

whatever reasons, do so, we are not living up to our responsibilities.

Article II, Section 4 deals with impeachment. It is time for this Congress to start the impeachment process. I have been very adamant about this. I stand where I have stood now for more than 2 years. I have been said to be the voice of impeachment in the Congress. I am not the voice. The Members of this body will be the voice of impeachment when and if we take it up, and I assure you we will. If nobody else does, I will.

But the point is, this is our moment. This is what we have been mandated to do, to bring impeachment before the House of Representatives, especially given that we said we would wait until the Mueller report was finished, and then we would act.

Well, time has lapsed, and this is the time for us to act. We are the Members who can make the difference. This is the Congress of the United States of America.

Let me add this. I know these are difficult times for a good many persons and there are those who question whether we should do this given what the Senate may do. Well, we do a lot of things knowing that the Senate will not act as we would have them act. We send bills to the Senate quite routinely knowing that the Senate will reject these bills.

But it is our responsibility to act, and we then allow the Senate to do its job. If the Senate chooses not to, that is on the Senate. The House will have performed its responsibility.

So let us not be guided by political expediency, the question of whether the Senate is going to act. Let us stand on the moral imperative that we have to act.

Some have said that the soul of the country is at risk. Well, the truth is this, before the soul of the country is lost, the soul of the House of Representatives will be lost if we do not act on this moral imperative.

This is what we must do to maintain the House of Representatives' integrity and its prowess as a coequal branch of the government, which some say has a little bit more authority than the executive by virtue of its having a check on the executive.

Mr. Speaker, each day that I come, I will show the amount of time that has lapsed during which this administration is engaged in a coverup and is above the law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTICS CLUB

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding

group of citizens in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who are actively engaged in academic achievement.

Last year, New Hope-Solebury Middle School established its robotics club, and it did not take long for that club to grow and find success. They quickly grew to 20 students strong, with 5 students recently awarded the Judges Award at the competitive VEX Robotics Competition.

The robotics club at New Hope-Solebury Middle School is looking to build off of its accomplishments. With the help of librarian Craig Smith and school board member Mark Cowell, members are looking to become more active in competitions to demonstrate their skills. Recently, the Lambertville-New Hope Rotary Club, of which Mark is a member, held a fundraiser to assist these kids in reaching their goals.

I would like to congratulate members of the New Hope-Solebury Middle School robotics club on their achievements. I would like to thank Mark and Craig and members of the Lambertville-New Hope Rotary Club for their vision.

RECOGNIZING WALTER WYDRO FOR HIS STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a citizen of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, for his steadfast commitment to community service.

Walter Wydro, a resident of Upper Makefield, has been a constant presence in local initiatives for 50 years. Walter has been a champion for land preservation and played a significant role in open space efforts in Upper Makefield Township.

Since 1972, Walter has served on the Upper Makefield Planning Commission. He was also a founding member of the Newtown Area Zoning Jointure, the first of its kind in the State of Pennsylvania.

In 2004, Walter was named Upper Makefield's Volunteer of the Year and, in 2005, he joined the Bucks County Planning Commission. His work has been so impactful and his reach and expertise so great that the Bucks County Commissioners declared May 7, 2019, Walter Wydro Day.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the privilege to represent such a thoughtful and compassionate constituent as Walter, and I thank Walter for his innumerable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING BEN HARDER FOR HIS STRENGTH AND PERSEVERANCE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding resident from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who is teaching us all about strength and perseverance.

Ben Harder, a resident of Levittown, recently participated in the Kiwanis-Herald Sesame Place Classic, which I was honored to attend. This was Ben's 21st consecutive year participating in the 5K race, an event cherished by our local community. His presence this

year was made remarkable, however, due to the fact that Ben is currently undergoing chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer.

Mr. Speaker, Ben is no stranger to athletic feats. While a student at The University of Southern Mississippi, he was also a top-ranked power lifter for his weight class.

I would like to honor Ben for his strength and his spirit in the face of adversity, and our entire community is praying for him as he undergoes treatment.

I would also like to extend our best wishes to Ben's family, including his siblings, Arthur, Chloebelle, Rosen, and Eleanor.

RECOGNIZING THE COLOMBIA MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIRES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Martin Luther King, Jr. program in Colombia and to recognize the tremendous leadership of my friend and colleague from New York, Congressman GREG MEEKS.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. program is a modest project funded by the United States Agency for International Development. It provides scholarships to outstanding Afro-Colombian and indigenous students to learn English as a second language and receive leadership training. The program began in 2006 and has supported over 370 students.

While leading a bipartisan delegation to Colombia in April, Congressman MEEKS and I, along with five of our colleagues, had the opportunity to meet with young people participating in the program and hear firsthand the impacts this program has had on their community.

The students told us how their experience with the MLK program went far beyond just learning English. They have developed important leadership skills, which they have used to launch successful community improvement projects and to become role models in their neighborhoods.

They told us how the program fosters an environment in which the students learn from one another about how to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

I want to recognize my good friend and colleague, Congressman MEEKS, who led the effort to establish this program back in 2006. While in Colombia last month, Mr. MEEKS spoke passionately to the students about how they are the future of Colombia. Thanks in no small part to Mr. MEEKS' efforts, that future now looks very bright.

Congressman MEEKS' leadership has been essential, not only to the success of this program, but to supporting Colombia's democratic progress over the last two decades and strengthening the U.S.-Colombia partnership. His tireless dedication to the underserved communities has been critical, and I am proud to serve alongside him.

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While there is still a great deal of work to be done, Congressman MEEKS has helped the Colombian Government establish a society based on the rule of law.

