

here, other than some people want to benefit while other people actually suffer.

There is an important debate going on in our country. There is an important conversation that we are having in communities all over. I hope that all across the United States, in church basements, synagogue basements, mosques, Quaker meeting rooms, VFW halls and union halls, in lodges and coffee shops all across America, wherever people gather, folks will get together and discuss our healthcare future as Americans.

There is a better way, and I think that it is right in front of us.

I was speaking about this issue with somebody who told me: Well, Keith, I mean, look, how are we going to pay for this?

I thought that was an interesting question, given that we just passed a Republican tax bill that carved about \$1.5 trillion out of Federal revenue over the next 10 years. Some people have estimated it is even higher than that. Nobody was particularly worried about how we are going to pay for that. But the question is still a legitimate question. We do have to pay for things.

I think that, if we look at the fact that about two-thirds of all the healthcare spending now is public spending, we are two-thirds of the way there now. We need to figure out how we are going to come up with the rest. People will see the healthcare expenditures that they are already making be able to be part of how we will pay this. But the other part is a legitimate question.

I think that we can set out a system of a payroll tax or, perhaps, a tax on Wall Street trades. There are a number of things that we can do. And we also can squeeze costs out of the system.

We know that simply because you have got multiple insurance companies, multiple payers, that there is rampant waste in the system; and if we were to squeeze it out and we get efficiencies, we would be able to lower costs in the system. If we could control costs better, we would be able to have a world-class system, as other countries have, with excellent health outcomes and be able to still pay for it. It is not beyond our reach.

I can tell you that it has often been said that single-payer systems have long waiting lines. Well, not according to the data. One grant from the Commonwealth Fund looks at what percent of adults can get a same-day doctor's appointment when they are sick, counting systems like Canada, the United Kingdom, and the rest. And the fact is that in New Zealand, Germany, Australia, and the United Kingdom, people can get same-day doctor visits at a higher rate than in the United States. It is not the case that you have to have these long lines and you have to wait so long in every system.

Of course, the U.S. system will be an American system. We will design it for our own purposes. But it simply is not

true that a single-payer system will have longer waiting lines. It is just not the case. People will say this, but it is not true.

The fact is that we need to have the debate. We need to have the discussion. We need businesses to say: Well, what would it mean to me if I didn't have to pay health insurance out of my business expenses?

Individuals have to ask: What would it mean if they never had to pay for copays, deductibles, things like that, if they could get eyes, ears, other types of coverages that they need, what would it mean if these things were possible? How would it impact our economy? Would it free people and allow them to be more creative and more innovative?

We have seen our country see a decline in small business development first in startups. Is this in part because people are locked into debt in jobs just so they can have insurance? I think there is certainly a possibility there.

At the end of the day, we have got to have a dialogue about how we can better serve the American people. Other countries around the world are doing it, and it is time for us to move forward in that direction, too.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FIRST LADY BARBARA PIERCE BUSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members participating tonight may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege tonight to pay tribute to the life of a great Texan and a great American: Barbara Pierce Bush.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), my colleague.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentleman for calling this Special Order hour to honor the life and legacy of his constituent, Barbara Pierce Bush, whom we lost last week. I am certainly proud to stand with my colleague from Texas to honor the life and the legacy of our former First Lady Barbara Bush.

From Rye, New York, to west Texas, to the West Wing, Mrs. Bush served her family and her country with integrity, strength, and grace. She, indeed, was a

member of the Greatest Generation and spent her life in service to others.

It is incredible to reflect. She was only the second woman in our Nation's history to be both the wife and the mother of a United States President. Mrs. Bush joined Abigail Adams in an exclusive club of those who have advised our Nation's Chief Executives long before they reached the Oval Office.

In her capacity as First Lady, Mrs. Bush used her influence to enact positive change. Although her name was never on a ballot, the American people chose Mrs. Bush as a leader and as a role model.

Just yesterday, the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee marked up more than 50 bills that offer solutions to what is currently a significant crisis in our country dealing with deaths caused by opioids, a devastating epidemic that has touched literally every neighborhood in our Nation. Combating this crisis requires not only legislation, but compassion and understanding.

But years ago, in her work to help the most vulnerable, Mrs. Bush epitomized such compassion. I actually mentioned this at the start of yesterday's markup in committee. A significant part of Mrs. Bush's legacy will always be her simple embrace of a child with HIV/AIDS at a clinic at a time when the illness was not well understood and, I dare say, the illness was feared by most people in the country. This simple act, this simple embrace, to reach out and pick up a child at an HIV/AIDS clinic, helped to destigmatize HIV/AIDS in American culture. It was a seemingly small, but a powerful, gesture in 1989.

Then Mrs. Bush paved the way for acceptance of patients with HIV/AIDS, their families, and they were moved out of the shadows and could begin to look at treatment options. The world is vastly different today for the patient with HIV/AIDS because of that simple act of compassion evidenced by Mrs. Bush.

As Congress now considers how best to end the opioid crisis and other human dignity issues before us, I hope we can remember and follow Mrs. Bush's unwavering dedication to always do what is right.

I am certainly proud to join my fellow Texan from Houston honoring his constituent tonight and expressing our condolences to former President George H.W. Bush and the rest of the Bush family and celebrating the wonderful life of former First Lady Barbara Pierce Bush.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those remarks.

