

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE RICHARD DALE NICHOLS

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I speak today about the passing of the great Kansan and former Member of the United States Congress, my friend, Mr. Richard Dale Nichols.

Dick was born in southeast Kansas and honorably served his country in World War II as a member of the United States Navy. Upon returning to Kansas, he attended Kansas State University and was a fellow Beta Theta Pi fraternity brother.

After graduation, Dick entered the banking industry and, ultimately, settled down in McPherson, Kansas, where he served as president and then as chairman of the board for Home State Bank & Trust.

In 1990, Dick was elected to the United States Congress, representing the Fifth Congressional District of Kansas. Two years later, following the census, Dick's district was eliminated, and he returned to life as a businessman, but he never gave up his passion and love for our country.

Dick served as president of the Kansas Bankers Association, was active in the local Chamber of Commerce, and was a fellow Rotarian. He was a proud husband, father, and grandfather, and his outgoing, optimistic personality gained him new friends wherever he traveled.

I had the opportunity to get to know Dick and will always be grateful for the time and energy he spent helping me find my way to Washington, D.C. When I was back in McPherson, I always enjoyed chatting with him about Kansas State athletics, fellow Beta fraternity brothers, and Republican politics.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dick's wife, Linda, and the entire Nichols family as they mourn the loss of a great Kansan and a great man. He will certainly be missed.

RESTORING INTEGRITY OF SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of Secretary Sonny Perdue and the Department of Agriculture's proposed rule to restore the integrity of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and implement the program as a safety net, not a way of life.

In 2019, too many able-bodied men and women remain on the sidelines of our workforce. Recent data published by the U.S. Federal Reserve in February indicate a historically robust economy yet sluggish labor force participation rates, indicating a continued reluctance by some to engage in the workplace.

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According to data from USDA, we have more families accepting SNAP

dollars today than we did at the height of the financial crisis of 2008.

Despite major economic gains and today's record low unemployment; too many States are allowing people to opt out of work, leaving employers to spend valuable resources searching for men and women to fill our many vacant jobs.

By requiring able-bodied adults without minor dependents who are seeking SNAP benefits to work at least 20 hours a week while participating in training or educational programs, we are ensuring these men and women are no longer disengaged from the labor market, but finding a way back to the workforce and long-term self-sufficiency.

This Nation's economy is as strong as it has been in my professional lifetime. We must continue to encourage individuals to become self-sufficient and find new employment opportunities.

For too long, too many States have bypassed the rules and allowed able-bodied adults to neglect valuable job training and educational opportunities.

Employers across the country have good-paying jobs that can help individuals move out of poverty and regain their independence and integrity.

It is time we restore SNAP to its intended purpose, help men and women move back into the workforce, and take a major step in closing the workforce participation gap.

CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the progress made over the past two years to close the digital divide.

Access to a reliable internet connection remains a significant challenge in rural America and across my district. Society is becoming more and more reliant on broadband, whether for access to educational resources, telemedicine, or precision agriculture technology.

At the end of 2016, more than 26 million Americans did not have access to high speed internet. However, in a recent draft report circulated by Chairman Pai, that number dropped to just over 19 million at the end of 2017, with many of these new connections being in rural America. According to that report, fiber was deployed to another almost 6 million homes by the end of 2018, which is the largest number ever recorded.

Reducing regulatory burdens for deployment has helped to incentivize investment. Our local providers are working hard to leverage Federal programs, private dollars, and savings from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to further deploy broadband infrastructure to rural communities, better connecting our farmers, small businesses, and families. Companies like Rockhouse Motion, a digital media company in Geneseo, Kansas, or Rollin J Boutique in Phillipsburg, Kansas, both in my district, are able to thrive thanks to that internet connection.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud our efforts at the FCC, the USDA, and Congress to

make broadband access in rural America both affordable and reliable. I also encourage my colleagues to continue working to ensure that Americans have access to an internet connection no matter where they live.

