

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, we sat here and heard the President's State of the Union Address in which he spoke about immigration and immigrants.

A couple of things I want to highlight: No, Mr. President, not all immigrants are, A, Latino, and not all immigrants, Mr. President, are members of organized gangs, MS-13. I know you don't want to be fair and you didn't want to talk about the immigrants who are doctors, healing people every day in our hospitals; the immigrants who are teachers, educating Americans every day in our schools; the engineers who are innovating and creating new infrastructure that keep us safe and keep us modern in America.

No, you don't want to even talk about the millions of immigrants who toil in our fields, without papers, without documentation; and we know and we see the fruit of their labor, both literally and figuratively speaking, when we go to our grocery stores.

Who do you think does that work, does that hard work in the fields? People born American citizens? No. People who have come here. But we didn't want to talk about that.

And then, after you criminalized immigrants and made them these scary people who come to rob and to maim and to murder, you then went ahead and said: And by the way, those who come here legally, sponsored by their relatives, by their parents, by their brothers and sisters, by their immediate family members, they too pose a threat. You said, Mr. President, they come here as immigrants and then they sponsor an unlimited number of distant relatives.

Well, last time I checked, in my personal life, my wife, whom you can sponsor, is a pretty close relative to me; my children and my parents. Those are the only people that you can sponsor. Yes, parents, children, and your spouse. But you said there were unlimited.

So, if that is a lie, what part of what you said was true? Well, virtually nothing. Because if the underpinning of one of your arguments is shown to be false, then what is true?

And then this week we saw this administration go from calling immigrants criminals to saying they are just downright lazy. No. I say to the Chief of Staff of the President of the United States, the DREAMers are not lazy. They may be afraid because it was an executive order which many of them feared a new President might revoke and put them in jeopardy; that is true. But lazy, they are not.

They scraped together the \$500, went through the background checks, not once but twice and thousands of them three times, in order to get what you today want to take away from them: their ability to work and to live freely in this country with nothing from the government.

So, if you didn't think the criminalization of immigrants was wrong, if

you didn't think the demonization of them as hordes of people who can bring unlimited numbers of distant relatives—that lie was wrong—if you didn't think calling them just lazy was wrong—no—you know what I see? Barack Obama said he saw people who were inculcated with the same values that he inculcates in his very daughters. He made a direct relationship between DREAMers and his own children.

I want to go one step further than that. I don't see my children in them; I see fellow Americans. I see fellow Members of the House of Representatives. And I know that scares the hell out of a lot of Americans that that could be, but it shouldn't because it is the way forward. And they are going to come, and they are going to be integrated because we are going to get them the one thing that they need—that piece of paper—because they are Americans.

They are serving in the Armed Forces and dying for us today. Serving in the Armed Forces. And they are working, and they are healing. Why can't we let people who are doctors and lawyers and people who are nurses and people who are in the Armed Forces stay? They have been through the background checks. Because that is not the kind of America that some of us want to see in the future.

So today they are going to bring over from the Senate a proposal. They are going to lift the caps, and they are going to say: Let's vote on our budget. Well, I say to everybody, don't collude with this administration and deport DREAMers. Vote against the budget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Members are also reminded to direct all of their remarks to the Chair and not to others outside the Chamber.

CONGRATULATING DEREK LEONARD ON HIS COACH OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Derek Leonard, who was nominated by the Chicago Bears for the 2017 Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year award.

Nominees for this award are chosen for their character, integrity, leadership, dedication to their community, commitment to player health and safety, and on-field success. Derek Leonard exemplifies all of these qualities. Coach Leonard has coached the Rochester Rockets football team since 2006 with an impressive 133-29 career record, including a record seven State championships, the most by any public school in my home State of Illinois.

Derek is known for being one of the most gifted offensive minds in high

school football, but Coach Leonard reaches beyond football with his message of faith, family, and football, in that order. He is a leader with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and ensures his players are equipped to become good men in life after they graduate from high school and walk off of that football field.

I am proud to have Coach Leonard as a friend, and I want to congratulate him and his family and his team on this honor.

THE PROPOSED SPENDING BILL IS NOT FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the spending bill we will vote on later today will pass because there is something in it for almost everyone, but there is nothing fiscally conservative about it. It busts all the budget caps, adding \$300 billion over the next 2 years, when spending was already going up anyway. There are no pay-fors or offsets for the disaster billions, as we have done in the past.

I repeat, there is nothing fiscally conservative about this bill. Our deficit for the last fiscal year was an astounding \$666 billion. This bill makes it certain that this fiscal year it will be even higher. This bill raises our national debt limit when our debt is already a mind-boggling, incomprehensible \$20 trillion. This bill puts us on a path to a \$30 trillion debt in a very few years. I say again, there is nothing fiscally conservative about this bill.

