

confidence and showcase their academic abilities, skills that are key to their future success.

Elliot's achievements in the Scripps National Spelling Bee represent the future of San Diego and the 52nd District. Please join me in congratulating Elliot here at home and on the national stage.

“NOW YOU ARE TWO”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a special poem that was written by Harold Renwick, Jr. to his daughter, Penny, on her second birthday.

Harold Renwick never delivered the poem as he was killed in action during the Vietnam war. The poem was discovered by Captain Bennet and mailed by a friend of Harold Renwick's, Major Charles King. It was mailed to Harold Renwick's wife, Penny's mother, on March 22, 1968.

The poem is titled: “Now You Are Two.”

Rejoice and be happy this fine day.
Have fun in all the games you play.
Run, sing, be happy and gay,
For you are 2, my daughter, today.
Of all the wonderful days of the year,
Today especially I wish I could be near
To hold you, to hug you and share your
world
Of being a year older and being a girl.
But alas, my child, with you I cannot be
Because there is a need to keep the world
free.
A need that was created many years ago,
When a people's thirst for freedom began to
grow.
You do not know these people; they are
strangers to us.
And you may ask, “Daddy, why all the fuss
For a people who live in a land far away?
Daddy, why can't you be with me on my
birthday?”
As you grow older, my child, you will learn
That in men's hearts a spark will burn.
A spark so intense that it cannot be denied,
So strong it is that men have died
Fighting for what they believe is true;
Fighting for freedom the way all men do.
We have watched enough television to know
That in this world bad people will go
And try to hurt and harm the good guys.
Cheat, steal, and tell all kind of lies,
These are some of the things these bad guys
do.
This is the reason that your daddy flew
Across the oceans to a land far away
To help other daddies with their children to
play.
To help these daddies see their struggle
through
So they can say, “Happy birthday, my
daughter, now you are 2.”
Don't weep, my child, for this birthday I'll
miss.
Go to your mommy and she'll give you a kiss
From me, to remind you I've not forgot.
You see, my child, I do love you a lot.
So much, in fact, that to you I do pledge
That a world of freedom shall be your herit-
age.
Sleep, my child, the night is here.
Sleep, my child, and wake without fear.

Grow, my child, be happy and free,
For these are the dreams I have for thee.

This poem was written in 1968, over 51 years ago, and I submit to you that now is the time for America to heed these words of this poem written by a father who voluntarily made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, 50 years have passed since the historic Stonewall riots in New York City which brought us one step closer to full equality for all Americans. But as we wrap up Pride Month and celebrate all we have accomplished over the last five decades, I want to take this time to raise the issue of hunger in the LGBTQ community.

A study by the Williams Institute at UCLA found that more than one in four LGBTQ adults did not have enough money to buy food for themselves or their families in the past year. That is an alarming number. It is more than double the national food insecurity rate.

The average SNAP benefit only provides about \$1.40 per person per meal. That only covers a fraction of an individual's meals. While many households go to food pantries to fill the SNAP gap, some of these food banks and pantries are affiliated with groups that may not accept people for who they are. That is because discrimination due to sexual orientation and gender identity is everywhere. In more than half of the country, there are no explicit Statewide laws that protect people from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

This type of discrimination has real consequences. LGBTQ Americans are much more likely to end up homeless, particularly as kids and teens, and are more likely to live in a food desert where they have trouble purchasing nutritious food nearby.

As if this weren't bad enough, these numbers are even more devastating across racial demographics. For example, in the LGBTQ community, a staggering 42 percent of African Americans, 33 percent of Hispanics, and 32 percent of Native Americans reported being food insecure. That is unconscionable, and it is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, this is not some abstract problem. These are our friends, these are our family members, our neighbors, our classmates, and our co-workers. We should be uplifting and supporting them, but the numbers don't lie. Our country is facing a full-blown hunger crisis and the LGBTQ community—and, in particular, communities of color within of it—are bearing the brunt of that crisis. We cannot allow their stories to be erased or muted.

We must work together to address interconnected issues like housing and hunger by gathering more data on how to specifically respond to these problems. We must increase outreach to these communities so that everyone who qualifies for hunger assistance programs can access benefits.