CELEBRATING GIRL SCOUTS ON THEIR 107TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Girl Scouts of the United States as it celebrates its 107th birthday today.

On this day in 1912, Juliette Gordon Low founded this organization for, in her words, the girls of Savannah and of all America and of the world.

As you might be able to tell from the pictures next to me, Girl Scouts holds a very special place in my life.

Girl Scouts prepares girls to empower themselves, promotes compassion, courage, confidence, character, leadership, entrepreneurship, and active citizenship.

You see, my life has been shaped, as have many other girls and women throughout this country, in large part by the lessons I learned through scouting. From my great-grandmother, to my grandmother, to my mother, to myself, Girl Scouts and the values that Girl Scouts helped me to achieve have helped carry me through life.

For more than a century, the Girl Scouts have taught girls to be go-getters, innovators, risk-takers, and leaders.

Today, with a record number of women serving in the U.S. Congress, there are also a record number of Girl Scouts. Fifty-eight percent of the women in the U.S. House of Representatives are Girl Scouts and 73 percent of female U.S. Senators are Girl Scouts.

Though there are hundreds of Girl Scout alums in both houses of Congress, there are three of us who earned scouting's highest honor: myself, Congresswoman LAUREN UNDERWOOD, and Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH.

This award, the Gold Award, is given to high schoolers after they identify an issue in their community, investigate it, build a team, build a plan, and implement it. These 1- to 2-year take-action projects must have sustainable impacts on the community. They can be petitions to add playgrounds to local parks, recycling campaigns, building emergency kits, and on and on, but the one thing they have in common is a sustainability requirement. They simply can't be a one shot. They must create lasting change.

Girl Scouts teaches its members to look for the root cause of a problem, not simply the symptoms.

The Gold Award is the highest achievement in all of Girl Scouts.

Congress isn't the only place as well that Girl Scouts have gone into public

service. Three Secretaries of State, Condoleezza Rice, Madeleine Albright, and Hillary Clinton, were all Girl Scouts, and virtually every single female astronaut has also been a Girl Scout.

Today, more than 50 million women alive have participated in Girl Scouts growing up. I am proud to say that for the Girl Scouts of western Oklahoma, there are today 14,000 girls who are members. Worldwide, Girl Scouts has 2.6 million current girl and adult members.

Although Girl Scouts is perhaps best known for the entrepreneurial skills it introduces through the cookie program, it does so much more to develop leadership skills in girls. It teaches them how to advocate for themselves, for others, and it gives them a voice beginning at a very young age.

Programs introduce girls to science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics, or STEAM, often paths where girls might not otherwise be encouraged or supported to go on their own. Those STEAM programs introduce girls to these important areas and help them to move through challenges.

Girl Scouts can also learn about the outdoors through going on long treks, camping, kayaking, mountain biking, and countless other activities, all while learning how to minimize their impact on the environment.

Bottom line, Girl Scouts teaches girls the skills they need and they might not get elsewhere about healthy relationships, soft skills, financial literacy, nutrition and health.

All of these journeys are designed by girls and for girls, following evidence-based approaches that ensure they fit girls and foster their growth.

I am honored today to rise to celebrate the Girl Scouts on their 107th anniversary as a fourth generation Girl Scout and Gold Award recipient.

SOCIALISM LEADS TO HUMAN MISERY

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, a prominent American socialist politician recently proclaimed that “capitalism is irredeemable.”

Mr. Speaker, capitalism, better known as free enterprise, is based on freedom and liberty, not government dictate.

The claim that freedom and liberty should give way to government control and dictatorship is astonishing, sad, and alien to the America that I know.

It is a betrayal of the freedom and liberty Americans have fought and died for, a freedom that has given America the best gross domestic product, the most wealth of any nation in history.

In sum, the argument that free enterprise is bad and irredeemable is the height of economic hubris, economic ignorance, and economic stupidity.