He has worked to ensure that the voices of Afro-Colombians and other historically marginalized populations are heard. He has helped inspire a new and more diverse generation of leadership.

I look forward to seeing the continued impact of this tremendous effort. I am hopeful that these Martin Luther King, Jr., scholars will become leaders not only in their communities but of their country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MEEKS for his hard work, his passion, and his dedication to educating, inspiring, and supporting leaders of tomorrow.

TAKE ACTION TO RESTORE FLORIDA'S WATER QUALITY

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

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, when Members think of my home State of Florida, they think of water. From our beaches to our springs to our lakes and our rivers, Florida's waterways stretch far and wide, covering nearly 26,000 miles.

Florida's Sixth District, my district, is no exception, with miles of Atlantic Coast to the east and bordered by the St. Johns River to the west.

From the Matanzas River marsh to the Everglades, water is at the heart of Florida's ecosystem and its natural beauty. People are drawn to Florida's water, and the numbers prove it. One thousand people per day move to the Sunshine State, with a record 126 million people visiting Florida last year.

Tourism drives our economy, and Florida's tourism is dependent on clean water and its natural resources.

Unfortunately, our water quality is threatened right now. We saw a new blue-green algae bloom erupt in the St. Johns River just last month. While it is too early to know exactly the specific cause of this incident, we do know what causes algae blooms, and there are steps the government can and should take to prevent them.

This is why I am focusing my efforts to remove septic tanks from my district and connecting those communities to new sewer utilities.

I am grateful for our State lawmakers and Governor Ron DeSantis, who prioritized water quality this year, putting \$49 million toward water quality and wastewater grants and \$25 million specifically for septic-to-sewer conversions. These conversions will have a positive impact by lessening discharges since septic leakage contributes to these growing algae blooms and these growing algae problems.

We must leverage these State resources with Federal funds to address

the full needs of Florida. We have the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program and State Clean Water Revolving Fund program, but they need to be better focused and better utilized to address this issue.

We have to do more. That is why I requested much-needed funding for our National Estuary Program, which funds the Indian River Lagoon, in the fiscal year 2020 appropriations bill. The Indian River Lagoon in my district has, unfortunately, fallen victim to septic leakage and requires a plan for restoring water quality.

The National Estuary Program supports and will help maintain healthy water and estuary ecosystems like the Indian River Lagoon.

Alongside many of my Florida delegation colleagues, I supported the \$200 million funding request for the Everglades restoration project in April, and I am glad President Trump has amended his budget to include the Everglades. Everglades restoration is dependent on cleaning Lake Okeechobee and its discharges, which impact water along our coast.

I also commend my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for passing the Energy and Water bill yesterday, which includes that \$200 million figure. These requests will go directly toward improving Florida's waterways across the State and areas like the Indian River Lagoon, if signed into law.

I am hopeful that, here in Congress, we can get this legislation passed through the House, passed through the Senate, and onto the President's desk for signature. It is the right thing to do for communities along the St. Johns River and necessary for maintaining the travel and tourism that drives Florida's economy.

We must restore Florida's water quality and take this issue very seriously.

RECOGNIZING CHANCELLOR LELAND

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true pioneer in education at the University of California at Merced, the newest campus not only in California but among the newest in the country.

Dorothy Leland, our chancellor, is retiring, but she has paved the way for this newest university.

Chancellor Leland and her staff have built a community at UC Merced that is very special. More than 44 percent of the faculty are women. Over the past 5 years, the number of graduate students attending the university has increased by nearly 75 percent.

Probably most impressive of all, I think, is that nearly 75 percent of the students are the first in their families to attend university, and a majority of these are minorities. It is a majority-minority campus.

As a child of Mexican immigrants herself and the first in her family to graduate from college, Chancellor Leland feels a real connection to the student body. She is outspoken about DACA students, with almost 600 DACA students in the university today. She even traveled here to our Nation's Capital to fight on behalf of Dreamers.

She is one of the founding members of the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, a group of more than 200 leaders who support policies that help immigrant, undocumented, and international students succeed at U.S. universities and colleges.

In her retirement, she said she wants to work on immigration reform. We can use that help.

But her work for the students and the campus at UC Merced does not end there. Arriving in 2011 during the Great Recession, Chancellor Leland immediately went to work on developing the university, because of the importance of this campus to the San Joaquin Valley, with a major construction project. She fought for \$1.3 billion in funding to help expand the university, including the construction of new dorm rooms, research labs, a conference center, and an athletic facility. That project has allowed the university to expand from 5,000 to over 8,000 students and doubled the size of the campus.

She has also succeeded in graduation rates, which are up by 12 percent during her tenure. I am proud to say that, last weekend, over 1,300 students graduated.

UC Merced has achieved impressive levels of academic and research distinction and is developing numerous new patents and leading cutting-edge research.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give another shout-out, and that is to President Joe Castro and the faculty and the student body at Fresno State, home of the Bulldogs.

This past weekend, Fresno State graduated over 6,000 students, the largest in the school's history. Over 25,000 students are enrolled at Fresno State, ranked by Washington Monthly last year as one of the top 25 campuses in the United States.

Most importantly, more than 60 percent of the graduating students are the first in their generation to attend and graduate from university.

Both these universities are serving our Nation and doing what, in fact, they should be doing, which is educating and training our Nation's next generation of leaders who will make a difference and who will make America a better place.

I am honored to represent such successful universities in my district, and I am proud of both these leaders, the faculties, and the student bodies because they represent the future of America.

Go Bobcats, and go Bulldogs.

RECONSIDER FUNDING LEVELS FOR FEMA AND CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, let me note that the President's action this week