Barbara Bush and George H.W. Bush do exemplify all of the greatest character traits that made the Greatest Generation what it is and made this country what it is. It has been a privilege to represent the Bush family and to succeed George H.W. Bush in Congress, who was followed by Bill Archer.

I succeeded Bill Archer. He was chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. He succeeded George H.W. Bush. The Bush family is revered nationwide and admired and revered by all of us in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined tonight by my colleague from Dallas.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) to honor the life of Barbara Bush.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation for the leadership of Representative CULBERSON in setting this special time to give recognition to Mrs. Bush.

We honor the life and legacy of First Lady Barbara Pierce Bush, a great Texan and a great First Lady, a remarkable woman.

For her 92 years on this Earth until her taking her last breath on April 17, she demonstrated constant examples of radiant elegance, abundant courage, and brilliant intellect. When the news of her death was announced, people from every political party, religious faith, background, color, and creed mourned her with the Bush family.

She transcended the differences that are all too often exploited and gave us a living example of goodness that can bring people together as human beings. During times of trouble in the administration of both her husband and her son in Washington, she remained a beacon of hope, standing firm against the most horrific of storms. Even those who violently disagreed with the policies of both Presidents found comfort in the wisdom and compassion of Mrs. Bush.

I always admired Mrs. Bush's charisma, her true patriotism, and the leadership she demonstrated in advocating for stronger literacy programs. As our Nation's First Lady, Mrs. Bush made sure our young people were better off through her commitment to charitable causes and passion for service. She was a strong advocate for both civil and women's rights and policies during her husband's administration, which spoke volumes to her character and the legacy she leaves behind.

Four living Presidents, including her husband and her son, paid homage to Barbara Bush at the memorial service celebrating her life and legacy. Nearly 1,500 friends and admirers came to be with the Bush family and to say goodbye to a woman who had befriended many of them.

Hours after the internationally televised service concluded, she was laid to rest in a grave located on the grounds of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station. She was buried next to her daughter, Robin, who passed away from cancer when she was just 3 years old.

We all have been blessed to bear witness to a truly exceptional woman who embodied what she believed: those who have been blessed with abundance have a responsibility to assist those who were not as fortunate.

There are many whose lives were enhanced by the service, graciousness, and the love that First Lady Barbara Bush carried in her heart and soul.

Mrs. Bush took pride in her family and taught them to love and serve others. I hope her family can take solace in knowing that she is in a better place watching over them.

All of us will miss Barbara Bush. Her truthfulness, her fairness, her elegance, and her passion. The Nation and the world is a better place because she lived amongst us, giving all that she could without malice or animosity.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, my colleague is right. All of America is better because Barbara Bush has lived. All of us are better people for having known and admired Barbara Bush. She has been a source of inspiration to me, as I know she has been to my colleague from Dallas and the millions of Americans.

People from all over the world poured into Houston to celebrate her life and to pay tribute to her as she lay in repose at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, people from all walks of life.

□ 1900

As my colleague, Dr. BURGESS, said, she, in a very simple gesture, with a patient who was ill with HIV, broke down the stigma that people felt, the fear people felt that HIV might be contagious. Barbara Bush just acted instinctively, as she always did, with courage and compassion, in hugging that young man that was ill and demonstrating to the world that no one needed to fear people who were ill with HIV. And now that disease has been contained and rolled back. It is a treatable condition.

She devoted her life to, as my colleague from Dallas said, helping those who were less fortunate.

Barbara Bush was born in 1925, June 8, in New York City. And as my colleague, Dr. BURGESS said, she was one of only two women in American history who was both a wife and a mother to a United States President. She was the wife of the 41st President, George H.W. Bush; and mother to the 43rd President, George W. Bush.

Barbara was only 18 years old when she married George Herbert Walker Bush in 1945. They had six children together over the course of their marriage.

As First Lady, she is best remembered for her untiring advocacy for universal literacy, and she founded the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy.

She first met George at a Christmas dance in Connecticut in 1941 when she was 16 and he was 17. George Bush asked a friend if he knew Barbara, and the two were officially introduced, but when the waltz began to play, they sat out the dance, because he did not know how to waltz. So they just spent their time getting to know each other.

As they spent more and more time together and fell in love, shortly after

George's 18th birthday, they both became each other's first kiss.

Their engagement was officially announced in the newspaper in December of 1943. George was on leave during Christmas as a Navy pilot, and they were reunited over that Christmas in 1943. Two weeks later, on January 6, 1945, George and Barbara were married.

Barbara Bush told Time magazine in 1989 that: "I married the first man I ever kissed, and when I tell this to my children, they just about throw up."

While George was away at war, the two wrote letters to each other as their only means of communication. They were deeply and passionately in love, and she kept her sense of humor right to the very end.

In a letter to Barbara, George wrote, during the course of the war, he said: "I have climbed perhaps the highest mountain in the world, but even that cannot hold a candle to being Barbara's husband."

In another letter dated December 12, 1943, George wrote to his darling Bar about his happiness in reading their engagement announcement in the newspaper: "I love you, Precious, with all my heart. And to know that you love me means my life. How often I have thought about the immeasurable joy that will be ours some day, how lucky our children will be to have a mother like you."

This letter was released shortly after her passing.

She was an extraordinary woman, an inspiration to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON). I am honored to be joined tonight by my colleague from the 22nd District of Texas.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend from Texas Seventh, JOHN CULBERSON, for hosting this Special Order. And that is a special word, "Special Order," because this is a very special lady, Barbara Bush.

