

We trust them with our most prized assets for many hours a day: our children. Most of us who go to work Monday through Friday entrust the teachers with the daily caretaking, development, and, of course, the education of our kids, and sometimes that task can take on a lot more, even parenting, when kids come from broken homes.

A teacher's job is indeed difficult. As parents, it can be easy to lose sight of the significance and influence teachers have on our kids' lives on a daily basis. I know this firsthand.

My wife is a teacher; my sister is as well. I know firsthand, my wife, the many hours spent after school, using her own dollars to help make her classroom a better learning environment for those kids, because it comes from the heart.

I want to thank her, my sister, and all those teachers all around the country for giving that extra that it takes when sometimes society falls short in its own ways.

Congratulations on Teacher Appreciation Week.

#### CELEBRATING 35TH ANNUAL NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, as the Democratic chair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, I rise to celebrate the 35th annual National Travel and Tourism Week, which provides us an opportunity to showcase the importance of travel and tourism in creating economic growth and opportunity and enhancing the quality of life in every district throughout the United States.

Our second largest industry export and our seventh largest employer, travel generates \$2.4 trillion for the U.S. economy and supports some 15.6 million jobs. In southern Nevada alone, tourism generates nearly \$60 billion annually. Last year, 42 million visitors came to Las Vegas, and we hosted almost 20,000 conventions, which brought in 6 million people from around the world.

So, as we honor the valuable contributions of the hardworking people in this vital industry, I want to remind my colleagues that we need to support its growth and development by making real investments in the country's infrastructure so we can increase the efficiency and reliability of travel and encourage greater tourism to Las Vegas and all the United States. It is about putting out a welcome mat and setting a bigger table.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, National Prescription Drug Take Back Day was last Saturday, the last Saturday in April. Today, President Trump announced that nearly 1 million pounds of prescription drugs were disposed of at sites across the country.

The Drug Enforcement Administration, in partnership with Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement, businesses, medical offices, Federal agencies, and first responders hosted events to collect and safely dispose of unneeded medication.

National Take Back Day happens twice a year, and each time, thousands of pounds of prescription drugs are returned, helping to prevent incidents of drug abuse and misuse across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, unneeded or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue. Results from the 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health indicate that nearly 19 million Americans 12 years of age or older abused or misused prescription drugs in the past year. According to the CDC, most people who abuse prescription opioids get them for free from a friend or relative.

We must continue our fight against the opioid epidemic, and the biannual Take Back Days are an important one step in doing so.

#### URGING THE PRESIDENT NOT TO RENOUNCE THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, having been briefed at every stage of the negotiation of the Iran nuclear deal, I was able to come to this floor just 2 hours after it was published and be the first to speak in opposition to the Iran nuclear deal.

Today, I rise to urge the President not to renounce that deal. The question is this: Do we want to liberate the Iranian Government or sanction the Iranian Government? If we renounce the deal, then the Iranian Government is free to remove the inspectors, to begin a program of building an unlimited number of centrifuges, and can request the return of the fissile material, several bombs' worth of fissile material which, under the deal, they had transferred to Russia and which Putin might choose to return.

If we renounce the deal, we do nothing to give ourselves additional rights because, under the deal, we are free to sanction Iran in full proportion to its nonnuclear evil. The Iranian Government is responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths in Syria and tens of thousands of deaths in Yemen. That alone justifies every sanction every Member of this body can come up with.

We can stay in the deal and sanction Iran.

#### JESSIE PATRICK CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jessie Patrick, who currently resides in South Carolina but spent most of her very long life in Oneida County, New York, in the 22nd District.

On May 12, Jessie will turn 100 years old. Jessie grew up in nearby Yorkville with her sister, Bertha, and her two brothers, Matthew and Edward, both of whom served in World War II. She then moved to Whitesboro, New York, where she worked for General Electric, which was once located in Utica, New York, for nearly 30 years.

Jessie became an active leader in the Whitesboro community, joining the Whitesboro Fire Department's Women Auxiliary, St. Paul's Church, and even owned a restaurant in nearby Marcy, New York, with her husband.

Jessie has one daughter, Judy; two granddaughters; three great-grandchildren, with whom she loves to spend time. Her family loves to travel and used to spend many weekends traveling to Boston to go deep-sea fishing. When Jessie isn't deep-sea fishing, she enjoys cooking, cross-stitching, and gardening.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Jessie a wonderful, happy, and healthy 100 years, and many, many more years to come.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JENNIFER PARKS

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Jennifer "Jenny" Parks. Jenny attended the Route 51 festival in Las Vegas on October 1. Jenny was a remarkable kindergarten teacher at Anaverde Hills Elementary School in Lancaster, California.

Jenny loved all of her students and their families but ensured to leave a big place in her heart for her husband, Bobby, and their two kids, Bryce and Lea.

Jenny was a loving person who always went out of her way to help people. She is remembered by her family and friends as being a beautiful and intelligent woman who had a wonderful sense of humor. I would like to extend my condolences to Jenny Park's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

#### HONORING VIRGINIA TECH PRESIDENT EMERITUS CHARLES WILLIAM STEGER, JR.

(Mr. GRIFFITH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Charles William Steger, Jr., along with ROB WITTMAN, who is an alumnus of Virginia Tech. Unfortunately, Virginia Tech President Emeritus Charles William Steger, Jr., passed away last night at the age of 70. He was a Hokie through and through, and he guided the university to great achievements.

