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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 Capitol 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

as it relates to funding for FEMA and California's wildfires, as well as the funding for the United States Department of Agriculture in terms of where those moneys go for forestry, is wrong. It is wrong; it is punitive; and it is painful.

For the fires in California, 60 percent are on U.S. forestry land. Therefore, to be responsible, the United States needs to do its part when these horrific fires take place.

We do the same with hurricanes. We do the same with tornadoes. We do the same with floods. So it seems to me that the President ought to reconsider his actions toward California.

We are partners in trying to manage both State and Federal lands not only in California but around the country. Therefore, the President's actions should be reconsidered.

It should not be punitive toward California because, through no fault of our own, we have had to deal with these horrific circumstances, just like other regions of the country have to deal with natural disasters that are through no fault of their own.

Let's reconsider, Mr. President. Let's not be punitive toward California because of the tremendous devastation that these fires have created.

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN THIS MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this weekend marks one of our most solemn occasions, Memorial Day, where we mourn those we have lost in the defense of this Nation.

Many in this House will attend ceremonies throughout the weekend and on Memorial Day, which is observed annually on the last Monday of May.

The traditional Memorial Day dates back to 1864 in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, my home county, where three ladies decorated the graves of fallen Civil War soldiers. The custom has continued every year since then. Boalsburg still puts on a traditional Memorial Day celebration, complete with a parade, a community walk to the cemetery, speeches, military reenactments, and much more.

We must never forget the unthinkable pain for the families whose loved ones have not returned home, and this includes those missing in action and prisoners of war. Currently, there are more than 83,000 American servicemembers who remain unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean war, and Vietnam.

While several nations have worked to assist the United States in search and recovery efforts, many challenges still exist when it comes to negotiations and operations. That is why today I will introduce the Keeping Our Promise to MIAs/POWs resolution that expresses a sense of Congress that any

nation seeking to potentially enter into a mutually beneficial trade agreement with the United States should provide reasonable access and cooperation to help us recover our unaccounted-for servicemembers.

This resolution sends a message that this Nation will uphold its eternal promise to our Armed Forces to always work to bring our men and women home, no matter the circumstances we face, no matter the time that has passed.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, especially in advance of Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Speaker, America will gather this weekend with family members, friends, and neighbors to remember those whom we have lost. As we raise the Stars and Stripes, as we lay wreaths at monuments and memorials and cemeteries, as we march in parades and attend services, let us remember that our freedom is thanks to those who died in sacrifice.

May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

HONORING ALICE RIVLIN

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

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of one of the greatest public servants of any age, the indomitable Alice Rivlin, who died of cancer last week.

An intellectual giant with Midwestern sensibilities, she had a resume that would never be matched: Assistant Secretary for Policy and Evaluation at HEW, founding Director of the Congressional Budget Office, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, president of the American Economic Association, and Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve.

In between her government service, she sat on a high perch at the Brookings Institution, producing rigorous, centrist, and insightful books and articles on a wide range of Federal policies.

In her spare time, she was credited with saving D.C. from bankruptcy. She never forgot her responsibility to her adopted hometown.

Alice was deeply respected and beloved by her peers and politicians of both parties. She was one of the first recipients of a MacArthur Foundation genius award, a tribute to her skill in building one of the most important public institutions of our lifetime, the CBO.

Her sustained contributions to public policy analysis have fundamentally shaped our thinking about the impact of public programs and the budget.

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She also constantly reminded us that when we refuse to use evidence in making policy decisions, we do so at our country's peril.

Alice Rivlin was my dear friend. I met her here in D.C. as a newly minted

Ph.D. She was already famous for her classic book, "Systematic Thinking for Social Action."

She was funny, warm, generous, and welcoming. She wanted all of us newcomers to love her adopted city as much as she did.

When I returned to Washington to join the Clinton Cabinet, Alice, along with her friend Meg Greenfield, the powerhouse editorial page editor of the Post, and Post publisher Katherine Graham, formed the Smart Women's Club. They invited me to join them in hilarious dinners with interesting guests, a high point in my career.

One of my fondest memories of Alice took place on a day in the 1980s when I was still in New York. She called me and asked if I could take a month off to go to Kashmir to trek in the Himalayas. What an adventure, the beginning of decades of trekking in some of the most interesting places on Earth with friends and her patient husband, Sid Winter, himself a world-class economist.

You learn a lot about people when you share a narrow ledge in a rainstorm on some of the highest mountains in the world. Alice was tenacious, brave, cheerful, and the kindest and nicest person I have ever known.

She was a legend, renowned for mentoring younger colleagues and helping people of all walks of life with their challenges.

Hers was more than a life well lived. She was a patriot who loved her country and her city, and she served both with extraordinary skill and passion.

HONORING 320TH BARRAGE BALLOON BATTALION

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Memorial Day and the upcoming 75th anniversary of D-Day to recognize and raise awareness about the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion. It was an all-Black battalion that made considerable contributions during D-day.

Until recently, the 320th battalion's sacrifices and bravery have been virtually unrecognized. Until the recent book "Forgotten: The Untold Story of D-Day's Black Heroes, at Home and at War" by Linda Hervieux, the story had really gone untold. People didn't really know about it.

It is notable that one of the soldiers who is featured in the book—his name is Wilson Monk—his quote to the author when she called him was, "I've been waiting for this call for over 50 years."

When we look back at the social injustices of the 1940s during Jim Crow, it is clear that the social discrimination created momentum for the civil rights protests in the 1950s and 1960s. The lunch counter sit-ins in Montgomery and the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, the social injustices that