Her husband, George H.W. Bush, and Barbara Bush were not native Texans, but they got there as fast as they could. The President embraced Texas right off the bat. He became involved in the oil and gas industry, black gold, Texas tea in those days. His wife, Barbara, became the epitome of a Texas woman, a straight shooter, what you see is what you get; black, white, no gray; family, family, family; love, love, love.

I will share two stories about her and her husband that show how much they loved life and what a great sense of humor they both had.

First of all, in 2000, their oldest son, George W. Bush, was elected to become our 43rd President. Only two families in our country's history had a woman who had a husband and a son elected to the White House: the Adams family and the Bush family.

Remember all this controversy, hanging chads, Florida, Florida, Florida. They persevered, and George Bush was elected our President. Naturally, the reporters were excited. They approached our First Lady and said:

"Mrs. Bush, in your heart of hearts, your wildest dreams, did you think one of your sons could become our President, hold the same office that your husband had for 4 years?"

Barbara, being straight-talking Barbara, said, and I am paraphrasing: Yes, sir. My boys watched their dad achieve the highest office in the world. They knew what it took. It took determination, focus, friends, faith. My sons saw that in their father. They knew what it would take, and so, yes, I thought one of my sons could become our President."

Of course, then she gave the coup de grace, the classic Barbara Bush. She said: "I have to be honest with you, though. I thought it would be my smart son," meaning Jeb Bush, not George W.

That comment was done out of true love, and that is what Barbara Bush was all about.

One other story about the President and their family. President Bush, as he got older, loved to skydive, Bush 41. When he turned 90, he skydived in Kennebunkport. He had pretty bad Parkinson's. He couldn't walk. When he landed, he kind of fell over and did what is called a face-plant.

Friends up there told me that Barbara was on our President for days before the jump saying: "Do not do this. You are 90 years old. Don't jump out of a plane."

But President Bush had said, when he turned 85, he would do it when he was 90. He kept his word.

You see the video. Barbara came down there, hugged him, kissed him, picked him up, loved him.

Back at the house, it wasn't quite the same. Apparently, she said over and over: "You old man. I told you not to jump out of a plane. Look at your face. Your face is all cut up. Never ever do this again. It won't happen."

Of course, the President smiled and said, "I love you," and then moved on.

The next story about their love, their true love, came from their photographer back home in Houston, Texas. This man has been with the family for at least 40 years. The Bushes come in there every year for a big camera shoot.

The photographer said: "It is getting kind of tough. The President has bad Parkinson's. He can no longer stand. That means for these shots, I have to have him sit in his wheelchair." And he hates that chair. If that chair pops up in a picture, he tears the picture apart.

So how does he deal with that fact of our President's attitude with his wheelchair?

He turns to the First Lady, who is 90 years old, and works her hard. They have to have the same height differential. He is about 6 feet tall, she is somewhere around 5-7, 5-8. He is above her. So in the shots with him in that chair, she has to be below him. It means she is squatting down. She is 91 years old and squatting down for a picture, in picture after picture.

The photographer told me, "I moved her up to the left, had her squat down, to the right, back, left, over and over and over," a true workout for any human being, but especially a woman who is 90 years old.

And then he started laughing and said, "Our President and his wife are still in love."

How did he know that? At least 10 times during the course of that shoot, as our First Lady walked in front of our President, she would stop and say, "Stop that, George. Stop that. Stop that, George."

We all know what President Bush was doing with his beloved wife: He was saying "I love you" in the way that only Naval aviators can say.

That love resulted in a marriage for 73 years. And while Barbara left us last week, that love is still going strong.

Barbara Bush, President George H.W. Bush, and the entire Bush family, on behalf of the 850,000 Texans I work for in Texas 22, thank you, thank you, thank you for your example, your life, your patriotism, your love, and your family.

The world is a better place because of Barbara Bush. God bless her.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. CULBERSON. America is a far better place because Barbara Bush lived. She has been an inspiration to all of us.

George H.W. Bush has been a leader in Texas. He started out his career as the Harris County Republican Party chairman and was elected to Congress in 1966, and a new district was created on the west side, the Seventh District.

When George Bush came into this House Chamber, he was assigned to the Ways and Means Committee. He served on the Ways and Means Committee for two terms. Then he ran for the United States Senate in 1970, and he ran against Lloyd Benson in that race, and then he moved on to become the United Nations Ambassador.

Then George Bush's successor in Congress, Bill Archer, who was elected in 1970, went on to become chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. Chairman Archer served there from 1970 to 2001, when it was my privilege to succeed Bill Archer. And I joined the Appropriations Committee. Right now, I chair a subcommittee.

The United States is very, very fortunate in that another Texan has stepped up to serve as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Congressman KEVIN BRADY, who joins us here tonight. He represents the Woodlands and the Eighth Congressional District.

As chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, he just successfully passed the largest tax cut in American history, which is already doing remarkable things to rejuvenate the American economy and to restore immense prosperity to this Nation coast to coast, something that I know George and Barbara Bush are immensely proud of.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY). We are

honored to have him join us tonight in celebrating the life of Barbara Bush.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CULBERSON not just for his leadership of this special tribute to Barbara Bush, but for keeping the legacy of President Bush and the Bush family alive in the eastern region in the district that he represented.

