

# EPA ADMINISTRATOR SCOTT PRUITT NEEDS TO RESIGN

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in April, I filed a resolution, it is H. Res. 834. It is a resolution of no confidence in the EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. We now have over 140 co-sponsors to this resolution.

This is a resolution that points out that we have high standards for government service and it is unacceptable to have scandal after scandal, the waste of taxpayers' money, coming out of the Environmental Protection Agency's Administrator's office in Scott Pruitt.

What we know now, scandal after scandal that comes to light, is that Administrator Pruitt, he has a penchant for luxury travel at taxpayer expense, he likes to fly first class at taxpayer expense, he likes to stay in luxury hotels at taxpayer expense, and this is unacceptable.

Federal ethics laws bar public officials from using their position or using their staff to enrich themselves.

In addition to his luxury travel and luxury accommodations, we now know that he installed a secret privacy phone booth in his office to the tune of \$43,000, paid for by the taxpayers. He has installed biometric locks on his door at the EPA that cost over \$5,000.

Due to good journalism, we know that the EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt rented a condo here on Capitol Hill for \$50 per night. The Administrator said that the condo owner did not lobby him, but then it was discovered later that, in fact, that was not true, that was a lie.

Just in the past week, it has now been discovered that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has ordered very special fountain pens, paid for by the taxpayers, about \$1,500 worth of special pens for him to use and give out.

We know that he has received gifts, like court-side seats to a basketball game given to him by a coal baron.

It was also reported yesterday that he made from his office an official phone call to the CEO of a fast food franchise to try to secure for his wife a fast food franchise business. That is not acceptable.

We know, also due to good reporting, that he asked his staff to go out and find a mattress for his home. You are not allowed, as a government official, to use your government staff to do personal tasks. That is against Federal ethics laws.

All of that pales in comparison, however, to his standing up for special interests, the cost to our health, to our clean water and clean air, while the EPA Administrator again and again is siding with special interests, many of whom have lobbied him and are implicated in a lot of these sweetheart deals.

The interest of the public, the air we breathe, the water we drink, of simply confidence that our Environmental

Protection Agency is going to stand up for us: that is what is really at issue.

All of these things are awful, they are a violation of Federal ethics laws, and Scott Pruitt should resign.

I am very troubled, and a lot of my colleagues are troubled that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, many of them have not called him out, they have not signed on to the resolution.

Down at the White House, they continue to say it is acceptable for Scott Pruitt to serve as our EPA Administrator.

I am here on the floor today because we simply cannot stand for this any longer. I am asking for all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to sign on to H. Res. 834 and say it is time to stand up for ethics in government.

This wasteful spending is undermining the confidence that the American people have in our country and the ability of our government to protect them from air pollution and water pollution and toxic chemicals.

But more importantly, this is a time for us to say to our Environmental Protection Agency, we have very high standards, we have high standards for what we believe in: the landmark Clean Water Act, the landmark Clean Air Act, everything that we do to protect the climate and to reduce carbon pollution.

It has just gotten that swampy here in Washington, D.C., Mr. Speaker, and it is time for a change at the EPA. The White House needs to take action.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to speak up, stand up, and say we are not going to stand for these lapses of ethical behavior anymore. Scott Pruitt needs to resign.

## FEDERAL OPPORTUNITY ZONES

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this Congress and this President made pro-growth policies a top priority since day one. My colleagues and I should be very proud that due in part to the policies of this Republican Congress, consumer confidence is at an all-time high, businesses are optimistic, and our economy is booming. Even The New York Times has run out of words to explain and describe how great this economy is.

As families across Kansas receive an average tax break of more than \$2,000 a year, as well as seeing record wage growth and bonuses, I see the excitement growing firsthand throughout my district.

However, today in particular, I want to highlight one specific aspect of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act: Federal Opportunity Zones, which are designed to promote economic development and job creation in communities throughout the country. This is where government meets private sector business in a very positive way.

