

the Near East Relief effort, the generosity of the American people saved the lives of thousands of survivors and helped secure the future of the Armenian people?

And finally, how many Americans know that the Congress and the President have refused to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, intimidated into silence by Turkey?

Turkey has invested heavily in the cause of denial, and to our shame, the U.S. Government has been intimidated into silence. Though Turkey remains a member of NATO, under the autocratic and repressive rule of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey has become the leading jailer of journalists in the world and discussion of the genocide can bring criminal punishment.

U.S. citizens have also been the victims of Erdogan's crackdown on free expression. Last year, Erdogan's security detail brutally assaulted peaceful protesters in Washington, D.C. Charges against 11 of the 15 Turkish nationals charged have been dropped, and there is little indication that Turkey will pay any diplomatic price for this attack.

In northern Syria, where the United States has worked closely with partners to devastate ISIS, Turkey has chosen to place its paramount focus on fighting the Kurds, even launching a military offensive into Syria that threatens our own soldiers and those of our allies. Erdogan has even gone so far as to threaten the United States with an "Ottoman slap."

These are not the actions of an ally. They are the actions of a nation that feels emboldened to act with indifference to the United States. And who can blame them? For over a quarter century, Presidents and Congresses of both parties have been bullied into genocide denial for fear Turkey will withdraw their already transactional and fleeting cooperation.

It has never been in our national security interest to be complicit in another country's denial of human rights, let alone denial of genocide. It is time for America to speak plainly about the Armenian Genocide and the violation of human rights anywhere in the world.

#### IMPOSING NEW SANCTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. SCHIFF, for his remarks on genocide and turning our back on the facts that we find around the world. I really appreciate his thoughts.

I want to rise today and talk to my colleagues and the American people about the atrocities in Syria and call on my colleagues in the Senate to expeditiously vote on a bill authored here in the House by the ranking member on the Foreign Affairs Committee, ELIOT ENGEL, H.R. 1677, the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2017.

This legislation imposes new sanctions on human rights abusers in the sad state of affairs in Syria and those who facilitate the Assad regime's atrocities, and it encourages negotiations to bring about a lasting political solution there. It also authorizes the State Department to support entities that are collecting and preserving the chain of evidence for the eventual prosecution of those who have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria since March of 2011.

The world has witnessed many generational examples of butchery and genocide by menaces, including Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, and many others. But in the last 7 years, the world has allowed us to recognize a new name for evil and cruelty in this millennium: Bashar al-Assad and his henchmen.

For the last 7 years, the world has expressed outrage, yet twiddled their thumbs while this modern-day Hitler annihilates the civilian population of Syria.

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Systematically, leader Assad has savagely directed the bombing, bludgeoning, gassing, electrocution, and torture of his people.

Saddam Hussein's use of chemical weapons in the 1980s against Iran appears tame in comparison to the calculated bombing of weaponized chlorine and sarin dropped into children's hospitals, medical facilities, and villages across Syria.

I am grateful that, after a little thumb twiddling from the prior administration, the Trump administration has galvanized our allies against this genocide and has taken action to stop the use of chemical weapons against the Syrian people.

I call on the Senate to act with expedition and pass the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, and finally help obtain the kind of documentation that we need, Mr. Speaker, to end this step back into darkness and convict Assad and his co-conspirators and his enablers of war crimes.

#### VILONIA STUDENTS RETURNING LOST ITEMS AFTER TORNADO

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of students in Vilonia, Arkansas, who are collecting personal items lost after the devastating tornado that hit their town 4 years ago.

Erin Rappold, the teacher who created this project, was inspired after finding a baby picture in the debris.

Over the last 4 years, the students have collected 90,000 items, and only have about 2,000 left to be claimed. They launched their own website to help people reunite with their photos, their birth certificates, and their education diplomas.

A memorial dedication planned by those students will be held Friday, at 10 a.m., to remember the victims of the 2011 and 2014 tornadoes.

In the face of tragedy, these students have furnished us with an inspirational model for solidarity and hope.