Mr. CULBERSON has now worked his way up into such a key position for our region, our State, and our country, advancing space in such a major way for the world, in my view, and then leading the effort for Hurricane Harvey relief, a record \$146 billion for Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, Irma, and some of the wildfires in California, all of which are the largest amount of disaster recovery and really the first prevention funds to help rebuild the levees and the dams, and all that can prevent these floods. I thank the gentleman for his leadership in that.

□ 1915

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Barbara Bush. Our country mourns the loss of a truly incomparable First Lady.

For many of us, Barbara Pierce Bush is the original "thousand points of light" by her urging, her applauding, and, at times, insisting that we should all live up to higher standards when it comes to family, honor, and duty.

Barbara Bush deserves to be honored because of her dedication to making our world a better place, specifically, through her work as an advocate for adult and child literacy. The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, the leading advocate for family literacy in America, will continue her great work to give children and parents the skills they need for a brighter future.

I had the honor of representing Texas A&M at College Station when the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library was dedicated. It is a remarkable library in so many ways, as is President Bush and the First Lady.

But it was, to me, remarkable how much time and access the President and Barbara Bush gave to the young people of College Station and the region, bringing in leaders from around the country and the world; having deep discussions about freedom, about faith, about family, about leadership and service, all the things that made the Bush family so special.

One time, early on a Saturday morning, I was driving up to College Station to interview our applicants for West Point and the Naval Academy and the Air Force and Merchant Marine. We were doing it at the Corps of Cadets Center at Texas A&M. It was really early on a Saturday morning.

So we were on 290, and I am not really paying attention. I look up and I see this bluish green car just up ahead of me, and I notice the license plate says: "Read 1." I thought, Read 1; that is amazing.

So as we drive past her—I may have been pushing the speed limit a bit—I noticed that famous white hair, and it was Mrs. Bush driving up to the library on a Saturday morning for some work or the other, probably focused on family literacy.

The Bush family is simply adored in Texas, and especially in the Houston region, for so many reasons.

I had a chance, as Congressman CULBERSON talked about, to be able to follow on the Ways and Means Committee, the seat that President Bush once held, that Chairman Archer once held, and now that I have the privilege to hold. So I always feel like I have a duty to uphold his standards, his legacy, his commitment to honor and duty on our committee as well.

When I won the seat on the Ways and Means Committee, President Bush reached out to say: Congratulations. Come down and visit.

Then, when I was fortunate enough to succeed now Speaker PAUL RYAN to chair the committee, his office called again and said: Come down. The President wants to visit about Ways and Means issues.

So I got a chance to visit with Mrs. Bush and the President, my good friend Chase Untermeyer, and others. We talked about tax reform and trade issues and Social Security and Medicare. Mrs. Bush was in the thick of things in those discussions, and that is my last memory of being able to visit with her in person.

Anyone who didn't leave a conversation with her better than when you started probably wasn't paying attention to the conversation.

So we are blessed. It is a remarkable legacy she leaves for her family, for Texas, for the United States and, really, for the whole world. So, surely, Heaven rejoiced as Mrs. Bush joined her Saviour, pearls and all.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for blessing us with such a remarkable woman with a remarkable life and a remarkable family.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a resolution honoring the life of First Lady Barbara Bush.

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life of First Lady Barbara Bush
Whereas Barbara Pierce was born on June 8, 1925, in New York City;

Whereas Barbara Pierce became engaged to George Herbert Walker Bush and, while awaiting his return from combat during World War II, supported the war effort by working at a nuts and bolts factory in Port Chester, New York;

Whereas Barbara Bush was married to President George H.W. Bush for 73 years, and together they had 2 daughters, 4 sons, 17 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren;

Whereas as Second Lady of the United States, Barbara Bush became a passionate champion for family literacy and published "C. Fred's Story: A Dog's Life", which raised \$100,000 for Literacy Volunteers of America and Laubach Literacy Action;

Whereas, in January of 1983, Barbara Bush joined the board of the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, and worked with Dr. Louis Sullivan to help raise \$10 million for the school's first capital campaign;

Whereas First Lady Barbara Bush founded the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy in 1989, and over the course of 30 years raised more than \$110 million to support family literacy programs in every State across America;

Whereas while serving as First Lady, Barbara Bush visited facilities for AIDS victims and held infected babies and hugged adults, and in so doing, helped erase the stigma of that disease;

Whereas, in 1991, Barbara Bush and other advocates worked for the passage of the National Literacy Act of 1991, which created the National Institute for Literacy and permitted the use of libraries and other municipal property as evening literacy centers for adults;

Whereas after leaving the White House, Barbara Bush continued to support a broad range of important organizations and causes, including AmeriCares, the Mayo Clinic Foundation, the Leukemia Society of America, the Ronald McDonald House, and the Boys & Girls Club of America;

Whereas three primary schools and two middle schools in Texas have been named for Barbara Bush, along with an elementary school in Mesa, Arizona, the Barbara Bush Library in Harris County, Texas, and the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine;

Whereas Barbara Bush shares the rare distinction with Abigail Adams of being both a wife to, and mother of, a President of the United States, and is also the mother of a Governor of Florida and a Governor of Texas; and

Whereas Barbara Bush was a truly great American, First and Second Lady of the United States, literacy advocate, author, mother, and "Ganny": Now, therefore, be it: Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends its sympathies to the family of Barbara Bush; and

(2) honors the life of First Lady Barbara Bush and her contribution to the United States of America.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, as George H.W. Bush's successor, representing the Seventh District, as I said, I succeeded Bill Archer, I am keenly aware as well every day that I have the privilege of representing the Seventh District, that I have an especially high standard to live up to, the Bush standard of absolutely impeccable integrity, honor, and consistency.