The Treasury Department recently selected 22 opportunity zones in 17 different counties across the First District of Kansas.

When a tract is deemed an opportunity zone, it allows taxpayers to defer capital gains tax if they invest and prioritize local projects. This is a win-win scenario for both investors and communities that will spur growth and expansion.

My good friend, Ashley Hutchinson, in Cloud County, Kansas, said her community hopes to use these opportunity zones to recruit new businesses to areas in counties like hers that are in great need of investment incentives.

In Manhattan, Kansas, home of the Kansas State University Wildcats, the local Chamber is using these opportunity zone programs to revitalize and enhance Aggieville, a beloved and historic social district very near and dear to my heart.

In southwest Kansas, municipalities are using the program to spur job growth by updating existing buildings for new retail and commercial space, as well as attracting housing developments for the region's growing workforce.

In Emporia, Kansas, expansion of the growing pet industry is being allowed by these opportunity zones as well.

Across my district, community leaders and economic development departments are excited by the new opportunities these zones will deliver to their communities.

As the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act continues to help existing businesses grow and expand, opportunities are starting to rise across the country. In Kansas, we are excited about what is to come.

As a Congressman, I am often asked: What are you doing in Congress? What is this Congress doing to help save rural America? These Federal Opportunity Zones as well as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act are one such example.

## RAISING AWARENESS OF ALOPECIA AREATA

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise awareness of alopecia areata, an autoimmune disease that causes hair loss on the scalp and other areas of the body.

Today, close to 7 million Americans live with alopecia areata, including over 1 million children under the age of 12.

Alopecia areata is a greatly unpredictable disease and currently has no known cause and no known cure.

Sadly, this disease often presents itself at an early age, with small round, smooth patches appearing on the head.

With limited treatment options, many individuals use wigs, which come at a significant out-of-pocket cost.

It was one of my constituents, Deirdre Nero, an alopecia patient, who

first brought to my attention the challenges facing the alopecia areata community. That is why I have been proud to stand with my colleague, Congressman JIM MCGOVERN, and support H.R. 2925, legislation to provide coverage for wigs as durable medical equipment under the Medicare program.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to stand with alopecia areata patients across the Nation and cosponsor this commonsense and bipartisan measure.

□ 1015

#### HONORING SOUTH FLORIDIAN LARRY ADAMS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable south Floridian, Mr. Larry Adams.

Born in West Palm Beach in 1927 to a family of limited means, Larry understood from a young age the importance of getting an education. Larry also possessed a strong desire to serve his country during World War II. He enrolled at Purdue University as a U.S. Air Corps Cadet and served in the U.S. Air Force in Germany from 1945 to 1946.

Upon returning home, Larry attended his alma mater, the University of Miami—Go Canes—where he excelled at both sports and academics, including pitching for our university's baseball team.

In 1949, Larry began a 42-year career at Florida Power & Light Company—42 years. Starting from the bottom, he worked his way from being a lineman digging ditches and climbing power poles to being a vice president of the State's largest electric utility.

While excelling at his difficult job duties, Larry reenrolled in school while working for the company and earned a degree from Harvard Graduate Business School's Advanced Management Program for executives.

Never one to limit himself, Larry also devoted extraordinary time and effort to his community, serving in over 36 local, regional, State, and national community service organizations, which earned him many accolades.

Larry also played a founding and integral role in the development of management systems to improve the quality and cost of goods and services produced throughout our great Nation.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan requested that certain U.S. corporations provide a team of quality management experts whose mission was to create an American Quality Management Award for Excellence program. Florida Power & Light assigned Larry to work under the direction of the U.S. Commerce Secretary and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, where Larry co-chaired one of four teams of professional quality improvement management experts provided by American businesses.

Together, they developed and secured Presidential and congressional approval to create the Malcolm Baldrige Foundation Award to empower U.S. organizations to reach their goals and become significantly more competitive in

national and international trade and commerce. Today, the now popular Sterling Management program is a derivative of the Baldrige program and is managed by the Governors of each of our 50 States.