Sadly, instead of working to solve this problem, this President and his administration have tried to roll back the clock on equality. Whether it is blocking questions related to sexual orientation or pushing half-baked rule changes to enact a definition of gender, which would essentially erase people from our official population counts, they are working overtime to threaten the rights of Americans.

But we are working overtime to stop them. Last month the House passed the Equality Act which aims to extend civil rights protections to all Americans, regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation. Passing this bill into law would play a key role in addressing hunger in the LGBTQ community. I am proud that the House has taken action, and I urge the Senate to do the same.

This is Pride Month. As we celebrate the progress that our country has made, let us also remember all of the work we have to do to end hunger now.

THE TIMELINE OF JACIFUSEN

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate being recognized to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

I rise today to honor Jaci Hermstad. She has given me so much inspiration.

I want to start, though, with the early, sad part of this story. This is a sad story with a happy part in the middle of it right now, Mr. Speaker.

Jaci's identical twin sister, Alex, was diagnosed with a very severe and aggressive form of ALS. That took place in 2005. Then, by 2010 and 2011, my staff and, especially, Sandy Hanlon in our Sioux City office, were working with the Hermstadts to do those things we could do, in a limited fashion, admittedly.

On St. Valentine's Day of 2011, sadly, Jaci's identical twin sister, Alex, passed away at age 17. Now, that is 8 years ago. About 2015 or so, Jaci and her mother, Lori, came to my office to talk with me about ALS, this dreaded Lou Gehrig's disease, that always ends up fatal. It always ends up in a sad, tragic ending. They had experienced that with Jaci's identical twin sister.

Even more sadly, there was news that symptoms showed up in Jaci late last fall, around the holiday time. By Christmas she couldn't get up the stairs any longer, and again, on St. Valentine's Day of this year, Jaci was diagnosed with the aggressive form of ALS that her identical twin sister had passed away from.

Now, they had donated some of her sister's tissue to science, and two significant companies, Columbia University, and Dr. Neil Shneider began doing DNA work on that preparing a treatment for Jaci. This treatment wasn't available for Jaci soon enough in her view, her family's view, or in my view. The FDA had to work through their regulations. As we worked through that, it looked like Jaci couldn't get this potentially miraculous treatment before perhaps September or October. At the rate of the digression of her condition, it didn't look like she was going to be with us long enough to receive the treatment.

Some of us went to work to step up and help Jaci. I got involved on April 13 of this year when my wonderful district staff person, Andrea Easter, who had been working with the family all along, brought me up and we did a fundraiser there at the Spencer AG Center on April 13, a Saturday.

It was a cold and chilly day when we arrived there. There were pickups parked on either side of the road to the Spencer AG Center. It looked like we were going to a farm sale there were so many vehicles there.

They had only expected maybe 100 people, and the Clay County Cattlemen were there to flip maybe 100 burgers and put out a basket for people to put a check in. They thought they could raise \$3,000 to \$5,000 just as a token, as a way to help.

The story about that day is, it turned out that there were over 1,000 people who came. And they raised in the end, the last report I got, was over \$200,000.

I sat with Jaci that day and talked about her dreams to build a riding arena and train horses for therapy for others and to be able to help people.

She is a cowgirl, Mr. Speaker. I committed that I will come up and grade that arena on the house, and I will be on the machine to do it. I look forward to that day.

But we had more work to do. So that story that day got us all energized. We kept her in our prayers every day. By May 2 we had a meeting with Dr. Woodcock and the FDA.

We moved along even further. By May 20 I introduced a private bill. I tried to convince my Senators to do the same. They thought there would be an objection to a UC in the Senate.

I brought this to Speaker PELOSI. She was terrific to work with. We had several meetings all together, with STENY HOYER and with her staff. Before that bill could come to the floor for a unanimous consent request, the FDA opened the door and Jaci went wheels up January 5 to go to Columbia.

She received her first treatment on June 11, and today, starting 5 minutes from now, Mr. Speaker, she will receive her second treatment. There has been no noticeable digression in her condition. I am hopeful and prayerful that it will improve. We have a chance here at a miracle.