The Proverbs tell us that our greatest possession on Earth is our good name, worth more than all the gold and the silver in the world. And by that measure, the Bush family—Barbara Bush, George Bush, the entire Bush family—are the wealthiest people on Earth.

In a memoir that Barbara wrote in 1994, looking back on their 50-plus years of marriage, she wrote that George and she were "the two luckiest people in the world."

She said: "And when all the dust is settled and all the crowds are gone, the things that matter are faith, family, and friends. We have been inordinately blessed, and we know that."

According to their granddaughter, Jenna Bush Hager, Barbara and George gave thanks every night for their blessings and for each other in their prayers. Each night before bed, George H.W. still said, "I love you, Barbie," to his wife, according to Jenna.

When the Bushes first came to Texas, they settled in west Texas and went into the oil business.

We are privileged tonight to be joined by the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, the Congressman representing Midland and Odessa, the Bushes first home in Texas, the gentleman from west Texas, MIKE CONAWAY. We are delighted to have him with us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to come down here tonight to speak about Barbara Bush and the Bush family. As my colleague said, I represent Midland and Odessa, two communities that are linked to the Bush legacy through their living in Odessa for a while, then moving to Midland.

George W. Bush and I were business partners in the oil business for about 5 years. So while I had limited or no direct contact with his mom, I got to see the product of her childrearing by working with him on a daily basis for 5 years.

Mrs. Bush brought to the table that incredibly terrific blend of being a woman who was strong but compassionate, loved her family, stunningly protective of her family, yet steel-willed when she needed to be; didn't suffer fools well when they were doing things that she didn't like, but did it with grace and dignity in ways that all of us should try to aspire to do it.

They do leave a legacy in Midland. Midland still considers them their First Family. We have a museum in Odessa commemorating their home from when they lived in Odessa. We also have the Bush home in Midland that has been turned into a museum, and we are working hard to get that moved over to the Parks and Recreation Department so that it can be properly maintained and as a good example.

But I don't have a lot to say tonight that has not already been said, other than the fact that I am honored to be able to say these things and to just say that all of us should aspire to have the kind of legacy that Barbara Bush has left. She was a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother. All of those things she did with incredible excellence and style.

But she was also her own woman and leaves that legacy as well, of what strong women can do; what they mean to the strength of a family; what they mean to a community that she lived in. Whether it was Midland or Houston or here in Washington, D.C., as First Lady, she did it the right way every time. And our Nation is better for having had her.

I suspect that Abigail Adams has welcomed her with open arms, as being the only two women to be the wife of one President and a mother of another, and that is a pretty select group that Mrs. Bush and Abigail Adams, both of whom have had great impacts on the legacy of this country.

Again, thank you, Barbara Bush, for all that you did. I know her family grieves, but it is a bittersweet grief, knowing that a life lived really well for 92 years is something to be very proud of.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman CONAWAY very much for his comments.

When Barbara and George lived in the Midland-Odessa area early in their marriage is when they lost their daughter, Robin. It, of course, is an unimaginable and unbearable loss to lose a child. But Robin was carried away by leukemia, and the Bushes devoted much of their lives to raise money for leukemia research, to defeat that terrible disease, to raise awareness of the disease, to give hope to others; because when they lost Robin in 1953, there wasn't really anything the doctors could do.

It is a great tribute to them both that they were so heavily involved in helping to raise money for cancer research to fight leukemia through the Texas Medical Center. MD Anderson, one of the greatest cancer hospitals in the world, is located in the Texas Medical Center on the edge of my district, and it has been my privilege as the chairman of a subcommittee on Appropriations to spearhead record increases in funding for the National Institutes of Health to help fight childhood cancers like leukemia. The Bushes were an integral part of that. They have done immeasurable good in so many ways and touched so many lives and inspired so many people all over the United States and throughout Texas.

I know that all of us in the Texas delegation, all of us across the country, are praying for the Bush family and share in their grief. But we also have the sure knowledge that Barbara Bush is in a better place; that she has been reunited with her daughter, Robin, and that she was at peace.

Mr. Speaker, we are honored tonight to be joined by my colleague from Houston, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who joins us here tonight to pay tribute to the life of this remarkable and extraordinary First Lady, Barbara Bush.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Houston for yielding, and I would like to address all of us on the floor tonight as my fellow Texans. That was a favorite of George W. Bush, the son of Barbara Bush, when he would greet us during his Presidency, which I had the privilege of being here in the United States Congress, and he would always greet me as his fellow Texan, and how proud we are to be able to call President George H.W. Bush and the extended family, and his wonderful First Lady, the matriarch, the first girlfriend, if you will, and as has been told over and over during the time of her memorial, the first man that she kissed. How proud we are to call both of them our fellow Texans.

Now we are standing here today to mourn Barbara Pierce Bush. And as I do that, let me, first of all, acknowledge President George H.W. Bush, and wish him a speedy recovery for him to regain his strength; for all of us watched as he sat in the viewing of her repose on that Friday, as he came and sat and remained for a period of time to greet the many people that came to honor her during that viewing. I was one of those who had the privilege to go and to pay my respects on that day.

But again, they are one of America's greatest families, although Barbara Pierce Bush would never acknowledge that by her attitude or the way she addressed people. She was just Mrs. Barbara Bush, a very humble but strong and firm and straightforward First Lady.