I applaud Ms. Rappold and these courageous students for their efforts and dedication to the Vilonia community.

#### SNAP CUTS

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to decry the majority's war on the poor, especially those women who get up every single day and struggle as mothers, often are caretakers for elderly parents, who are juggling two and three minimum wage jobs at \$7.25 an hour to take care of their families, and then being told that they are welfare cheats because they need assistance from programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in order to meet basic food needs. The last time I checked, Mr. Speaker, food was not a luxury, but a basic life necessity.

In a few weeks, this House will take up a bill which has been designated H.R. 2, an enumeration which reflects the majority's priorities. Now, as you recall, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1 was reserved for the over \$1 trillion tax giveaway we gave to corporations and to the wealthy. And as has been noted earlier in our morning hour, we are facing a sovereign debt crisis because that bill will thrust us into trillions of dollars of debt in the future.

So what does H.R. 2 do?

H.R. 2 makes very harmful changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, cutting \$23 billion in funding, reducing eligibility, and to generate resentment against the poor so that these draconian cuts will be tolerated by the public. After all, we have to pay for H.R. 1 some kind of way, so H.R. 2 is the solution. The numerous ideological and unproven policies that simply stigmatize and punish the poor are what constitutes H.R. 2, along with the \$23 billion cut.

Now, just let me say, Mr. Speaker, I want to remind you that the majority of SNAP participants are children, seniors, and people with disabilities. These are individuals who will not be part of any workforce. No matter how mean-spirited you decide to be, Mr. Speaker, and no matter how many of these ill-advised work policies you put in place, a 7-year-old cannot work; someone disabled cannot work; someone 68, 69 years old may not be able to find a job that an employer will provide for them.

And of the rest of those who receive SNAP, let's talk about the facts. More than half of SNAP households have at least one working age disabled adult in it while receiving SNAP. More than 80 percent work in the year before or after receiving SNAP. Work rates are even higher for families with children where more than 60 percent work. Work, Mr. Speaker, while receiving SNAP.

Yet, we have H.R. 2, which requires work requirements. And yet, we talk about how to extend and make the

safety net better for farmers in our farm bill. But here comes more proposals to restrict eligibility, reduce benefits, cap or reduce funding, and alter SNAP's core purpose—to help struggling Americans when tough times hit—and tough times are right now, Mr. Speaker.

The fact is that for low-income families, every single dollar counts, no matter where these families live. If they are urban families, they are rural families, tens of millions of Americans who are old and young, hunger sees no gender, race, religion, or culture. And, Mr. Speaker, there are hungry Republicans as well.

I just want to send a reality check to our colleagues who are running around the country praising their tax cuts for the wealthy. Poverty and joblessness remains a stark reality in our country, and the populations that have the highest levels of poverty and unemployment, including older Americans, are the ones most affected. Punishing disadvantaged families will not break the grip of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge us to reject these cuts.

#### CELEBRATING 80TH BIRTHDAY OF BOB CASHELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday of a Nevada icon. I am sure you all recall that the State of Nevada turned 150 a few years ago, and that the Biggest Little City in the World, Reno, is turning 150.

Well, Bob Cashell, former University of Nevada regent, former Nevada lieutenant governor, and former mayor of the city of Reno, is past the halfway point in catching the State of Nevada and the city of Reno at 150. He is 80, four score.

A native of the Lone Star State, like many Nevadans, Bob got to Nevada as fast as he could. A leader in Nevada's gaming resort industry, an A list philanthropist, and a blue chip public servant, he has done some great work as a Nevadan.

Of course, he owes all of his success, and his defiance of the actuarial tables, to his wife Nancy, who has performed miracles during their lifelong partnership of transforming this pilgrim from Texas into a special part of Nevada's fabric. Thank you, Nancy. And happy birthday to you, Mr. Mayor, for life. Bob Cashell is 80.