At the age of 89, Larry became the recipient of the 2016 Florida Governor's Sterling Ambassador of the Year Award for successfully coaching businesses, charitable, and government agencies to learn and deploy Sterling and Malcolm Baldrige management systems during the past 25 years.

Larry has had an extraordinary life, which he has enjoyed with his wife of over 65 years, Betsy Gregg Adams. Together, they have three sons: Larry, Jr., an architect; Ron, a trial attorney; and Thad, a commercial realtor.

Congratulations to my friend, Larry Adams, for a remarkable life well lived.

#### RECOGNIZING SHERBURNE COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER BRUCE PRICE

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a local hero in my district, Sherburne County Veteran Service Officer Bruce Price.

County veteran service officers are one of the most important resources for our Nation's veterans. When our veterans need help filing a claim for disability or arranging transportation to their VA hospital appointments, service officers like Bruce are always there to serve.

Bruce and his staff go beyond this call of duty. They see 3,000 individuals every year and field nearly 20,000 calls from veterans experiencing difficulty or seeking resources.

While it was no secret to our community that Bruce is a hero, his efforts are now finally being recognized nationally. Bruce received the Life, Well Run Community Hero Award for his outstanding service to others from the International City/County Management Association. We are grateful to have such an outstanding public servant in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District.

Congratulations, Bruce, and thank you for your service.

#### RECOGNIZING THE MINNESOTA LYNX

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of one of Minnesota's most incredible and most successful sports teams, the four-time Women's National Basketball Association champions, Minnesota Lynx.

The Minnesota Lynx started their inaugural season in 1999 with just 12,000 fans in attendance to watch the first regular-season game. This year, as they celebrate their 20th season, the stands are packed. That is because, with four championships in the last 7 years, the Lynx are a dynasty, one that continues to grow.

While they have many incredible individual players, the Lynx are a true

team on and off the court. The Lynx are active in our local community in the Land of 10,000 Lakes, but they take their commitment to service even beyond our State's lines.

This week, I look forward to joining the team at Payne Elementary School at an event with the Samaritan's Feet Shoes of Hope Distribution. I also look forward to many more winning seasons from this group of talented and dedicated athletes.

Congratulations to the Lynx on 20 seasons, four championships, and the many more victories that surely lie ahead. You make Minnesota proud.

#### CELEBRATING 21ST CENTURY BANK'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible financial institution in my district, 21st Century Bank.

Beginning as the Farmer's State Bank of Cedar in Anoka County in 1917, it served the rural agricultural community and is one of the few banks to come through the Great Depression. Over 100 years later, the bank has expanded across Minnesota, opening locations all over our State, including four banks in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District.

At the helm is Thomas P. Dolphin, who said: "In the beginning, it was a handshake that sealed the deal, and that is still true today at 21st Century Bank."

Having been at the bank for more than 40 years, Tom has been an integral part of transforming 21st Century Bank from a small rural bank with just \$3 million in assets to an urban financial network with more than \$425 million in assets, allowing them to serve more families across Minnesota.

21st Century Bank brings convenient banking and reliable service; and, indeed, most businesses that work with them are small- to medium-sized businesses, making 21st Century Bank part of the foundation of our local economy.

After celebrating their 100th anniversary, they continue bringing families and small businesses the services they so desperately need. With respect and gratitude, thank you to the Dolphin family and to everyone at 21st Century Bank for your contribution to our local communities. We look forward to the next 100 years.

#### CARVER COUNTY, HEALTHIEST COUNTY IN MINNESOTA

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, there is no question that exercise is good for the body. Whether it is walking, biking, or playing hockey on a frozen lake, exercise reduces your chances of getting heart disease, helps maintain a healthy weight, improves mood and mental functioning, and so much more.

In my State, no place does it better than Carver County in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District. Carver County has been named our State's healthiest county by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the sixth consecutive year. The rankings are based on, among other factors, how people feel and how long they live.