Barbara Bush was a descendant of the 14th President of the United States, Franklin Pierce; the wife of the 41st, George Herbert Walker Bush; and the mother of the 43rd, George W. Bush.

Of course, she finds her place in history for many, many reasons; but, of course, we take note of the fact there was only one other woman who was both the wife and the mother of a President of the United States, Abigail Adams. So that is a very high-ranking and honorable place to be.

Barbara Bush, the widely admired and fiercely loyal wife, mother, and grandmother, was born in Rye, New York, but she got to Texas as soon as she could. She met a dashing young George Herbert Walker Bush in Greenwich, Connecticut, at a school dance when she was 16 and he was a year older. What an amazing story. In fact, what an amazing love story.

Three years later, Barbara Bush married her sweetheart, and their love lasted for 73 years. I remember, as we mourned her last weekend, over and over again, the commentators would say, 73 years of marriage. That, alone, is a historic tribute to integrity and the beauty and the love of both of them. And, of course, they were married until she departed in death.

George and Barbara raised their family from west Texas to Houston. Of course, we know that he was a war hero and a remarkable set of action that he saw in World War II, and a miraculous recovery from when his plane fell, and, as well, miraculous in the fact that he survived; but, more importantly, the actions that took place as he pursued the enemy. He truly was a hero as well.

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Barbara Bush was plainspoken, but she had that wonderful white hair, pearl necklace and earrings. And so many in Houston, on the day of both her funeral and as well the day that we viewed her remains at St. Martin's Episcopal, as she lied in repose, she was there, and we were wearing pearl necklaces and earrings, just to be able to say she is someone that we admired, not for those external things, but for the goodness of her heart.

She was an early supporter of the civil rights movement, the equal rights movement, and we repeated over and over again that very famous story of her going to an AIDS clinic and picking up a baby and hugging and touching those individuals who were HIV infected, to let the world know that they needed love and comfort, and that we needed to fight for the cure and to recognize the humanity of those who are suffering from HIV/AIDS.

Certainly she loved literacy, and that became one of her major efforts, and that is where, during her time in Houston, I would see her—often with her son Neil Bush—efforts dealing with literacy.

Her work and dollars came to places way beyond where she might expect them. Certainly a lot of work on literacy was done in my congressional district.

Barbara Bush raised more than \$1 billion for literacy and cancer charities. And as my colleague has indicated, it was both in tribute and in recognition of the devastation of childhood cancer, leukemia, which she lost her firstborn to.

Barbara Bush recognized that education was the key that unlocked the door of human potential, and so her foundation, again, as I indicated, focused on family literacy.

I have met people who, through her literacy program, were able to restore their lives and to secure employment because they were then able to move forward because they learned to read. And, unfortunately, they learned to read after they finished all of their education. She understood the value of that.

As they came back to Houston, we were delighted to call them Houstonians, and as well we recognize what a valuable couple they were to us. And anything you asked them to do, from being with the Texans and supporting them and rooting them on and being with the Astros or the Rockets or any of our teams or any of our universities or anything that was needed, they were there.

So I am always amazed at the breadth and depth of Barbara Bush; how many people she touched, how many people loved her, how many people stood in line just to pay their respects.

We know her book with her dog, Millie, and her puppies, written during her White House years, was a best seller, as were her other books. And all of it was donated to charity.

We also realize that as she and her husband ended their service—and, by the way, she was by his side for being the representative in China, for being the CIA director, for being the Congressperson that previously overlapped the 18th Congressional District. Many of my constituents were his constituents, and so we have had a full circle of their wonderful service to this Nation.

On a personal note, I want to offer my tribute from my husband, Dr.

Elwyn C. Lee, because as a young man growing up, it was the Bush family who helped him go to Andover and opened his eyes to go to the same school that Mr. Bush, H.W. Bush, went to, and his years of finishing high school.

We know that when we got married, we received a gift from the Bushes. We just couldn't even imagine it, that they would even remember us. We sent them an invitation, they remembered, and they provided us with a very special gift.

They are very, very special people, and I speak in present tense because her spirit continues to thrive, and we are reminded of the charity, the love, and the standard bearer that she was for what is great about America.

We know that she is survived by her husband, their children—George, Jeb, Neil, Marvin, and Dorothy—and that, as has always been said, she will join her firstborn Robin at her final resting place.

It is important to pay tribute to such a wonderful American, such a wonderful woman, and to be able to thank her for teaching us and to remind us what is important in life, and it is family, friends, and faith.

Thank you, Mrs. Barbara Pierce Bush. May you rest in peace, but let it be known that we will never forget your spirit, your strength, and what you did for America, and you gave it to us straight: Family, friends, and faith.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of Barbara Pierce Bush, the matriarch of one of America's great families, and former First Lady of the United States.

Barbara Bush was a descendant of the 14th President of the United States, Franklin Pierce; the wife of the 41st, George Herbert Walker Bush; and the mother of the 43rd, George W. Bush.

Barbara Bush, the widely admired and fiercely loyal wife, mother, and grandmother, was born June 8, 1925 in Rye, New York.

Barbara Pierce met the dashing young George Herbert Walker Bush in Greenwich, Connecticut at a school dance when she was 16 and he was a year older.

Three years later Barbara Pierce married her sweetheart and their love lasted for 73 years, until she was departed from her beloved by death.