He earned three degrees himself from Virginia Tech, and before becoming president, he taught and held numerous posts. As president of Virginia Tech from 2000 to 2014, Dr. Steger led the university to new heights. He presided over growth and enrollment. Forty major new buildings were constructed. Research expenditures grew from \$192 million to \$450 million. He established the school of biomedical engineering and helped bring together the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute.

He also had the burden of leading Virginia Tech through the shooting on that horrific April day in 2007. In the aftermath, he led with remarkable dignity. He received many honors during his lifetime, and I, along with many in Virginia and across this Nation, held Dr. Charles William Steger, Jr., in the highest esteem.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Janet; his son, Christopher Steger, and wife, Elizabeth Schumann; and his son, David Steger, and fiancée, Alison Nemeth.

Mr. Speaker, if we could all pray a prayer tonight for the family of Charles Steger.

#### PROTECTING SOCIAL SAFETY NET

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for holding this Special Order hour, the CBC Special Order hour this evening, as we discuss SNAP and other efforts by the President and the GOP to shed the social safety net.

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Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Chairman RICHMOND, for allowing me to have this opportunity to lead what we call the "Conscience of the Congress" of the Congressional Black Caucus, who is

the one who has led this and come up with this idea for us.

As we paint a picture of the Black community in 2018, it is clear that we have a lot to lose. Too many of our neighborhoods are, unfortunately, still plagued by rampant poverty, dysfunction, and crime. These are very serious issues that our community has to deal with.

But instead of the GOP Congress working with us side by side in a bipartisan manner, we have a group, Mr. Speaker, hell-bent on enacting jaded, outdated, economic backwards legislation in the form of SNAP that would throw thousands of recipients off the roles. According to the nonpartisan Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, SNAP is the country's most effective antihunger program helping one in five Americans afford a basic diet.

For over 15 years, State and Federal policymakers have worked on a bipartisan basis to strengthen SNAP. The GOP would take a large step backwards, reducing or eliminating benefits for more than 1 million households with more than 2 million people. And let me be clear, it is not just about programs, policies, and laws being enacted by the GOP and President Trump, it is about the overall tone that has been set by this President, who regularly raises insults, instead of engaging in meaningful policy discussions.

The President's review of welfare programs is an immoral attempt to get the programs that provide a basic standard of living for Americans struggling to make ends meet, all to pay for the massive tax cuts for himself and the richest 1 percent. Instead of taking food out of the mouths of poor children or kicking the elderly off of Medicare, President Trump and congressional Republicans should work with Democrats to put more money in the pockets of hardworking Americans.

Let me be clear: this executive order is a thinly veiled attempt to restrict access to healthcare, housing, food, and many other basic living programs by adding onerous so-called work requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL), a person who I admire and had the chance of visiting with her in the great State of Alabama. She has a lot of experience firsthand and knows and understands what it means to be close to the people.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS) for leading this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I especially want to acknowledge the Congressional Black Caucus for always being the "Conscience of the Congress" and for taking on the topic of tonight, which is the social safety net and how important it is as a lifeline for so many Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the efforts to dismantle our social safety net and the programs that help working Americans make ends meet.

Our Federal health, antihunger, and poverty programs are the lifeline for millions of Americans and their families. Every year, our Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, feeds 9.5 million families. Social Security keeps over 22 million Americans from falling into poverty. And Medicare ensures that 44 million men, women, and children have access to the care they need to stay healthy. These families are hanging by a thread, and with every cut to our health and antihunger programs, that thread becomes thinner and thinner.

In Alabama, I have seen the difference that these programs can make firsthand. I have met working parents who rely on SNAP to put food on the table for their children. I have met seniors who, after a lifetime of work, are able to get by only because of their Social Security check. I have met mothers who could not feed their children if it weren't for the maternity care that they get through Federal health programs. For these working parents, seniors, and children, our social safety net means the difference between a warm home and homelessness. It means a difference between a hot meal and going to bed hungry.

Last year in Alabama, I met a farmer named Hank, who was able to afford healthcare for the first time in his life because of the Affordable Care Act. And after Hank signed up for ObamaCare, tragedy struck. His hand was caught in a hay baler, requiring immediate emergency care. But because of the healthcare he received through the Affordable Care Act, Hank was able to pay for his trip to the emergency room and, most importantly, his family did not lose that farm.

That is what our social safety net does. It helps people when their time of need is most. It is a promise that no matter the hardship you face, we will never let you fall between the cracks. We, America, the land of plenty. We, Americans, don't let other Americans fall through the cracks. Whether your family faces a health crisis or layoffs; or you are caring for a new child, we are not going to let you fall into poverty.

Giving up on this promise is what I believe the Republican agenda has done. Giving up on this promise is what makes the Republican attacks on our social safety net so disturbing. It is a promise that we, as Americans, make to other Americans, that we will have a social safety net that will capture people in their most vulnerable time of need.

The tax bill that Congress and the Trump administration passed in December repealed the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate. That move drove healthcare costs for families and will result in 13 million more uninsured Americans. It was unnecessary, but it was a step that this administration took. It was a step that ripped from 13 million Americans their health insurance.