people's lives.

We all honored Sully, as we should and should have. We need to honor Tammie Jo Shults in the same way. She is Sullenberger part 2. And James Shaw, Jr., of Nashville is a hero of the same dimension, and he saved many American lives. Those acts need to be remembered, reflected upon, and honored. I do so today, and I know other Members of this House do as well.

HONORING JUDGE PATRICIA GIFFORD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of