

3 million jobs. The numbers of employed persons are the highest ever in the United States. The unemployment rate has fallen to 3.8 percent, matching the lowest level in 50 years. African American and Hispanic unemployment rates have reached record lows, and the unemployment rate for women has fallen to the lowest level since 1953.

The National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, small business optimism index is at one of the highest levels in 45 years. I appreciate the leadership of NFIB Director Ben Homeyer.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND WRDA

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a crisis facing rural America: the deterioration of water and wastewater infrastructure in our rural communities.

As the House considers passage of the Water Resources Development Act, WRDA, millions of Americans in my district and across the country are facing a health and infrastructure emergency due to failing wastewater systems.

In Alabama's rural Black Belt, I have toured communities where a home's only sewage system is a straight pipe that carries untreated waste directly into their yards and property. Alabama is not alone in this issue. Reports by the EPA document that the same lack of wastewater infrastructure is all across rural America where rural and remote areas are not connected to a city or county water and sewer line.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced the bipartisan Rural Septic Tank Access Act with my Alabama Republican colleague, Congressman MIKE ROGERS, which takes a first step towards providing rural Americans with the resources they need to maintain stable, safe, and efficient water systems.

As the House continues to debate infrastructure investment, I urge this body to address the wastewater crisis facing our rural communities.

NATIONAL DEBT IS A SECURITY THREAT

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, last September, America's national debt topped \$20 trillion for the first time in history.

Almost 3 months ago, the debt exceeded \$21 trillion, and we have an annual structural deficit in the hundreds of billions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the United States faces no greater menace than our inability to eliminate our debt and balance our budget. Our grandchildren will pay the

price for our dereliction of duty and our seniors will soon see Social Security and Medicare funds depleted.

This internal, bipartisan recklessness endangers all Americans.

It is past time for us to become serious about balancing our budget and making significant cuts to Federal spending. If we do not change our course, we will one day see the crash of the American economy and the demise of a super power.

Mr. Speaker, let's change our course before our debt reaches \$22 trillion. The time for conversation is over. The time to act is now.

H.R. 8 WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT AND MAINE

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed H.R. 8, the Water Resources Development Act, which I proudly voted for.

I want to lend my voice in support of this bill and its importance to the State of Maine, which has critical ports and harbors up and down our coastline.

In particular, I want to call attention to a previously authorized WRDA program in Saco, Maine, known as Camp Ellis.

This project is considered remediation from a jetty that was built in the late 1800s by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The jetty has caused erosion and receding coastline that year by year and storm by storm has already washed out the ground from nearly 40 homes in the past 50 years.

The Army Corps and local community have been working for years on getting this project off the ground, and we are finally seeing some progress.

In the past year, there has been new energy around this, and I want to commend all the parties for their persistence and determination in getting this done.

A new WRDA can provide critical support for the storm-ravaged residents of Camp Ellis and help them rebuild.

As H.R. 8 and the other legislation moves from the House to the other body, I will continue to work with our chair, ranking member, and colleagues from Maine and the other body to get this accomplished.

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PASS FOREST MANAGEMENT REFORMS

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today urging the Senate to take up the forest reforms that this Chamber passed more than 7 months ago.

Last year, wildfires burned more than 1.2 million acres in Montana, an area the size of the State of Delaware. I met with the firefighters on the ground and saw the devastation. I heard from families anxious about the dangerous air quality impacting their kids. I listened to the hardworking Montanans worried that their livelihoods would go up in flames.

Montana survived last year's devastating fire season. Our communities pulled together, helping neighbor to neighbor, just as Montanans do.

The bad news is that forecasters project another severe fire season this year. We need to start managing our forests again. While there has been some progress, more work remains to improve the health of our forests and reduce the severity of wildfires.

I call on the Senate to end the obstruction and pass forest management reforms. Montanans need them to act.

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY OF CRUELTY

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, the Trump administration has enacted a policy of stunning cruelty: cruel in its impact on innocent young children, cruel in its impact on terrified mothers seeking safety from violence and rape.

The cruel policy: the aggressive and forceful practice of separating a child from her mother when that mother presents herself at our southern border for the sole purpose of seeking safety.

The cruel policy, Mr. Speaker, is the Trump administration's decision—willful, voluntary, calculated decision—to make it a crime for a mother to do what mothers do everywhere and always: protect their children.

Whatever challenges we face at the southern border, none will be solved by ripping families apart, sending a child to one place—strange, unknown, unfamiliar—and the parents to another, neither knowing when, if ever, they will be reunited.

This policy is not only cruel, it is unnecessary and ineffective. Mr. Speaker, the President must end this un-American cruelty now and forever.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SUCCESS FOR JAYCO RV

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate local RV manufacturer, Jayco, and to join them in celebrating 50 years of success.

In 1968, Lloyd and Bertha Bontrager developed their first RV prototype on their family farm in northern Indiana and launched a family business that would last for generations. Half a century later, Jayco has grown to include

over 500 acres of manufacturing plants, more than 300 dealers around the world, and countless good jobs for hardworking Hoosiers in our community.

Northern Indiana leads the RV industry in the United States and, as a community, we are grateful to have this company to inspire future generations of manufacturers and to carry on that legacy.