#### MUELLER INVESTIGATION MUST CONTINUE

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once again, I rise because I love my country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise because I want to thank the President and compliment the President. I thank the President for indicating this morning that he will not—N-O-T—will not interfere with the Mueller investigation. He said as much on national TV. I compliment him for saying this, Mr. Speaker, because if he does so in contravention of Article II, section 4 of the Constitution, it would be tantamount to impeachment.

So, I compliment you, Mr. President, for being forthright, and I assume you meant what you said. However, you went on to say: "I may change my mind."

Mr. Speaker, I trust that the President meant what he said initially, and that he will not change his mind. Because, again, to do so in contravention of Article II, section 4 of the Constitution will be tantamount to impeachment. The only body in this country that can litigate impeachment is the Congress of the United States of America.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, I want to assure all—especially the President—if you do this, Mr. President, I assure you there will be articles of Impeachment brought before the Congress of the United States of America.

Now, Mr. President, I am in no rush to do this. As a matter of fact, I don't enjoy using the personal pronoun when it comes to this kind of dialogue—monologue, in this case, as I am talking directly to you. But, Mr. President, if no one else does, I will. I will not allow the Constitution to be ignored and, to a certain extent, trampled upon. I will bring the Articles of Impeachment. As a matter of fact, I have instructed my staff to draft them. They will be ready to go.

I also have instructed my staff to tweet this message that if you do so, Mr. President, if you interfere in contravention of Article II, section 4, I will bring the Articles of Impeachment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

#### HONORING COLONEL STAN CASS

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

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Stan Cass, United States Army, retired. Colonel Cass passed away on April 14, at the age of 84.

Born in Weld County, Colorado, to a family of farmers, Colonel Cass graduated from Briggsdale High School and attended West Point.

After brief stints in Germany and France, Stan began his first tour of duty in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot, dangerously traversing the skies to support infantry troops. He briefly came back to the States to complete a

master's degree before returning to Vietnam to command 300 helicopters in an air cavalry fleet.

After his valiant efforts in Vietnam, Colonel Cass worked in the Pentagon on the Hellfire missile system, and then returned to Weld County to take over the family farm.

But he wasn't finished serving. In 2008, he launched the northern Colorado chapter of Honor Flight, a nationwide nonprofit that transports America's veterans for visits to our war memorials in Washington, D.C.

Stan helped transport over 2,500 veterans to Washington over the past decade, giving our heroes a chance to reflect on and find closure in their war-time experiences.

Like so many other families in northern Colorado, Colonel Cass very personally impacted my family. My wife, Perry, has volunteered for the organization, and my father-in-law, Bill, has gone on one of those flights as a veteran. They both have been alongside Colonel Cass and meeting some of the amazing veterans living in our community. Their humility, endurance, and wisdom have taught us so much.

Colonel Cass dedicated his life to this country and the men and women who serve it. I offer my condolences to his wife, Cecily, the rest of his family, and everyone in our community who had the chance to know this humble, incredible human being. I know there are many.

#### RECOGNIZING RANDY BANGERT

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Randy Bangert, editor of the Greeley Tribune newspaper.

On April 14, the Colorado Press Association inducted Mr. Bangert into the Hall of Fame, honoring his incredible 45-year career with the paper of note in Weld County. Just 3 years ago, he earned the Newspaper Person of the Year Award from the same association.

The Greeley Tribune is a reflection of Randy, conducting itself with class and dignity. His goal is to equip the public with knowledge so that citizens can make things right in their community.

□ 1100

Randy never shies away from telling the truth. If he disagrees with one of my positions, he lets me know it, and he lets everyone else know it, too, in his editorial that day. But Randy's critiques are always fair and respectful. He wants to build consensus to make our community, State, and country a better place. We need more people who believe in civility in our public discourse like Randy.

Randy also cares deeply about his community. I know this, because I see him everywhere around town. This is what makes him such a good newspaper editor. He knows who he works for, the people, and he listens to them.

But last year Randy received some bad news. He faces the toughest battle so far in his life—cancer. The thing about Randy is we know how he is fighting it. It is the same way he ran