George and Barbara raised their family mainly in West Texas, where they settled after the end of World War II and where the future President went into the oil business.

Barbara Bush was a plainspoken woman who was instantly recognizable with her signature white hair, pearl necklaces, and earrings.

Mrs. Bush was an early supporter of the Civil Rights Movement, Planned Parenthood, the Equal Rights Amendment, and was a tireless champion of many charitable causes, especially literacy.

Barbara Bush raised more than \$1 billion for literacy and cancer charities.

Barbara Bush recognized that education was the key that unlocked the door of human potential.

Literacy was Barbara Bush's special cause, which led her to establish the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy.

Shortly after the end of her husband's presidential administration, the Bush Family returned to Texas, and all Houstonians were lucky to call her and her husband, George H. W. Bush, the 41st president, our neighbors and dear friends.

Barbara Bush's books include an autobiography and one about post-White House life.

Her children's book about their dog, Millie, and her puppies written during her White House years was a best seller, as were her other books.

In 2001, when George W. Bush took office, Barbara Bush became the only woman in American history to live to see her husband and son elected president.

Barbara Bush lived a full life and will be remembered in American history, alongside only Abigail Adams, for the impact her life had on this country.

Barbara Bush is survived by her husband and their children George, Jeb, Neil, Marvin, and Dorothy. She will join her first born, Robin at her final resting place.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of Barbara Pierce Bush, the Former First Lady of the United States.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Houston for joining us tonight to honor the life of this great woman, Barbara Pierce Bush, who, as my colleague mentioned, was a national leader in literacy, focused her efforts as First Lady on building literacy in the United States, and, in fact, in a televised event, an event that really, I think, symbolizes who Barbara Bush was and how big her heart was and the way she treated everyone that she met.

It was an event celebrating the bicentennial of the Constitution where Barbara Bush met a man named J.T. Pace, who was a 63-year-old son of a sharecropper, who had only recently become literate and able to read.

And he was scheduled to read the Constitution's preamble out loud in front of a large audience, Barbara Bush instinctively understood that he was very, very nervous. She quietly slipped up alongside him and asked him if she could help him read it out loud while standing next to him.

Mr. Pace was very grateful and said, yes, of course. And soon they went up on stage together and began reading out loud the preamble of the Constitution.

As Barbara Bush detected that Mr. Pace became more comfortable in reading in public, she continued to lower her voice until only his voice could be heard. And he suddenly realized that he was reading the preamble to the Constitution in front of this huge audience on his own.

Well, it brought tears to his eyes because Barbara Bush had stood alongside him, understood his fear and anxiety, had lifted him up, and given him the confidence that he needed to complete the task, and allowed Mr. Pace to find his own voice.

She was an extraordinary woman, and I feel humbled every day to represent the Bushes, to be their Congressman, to follow in his footsteps, to

follow in her footsteps, and to do my very best to live up to the very high standards that they set for all of us as Americans, and especially as public servants.

Every day that I have this privilege, I remember the standard that she set for all of us, the standards that she set for her family.

Her granddaughter, Jenna Bush Hager, explained why her Ganny was given the nickname "The Enforcer." Jenna explained that there were a few simple rules that her grandmother followed: Treat everyone equally; don't look down on anyone; use your voice for good; and read all the great books.

Barbara loved her family more than anything else on Earth. As she liked to tell people repeatedly: In the end, when all the dust is settled, when all the crowds are gone, the things that matter most are faith, family, and friends.

She was abundantly blessed. In fact, her most prized possession was a painted cow, because when her husband, George, saw that Barbara had swooned over the painted cow statues installed around Houston in 2001, he decided to surprise her with one. But as the former President paced a warehouse full of colorful works of cows painted by local artists with his longtime chief of staff Gene Becker, President Bush could not decide which one his wife would like best.

So he bought a blank one, and, as he expected, Mrs. Bush turned it into a family art project.

They had the white cow placed on the lawn of the family seaside home in Kennebunkport, Maine, and in the years since, she and George had each of their 5 children, 17 grandchildren, and 8-and-counting great-grandchildren decorate the cow with handprints and autographs, and it became her most prized possession because it symbolized their entire family and their deep bond of love and affection for each other.

Barbara Bush taught that humor, wit, and grace were the best accessories that a woman could wear. Jenna Bush Hager shared that her Ganny embodied uniqueness and authenticity, from her mismatched Keds, her pearl earrings, to her snow white hair.

Barbara Bush always stressed the importance of internal beauty because, as she said, your looks will fade, but your kind words and the way you make people feel will be remembered by people forever, and you are measured by the love of those around you and how you have loved them.

Her family members stated that she was the glue that held them all together. In a eulogy by her son Jeb, he stated that his mom was his first and most important teacher. She taught him to, "sit up, look people in the eye, say please and thank you, quit whining and stop complaining, and eat your broccoli."

The little things that she taught turned into bigger life lessons. "Be

kind, always tell the truth, never discourage anyone. Serve others, treat everyone as you would want to be treated, and love your God with all your heart and all your soul."

At Barbara's funeral, Jeb Bush told a story of the last time his mother was in the hospital. He said that his father, in Jeb's opinion, probably got sick on purpose just so he could go visit Barbara.

When George went into her room, he had a breathing mask over his face, a hospital gown. His hair was uncombed—in fact, standing straight up—and as he walked into Barbara's hospital room and held her hand, Barbara opened her eyes, took one look at him, and said, "My God, George, you are devastatingly handsome."