The easiest thing in the world to do, Mr. Speaker, is spend other people's money, but this is getting ridiculous. There is an old saying about spending like a drunken sailor. Even drunk sailors never spent money this recklessly.

I will say once again and close by saying, there is nothing conservative or fiscally conservative about this bill.

HONORING PFC JOHN WILLIAM LITTLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Army Private First Class Johnny Little is a former resident of my district who had been killed in action at the very young age of 19 near Cologne, Germany, while fighting Nazis during World War II. Once Private First Class Little's remains were brought to south Florida, three years after being killed, he was regrettably buried without the recognition of his service that should have marked his grave all these years.

□ 0915

When I became aware of his case last year, I felt it was important this mistake be corrected quickly. My staff immediately opened a case and located

Little's service records. After working with members of his family, my office was able to put in a request to the Department of Veterans Affairs to secure the appropriate marker for his grave. Unfortunately, due to the damage from Hurricane Irma, the cemetery was damaged and the installation of his headstone had to be put on hold.

Thanks largely in part to the work of volunteers who cleaned up and led the recovery after the storm, I am pleased to share that First Class John William Little will finally be receiving the recognition he deserves as his family and members of the community come together with the Homestead Air Force Base Honor Guard to place a proper headstone on his grave later today.

Little was part of what we call the Greatest Generation, and the name is rightly deserved. At a time when human dignity and basic freedoms were under attack, he and millions like him put their lives on hold to ensure our way of life would be protected for generations to come. The basic freedoms we value, the way of life we enjoy, and even the continued existence of our government institutions are because of the sacrifices made by men and women like Private First Class Little.

I am proud of my staff's hard work to secure this recognition for one of our fallen heroes and humbled that we were able to play a role in honoring his memory and sacrifice. I am disappointed I won't be there to honor him in person today, but I look forward to visiting his grave to pay my respects soon.

VITA UNITED WAY

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last year Congress passed historic tax reform repairing our Nation's broken Tax Code. The positive effects of this new law are beginning to be felt across the country as businesses of all sizes reward their workers with bonuses and higher wages, all while hiring more people to fill new positions.

Millions of Americans across the income spectrum will start seeing more money in their paychecks as soon as this month. However, with the growth of wages and bonuses being realized, reprehensible individuals looking to commit fraud and take advantage of countless hardworking Americans as they file their taxes will see this as a prime opportunity to ply unsuspecting victims. Sadly, fraudulent tax preparation is a problem we know all too well in south Florida.

Fortunately, free tax filing assistance is available for those who need it. The IRS offers the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, known as VITA, to provide free tax preparation services from volunteer tax professionals in local communities.

Mr. Speaker, for low-income families with an annual income of less than \$54,000, the elderly, and those struggling with English, VITA services are an opportunity to make the most of the recent tax relief legislation and ensure they are getting as much in their tax return as possible.

Sixty percent of residents in my district qualify for this assistance in preparing their taxes, which is why I have made fighting to protect and strengthen the VITA program one of my top priorities since being appointed to the Ways and Means Committee last year.

Together with my Democratic colleague Representative DANNY DAVIS, I introduced a bipartisan bill that would permanently authorize the IRS to fund this free tax preparation service. It also ensures that VITA grant recipients, who already have accuracy rates of 94 percent, including tax returns claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit, maintain strong records of accuracy that will save taxpayers money.

My legislation is an important step toward ensuring the IRS is serving taxpayers and not the other way around. I am proud it has strong bipartisan support.

In my district, United Way of Miami-Dade and United Way of Monroe work hard to connect lower-income taxpayers or those with limited English skills with reliable, legitimate tax preparation assistance—entirely for free through the IRS VITA program. I was honored to invite United Way of Miami-Dade to Washington last year to share the work they do to help so many in our community fully utilize this free resource.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to visit United Way in South Dade this afternoon as planned, but I look forward to rescheduling to bring attention to their work soon.

I want to ensure as many constituents as possible are aware these services are available to protect their hard-earned paychecks, especially in a period of historic tax relief, and I encourage anyone looking for more information to reach out to my office for assistance.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us another day.

We thank You for every day you give us to be here at the seat of participative government. Bless the work of all the men and women who represent the people of the United States. Fill

them with wisdom and good will, that they might better work together for the benefit of our Nation.

Bless all the leaders of all the branches of our government with peace this day. May all be their best to serve the noble ends of government: the welfare of all men and women.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ZELDIN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SUPPORT FOR LIBERTY IN IRAN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year started with thousands of Iranians, including many young people, taking to the streets in opposition to the corrupt regime of the mullahs in Iran.

Iranians face brutality, imprisonment, and execution simply because they want freedom of expression and disagree with the Iranian Government.