So many people worked so well together to get this done, including the

press people around the Spencer, Iowa, area. I want to especially mention Stella "With the Good Heart" Daskalakis. I always call her Stella "With the Good Heart." She has done so much, along with KICD Radio, KTIV, KUOO, and KSFY in Sioux Falls.

Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful for everyone who has formed a link in this chain of miracles. We are on our way to an extraordinary miracle. We will keep Jaci in our prayers this day as she receives her second treatment for ALS.

PEACE CORPS

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2019.

I want to thank my returned Peace Corps volunteers; JOE KENNEDY and DONNA SHALALA, the co-chairs of the Peace Corps Caucus; as well as Mr. GRAVES, Mr. Sires, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Ms. SHALALA for their support as original cosponsors.

Like successive generations of young Americans, my wife, Patti, and I answered President John F. Kennedy's call and served in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia from 1966 to 1968. This foundational experience inspired our lifetime of service that continued into State government in California, the Clinton administration, and now the United States Congress.

Since the establishment of the Peace Corps in 1961, more than 230,000 Americans have volunteered and have served in 141 countries around the world. When the Africans fought for their independence, the Peace Corps volunteers came, and they were there to assist in the transition in countries throughout that continent. They were there as teachers, community development, and agriculture, and so that tradition carried on in countries all around the world. Today there are some 8,000 Peace Corps volunteers in 65 countries.

Now more than ever, Congress should and must support the Peace Corps mission and realize President Kennedy's vision of generations of young Americans, ready to serve their Nation and make the world a better place and return home to America and continue to educate all Americans about what is going on around the world.

Our Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2019 would do just this by providing additional Federal resources to better support current, returning, and former Peace Corps volunteers by doing the following: First, since 2002 the Peace Corps has not been reauthorized. So we would pick up that and make the Peace Corps reauthorization good for the next 5 years. We would authorize \$450 million per fiscal year for the Peace Corps, an increase over the flat \$410 million that has been provided in the current year.

We would also direct the Peace Corps to establish new volunteer opportunities that promote internet adoption and development in countries and engage tech savvy American volunteers.

We would increase the monthly allowance for Peace Corps volunteers and leaders to \$417 per month of service completed to reflect the increase in the cost of living and provide \$10,000 for the 2-year full term of service.

We would reform the Peace Corps National Advisory Council that has been in abeyance since 1980 by providing that donated funds from a qualified nonprofit organization would cover all administrative costs for the advisory council with no cost to the taxpayers.

We would include Respect for Peace Corps Volunteers Act, H.R. 1411, sponsored by Congressman Sires of New Jersey since 2013, allowing use of the Peace Corps logo in headstones and other funeral materials, in recognition of the meaning the deceased's Peace Corps service had for their lives.

We would codify President Kennedy's 1963 executive order affording returned Peace Corps volunteers a 12-month hiring preference for most Federal job openings and also deal with the shutdowns that occasionally occur.

□ 1030

We would require the Peace Corps and the U.S. State Department Bureau of Diplomatic Security to routinely update existing memorandums of agreement for Peace Corps volunteer security and consular protection in foreign countries.

We would clarify that American Samoans and other U.S. nationals have an opportunity to serve in the Peace Corps as volunteers as well as in leadership positions.

We would also increase the workers' compensation rate for Peace Corps volunteers.

This bipartisan bill builds upon the success of the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018, public law 115-256, sponsored by former Congressman Ted Poe of Texas.

Our bill also builds upon legislation sponsored by my California colleague Sam Farr, who served in the Peace Corps from 1964 to 1966.

As co-chairman of the Peace Corps Caucus, I am proud to continue the work in support of the Peace Corps mission, its volunteers, and the indelible impact of their service.

I ask all Members of Congress to co-sponsor this legislation and support it. It is important, and I look forward to working with the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman ENGEL, and Ranking Member McCARTHY to advance the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act.

RECOGNIZING RABBI DR. STEVEN MOSS OF B'NAI ISRAEL REFORM TEMPLE

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