She kept her sense of humor and her perspective and her joy and love for her family right to the end.

When Jeb asked her how she felt about dying, Barbara stated that she knew that Jesus was her Lord and savior. She said she did not want to leave her husband, but she knew she would be in a beautiful place.

We know that Barbara is now reunited with her daughter Robin, who passed away when she was 3 due to leukemia. And as George W. Bush said at the end of his mother's life, although "Laura, Barbara, Jenna, and I are sad, our souls are settled because we know hers was."

We are all blessed as Americans, we are certainly blessed as Texans, as Houstonians, to be neighbors, to be friends, to have known this great good woman and this extraordinary family, the Bush family, that has exemplified everything that has made America great: integrity, duty, courage, commitment, self-reliance, religious faith, devotion to family, the benefits of hard work, and remembering that your good name is your most valuable possession worth more than all the gold and silver in the world.

And truly by that measure, the Bushes are the wealthiest people on Earth, and we are all so very fortunate to have known them, to have learned from them, to be inspired by them, as I continue to be every day as the Congressman from the Seventh District of Texas.

Every day that I represent this extraordinary district and these amazing people in Houston, who all stepped up and helped each other during Hurricane Harvey—and the Bushes were right there helping their neighbors and friends—every day that I have the privilege to represent this great city in this wonderful and amazing place, the Congress of the United States of America, I will always remember the standard of integrity that the Bush family left for me and for all of us. And I will work very, very hard to continue to make Barbara and George Bush and the Bush family and all Houstonians proud of my work on their behalf, because we are all abundantly blessed to have had Barbara Bush as First Lady, as a role

model and a mentor, but we know that she is in a better place and is reunited with her daughter Robin. And as George W. said: We are all sad for the loss, but our souls are settled because we know hers was.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to honor former First Lady Barbara Bush—Barbara Bush had unparalleled style and grace. Not only was she our First Lady, but a fiercely loyal wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

As a fellow Texan, I am proud of her leadership for our country and her unparalleled commitment to childhood literacy. Her leadership while in the White House was impactful and her work for her foundation has helped countless children. I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Bush on a few occasions and am saddened to hear of her passing.

While she may no longer be here with us on earth, we can be certain she is with our Heavenly Father—her memory will continue to live in the hearts and minds of the American people.

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HONORING THE LIVES OF SERGEANT NOEL RAMIREZ AND DEPUTY TAYLOR LINDSEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TENNEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOH) for 30 minutes.

Mr. YOH. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening with a saddened heart to honor Sergeant Noel Ramirez and Deputy Taylor Lindsey of the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office, who tragically lost their lives in the line of duty on April 19, 2018, in a senseless, evil, and cowardly act, with complete disregard and respect for law enforcement officers and life itself.

While I no longer represent Gilchrist County here in Congress, my wife, Carolyn, and I operated two of our veterinary businesses there. It is the epitome of an idyllic American town that espouses the values of America, God, country, and family. Our thoughts are with the entire community as we recover from this tragedy.

Sergeant Ramirez was born on June 30, 1988, in Brooklyn, New York. After graduating high school in Puerto Rico with honors, he began his career in law enforcement.

During his service to the people of Gilchrist County, he played an active role in recruiting new members to the Gilchrist team to grow what he liked to call "the family" in the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office.

He was a medalist in the First Responder Games in both basketball and weight lifting, but more importantly than that, he was a loving and dedicated father and husband.

He is survived by his wife, Gigi; their two children, Noel Lito and Zoey; along with his parents and family.

Deputy Taylor Lindsey was born on June 30, 1992, in Gainesville, Florida,

and graduated from Gainesville High School. Deputy Lindsey joined Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office in 2013, where he began his lifelong dream to be a law enforcement officer.

From a young age, he wanted to be a law enforcement officer, and he couldn't say "patrol" so he called it "P-trol," and he went on to fulfill that dream. He worked there for 3 years.

While quiet at first, he was quick to laugh, and those who worked with him can tell you a favorite Taylor Lindsey story.

Deputy Lindsey is survived by his parents, his family, and his girlfriend, Kristin Hite.

John 15:13 reminds us there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for their friends. Both officers gave the ultimate sacrifice and epitomized the meaning of service before self. Our lives and our community, our State and, in fact, our Nation are better because of their service.

Rest easy, gentlemen. We now have your watch.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

NUTRITION PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 30 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week, the House Agriculture Committee marked up and approved H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018.

Along with the critical farm supports, the farm bill also authorizes and provides funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP, and formerly called food stamps. SNAP is the primary Federal nutrition assistance program for those in need and ensures that no American goes hungry.

As a young, married man, I saw the value and the importance that a Federal nutrition program, such as SNAP, provided when times got tough. Coming from central Pennsylvania, I always say that the worst part of growing up in a rural area is that everyone knows your business. By the same token, the best thing about growing up in a rural area is that everyone knows your business. And when times get tough, neighbors always help neighbors in need.

And that is how I think about SNAP. No matter if you lived down the longest rural country lane or in the middle of New York City, SNAP is about neighbors helping neighbors.

Despite the rhetoric that has been espoused by some over the past few weeks and months about the nutrition title, I would like to discuss this important legislation, what H.R. 2 actually proposes to do to improve SNAP.

Over the past 3 years, the Agriculture Committee has held 21 bipartisan hearings on SNAP, while hearing