It is an honor to represent Jayco, the Bontrager family, and the hardworking employees who have played such a vital role in northern Indiana's growing economy for decades.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Second District Hoosiers, I want to thank everyone at Jayco for an incredible 50 years, and I look forward to more amazing things to come.

**RECOGNIZING PAUL HAMRICK,
MONTEREY COUNTY'S 2018
SPELLING BEE CHAMPION**

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul Hamrick, Monterey County's 2018 Spelling Bee champion and two-time Scripps National Spelling Bee contestant.

Last year, Paul finished in 35th place, but this year, and just last week, out of over 500 spellers from all 50 States, Paul finished the Bee tied for seventh, the best finish ever for a Monterey County student.

Now, in a lot of ways, Paul is a normal 14-year-old from the central coast of California. He loves *Weird Al Yankovic*, the movie "Black Panther," and he even likes to bowl. But Paul is the only Monterey County student to ever make the evening finals at the National Spelling Bee.

Paul's proud father, Tom, said that Paul studied over 50,000 words this year. That number is incredibly impressive because, according to a 2016 study, the typical English-speaking 20-year-old American only knows 42,000 words.

During last Thursday's Scripps National Spelling Bee, Paul confidently spelled words that most people couldn't even pronounce, like "soubresaut" and "binnacle" and "rubricate," an impressive run and finish for a very intelligent young man.

Congratulations, Paul. You should be proud of your hard work because, from the central coast of California to right here in the U.S. Congress, we are proud of you.

**CONGRATULATING THE 2018 NAIA
NATIONAL CHAMPION SOUTH-
EASTERN UNIVERSITY MEN'S
BASEBALL TEAM**

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, Southeastern University is a Christian liberal arts college located in my hometown of Lakeland, Florida. The university is known for its commitment to providing students with a Spirit-empowered, Christ-centered education through integration of faith, learning, and service.

Today, I rise to recognize a recent proud accomplishment for Southeastern University. Last Thursday, May 31, 2018, the Southeastern University Fire men's baseball team defeated Freed-Hardeman University to win the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics World Series.

On their road to victory, the team also defeated four former national champions and had three of their players selected to join the 2018 All-American team: Johnathan Bermudez, Dan Valerio, and Jordan Scott.

The national championship is the first NAIA title by a Fire team since joining the association in the fall of 2009. I am both proud and inspired by this young team and their head coach, Adrian Dinkel, for the determination, commitment, and teamwork they have demonstrated on their road to victory.

Southeastern University is a tremendous educational institution, led by Dr. Kent Ingle, and this win is a terrific achievement not only for the school, but also for our local community.

Go Fire.

**RECOGNIZING DENNIS WILLIAMS
FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE**

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to recognize Dennis Williams as he retires from United Auto Workers after more than 40 years of service to the union and to our country.

I have known Dennis for many, many years. Throughout his career, he has led the fight to protect the right to collective bargaining and to ensure that all workers, not just those in the union, have fair pay and safe working conditions.

Like the UAW itself, Dennis has always been committed to securing economic and social justice for workers. His experience has carried him through the diverse sectors of the UAW, giving him expertise across the spectrum.

He started at UAW Local 806 as a salvage welder, served in many positions—bargaining chairman, international representative, region 4 director—before becoming international president in 2016.

Dennis Williams' service and success at the bargaining table led to a better quality of life for the UAW's more than 400,000 workers and 580,000 retirees, many of whom I am proud to represent in my home district.

I am grateful to work with leaders like Dennis who have changed our communities for the better, and we will miss Dennis Williams' voice and his

leadership in the union, but we know it won't be lost to the country as he begins this next chapter in his life.

Congratulations, Dennis, on work well done.

**RECOGNIZING PARTICIPANTS IN
THE 2018 INTEL INTERNATIONAL
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
FAIR**

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I am excited to have this opportunity to recognize and congratulate three exceptional students in my district who placed in the top five for their project categories at the 2018 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. This competition is the largest precollegiate science fair in the world and is comprised of students from more than 75 countries who come together to compete and share their research with others in their STEM community.

Himanshi Verma, from Eastside High School, received the fourth place award in the biomedical and health sciences category; Gianfranco Cortes-Arroyo, from West Port High School, received the third place award in the mathematics category; and Evan Collins, one of my former district interns and a student at Ridgeview High, received the third place award in earth and environmental sciences category.

STEM education is vital to the advancement of American society, and I am proud to represent students who will lead their generation in innovation and expertise.

Congratulations again to Himanshi, Gianfranco, and Evan, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

**RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF RAPHAEL ALLEN**

(Mr. DESAULNIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Raphael Allen. I join his family and friends to celebrate his life and his service to the Richmond, California, community.

Raphael Allen was born and raised in the Bay Area, where he attended Stanford University. He went on to serve as an editor for Duke University Press and covered a variety of topics relating to the World War II Home Front National Historical Park and Rosie the Riveter Park in Richmond, California.

In 2007, he began volunteering with the National Park Service at Rosie the Riveter, editing exhibits, conducting research, and developing interactive youth programs. He was also a ranger at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, where he assisted with outreach programs at local schools and gave tours of the site, including for myself and our staff.