Mr. Speaker, it is one thing for an argument to be economically ignorant

and stupid, it is another thing for it to be dangerous to human life. In that vein, the argument that socialism is better than free enterprise is not only a betrayal of America’s foundational principles of freedom and liberty; it is also dangerous and must be dealt with quickly and severely.

History is replete with examples of dead or dying nations that have paid a heavy price for succumbing to socialist politicians who care more about personal and dictatorial power, who care more about being the boss, than the welfare of their own people.

For those who refuse to learn from history, I suggest reading George Orwell’s prophetic book “Animal Farm.” It explains all you need to know about how and why socialism fails and who rules in a Socialist society.

Venezuela’s economic and humanitarian catastrophe is a present-day, glaring lesson that warns all tempted by the siren song of socialism.

Thousands of Venezuelans are dying from malnutrition, disease, and lack of food and medicine. The result: deadly riots.

In 2018 alone, a staggering 7,523 civilians were murdered due to clashes with military and state police forces.

Mothers are forced to choose which child to feed and which child goes hungry.

In 2017, the average Venezuelan lost 24 pounds because they could not get the calories necessary to maintain their body weight. Today, there are Venezuelans searching for food in trash cans who are fortunate if they can eat once a day.

As Venezuelans lose hope, suicide rates have skyrocketed to almost twice the global suicide rate.

Venezuela’s socialist economy has collapsed. 2018’s inflation rate soared to 80,000 percent. Nearly 90 percent of the population is living below the poverty line.

Even electricity is unreliable, as Caracas suffers from sporadic total power failures, casting Venezuela’s capital city into darkness.

Worse yet, Venezuela’s socialism promotes crime and lawlessness by desperate citizens. According to a 2018 report by the World Economic Forum, Venezuela is the second most dangerous country in the world, with Caracas coming in as the second most dangerous city overall with 111 homicides per 100,000 residents.

Venezuela’s suffering even extends beyond its borders, as thousands of refugees flee to neighboring countries that cannot take care of them.

Venezuela is a man-made catastrophe brought about by tyrannical dictators and self-proclaimed bosses that are always the result of socialist policies.

Mr. Speaker, America must learn from Venezuela, a country that succumbed to evil socialist sales pitches even though history proves socialism has failed every single time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and America to reject socialism lest

America go down the same path of financial self-destruction as Venezuela.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I urge America to reject self-proclaimed dictators and bosses who seek to deprive America of our hard-fought and hard-won freedom and liberty.

THE PRESIDENT IS UNFIT

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. I do so today because I love my country and I believe in what it stands for.

Because I love it and believe in what it stands for, I believe that my country is worth liberty and justice for all. I believe it is worth government of the people, by the people, for the people. I believe that it is worth the belief that all persons are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, among them, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Our country is worth it. And because our country is worth making real these great and noble American ideals, I do not believe that an unfit President should be allowed to stay in office.

If we acknowledge that the President is unfit, if we say that he is causing harm to society, then we have to honor Article II, section 4 of the Constitution of the United States of America, which calls for the impeachment of an unfit President who is causing harm to society.

This is where I stood some many, many weeks ago, this is where I stand now, and I stand here because I love my country.

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CONGRATULATING TOM DORSETT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Mr. Tom Dorsett of Yadkin County in North Carolina’s Fifth District. Mr. Dorsett is about to retire from his very successful business, Dorsett Technologies, which, since 1977, he has grown into the innovative and thriving business it is today.

Mr. Dorsett, his wife, Jo, and their excellent employees have built the business from a small heating and air-conditioning supply and service business to one of the most innovative businesses in the area. Today, the company specializes in automation for buildings and municipal water and wastewater systems.

Municipalities across the country use Dorsett Technologies’ InfoScan software to control systems for energy, security, and water. The company has even supplied the U.S. Army, Air Force, and NASA with its cutting-edge technology.