

deco-style theater with its live productions, and their work has not gone unnoticed. Aside from the crowded audiences, the Fox Theater has awarded grants to the Community Theater over the last 2 years to help preserve the historic Ritz Theater.

Thank you to all who perform shows, attend musicals, and preserve the wonderful theater culture in Waycross, Georgia.

FEDERAL TRIO PROGRAMS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3800, the Educational Opportunities and Success Act, the bill introduced last week by my colleague Representative WARREN DAVIDSON of Ohio.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 3800 seeks to address a common, yet preventable, issue impacting students from low-income families and first-generation college students. In recent years, applicants to the Department of Education's Upward Bound program found themselves stuck in financial limbo when their grant applications were rejected due to clerical errors, some errors as insignificant as using the wrong font.

This is unacceptable. I was proud to cosponsor H.R. 3800, a bill that reauthorizes the TRIO programs for 5 additional years.

I am also proud to work with my colleagues across the aisle to support this commonsense legislation that eases the administrative burdens during the application process.

TRIO programs like Upward Bound are critical in ensuring disadvantaged students have a shot at turning the dream of a college education into a reality, and H.R. 3800 has my full support.

CONSENSUS RULE SUBVERTED

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, it has now been 6 legislative days since H.R. 553, the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, was denied a standalone vote.

Democrat leadership subverted their own rules and prevented a vote on this bipartisan legislation, which now has 371 cosponsors, over 86 percent of the Members of the Congress.

Under new rules in this Congress, H.R. 553 qualified for the Consensus Calendar, a provision for bills to receive a standalone vote. An article published in *The Hill* stated today: "The new rule keeps top House leaders from squelching any bill that has at least 290 cosponsors, or two-thirds of the House membership."

Sadly, the Democrats did just that. They targeted and removed H.R. 553 from the Consensus Calendar.

Democrat leadership should bring this bill to the floor. The time is now to give these rightly deserved benefits to the surviving spouses of service-members and finally end the widow's tax.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GARY JOHN ALEKNAVICH ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, tonight, I would like to honor Gary John Aleknovich and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement.

Gary John Aleknovich is a U.S. Navy veteran, labor leader, maintenance foreman, journeyman mechanic, and certified welder by trade. He has received a certificate of achievement for completing courses at the Florida International University Center for Labor Research and Studies.

After serving in the U.S. Navy from 1976 to 1979, Gary was hired by Florida Power and Light, and then went on to become an apprenticeship mechanic at the Florida Port Everglades Power Plant. In 1984, he became a journeyman mechanic at the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant, and later became a mechanical certified welder and a nuclear maintenance foreman.

He has held various positions within his local union of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, including treasurer, executive board member, job steward, System Council U-4 delegate, and national convention committee delegate, and served as the Florida Electrical Worker Association's vice president and executive board member.

Gary has been a member of IBEW since 1980 and even started the process to establish and train IBEW officers and members in the IBEW Code of Excellence training program. He soon became System Council U-4, assistant business manager of IBEW System Council U-4, and was later elected to serve as business manager in 2005, where he ran unopposed for four additional 3-year terms and will retire next month.

There is no question that Gary John Aleknovich has been a leader in his community and a public servant, and one of labor's strongest members.

Madam Speaker, for that, we thank him.

34TH ANNUAL PARK AND RECREATION MONTH

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate our Nation's parks.

This July marks the 34th annual Park and Recreation Month, a celebration highlighting the incredible opportunities and benefits that park and recreation agencies provide to their communities.

I, like many Arkansans, grew up enjoying everything that the Natural State has to offer. From hiking and hunting in its forests, to swimming, fishing, and boating on its crystal-clear lakes and rivers, outdoor recreation is an essential part of life for the families of my State. Some of my favorite memories of life were made outside in the beautiful outdoors of Arkansas, and I am blessed to still be making similar memories today.

Our park and recreation agencies are an important part of our history and offer much to the quality of our future. Theodore Roosevelt once said: "It is an incalculable added pleasure to anyone's sum of happiness if he or she grows to know, even slightly and imperfectly, how to read and enjoy the wonder-book of nature."

As a forester and lifelong lover of nature, the wonder-book of nature has always been fascinating to me, and I hope to motivate people to get out and enjoy the natural beauty around them.

In the words of the fictional sitcom character Leslie Knope, "America is awesome." I encourage everyone to go outside with friends and family to enjoy all the awesomeness our parks have to offer.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ON BEING NAMED THE DISTRICT OF DISTINCTION

(Mr. TAYLOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Allen Independent School District for being named a District of Distinction by District Administration Magazine.

Allen ISD serves thousands of students grades K through 12 in a rapidly growing community. In an effort to meet growing needs of the community, Allen ISD launched a STEAM Center to provide a unique learning environment to help foster an interest in STEAM amongst students. The brand-new facility offers students hands-on learning experiences ranging from indoor robotics labs to outdoor discovery gardens.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in congratulating Allen ISD, their staff, parents, and students for being named District of Distinction and commend them on their dedication to cultivating a passion in students for learning more about science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics.

DELEGITIMIZING THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND OPPOSING THE BDS MOVEMENT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, tonight we voted on a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and oppose the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions, BDS, Movement targeting Israel.

I am a cosponsor of this resolution, but the House should also be voting on legislation to combat these efforts to undermine one of our strongest allies, like the Senate did when they passed a bill to authorize State or local governments to divest assets from entities deploying BDS against Israel.

But, unfortunately, Democrat leadership refuses to let us vote on this bill in the House for fear of fractures within their own party. Just last week, one of their Members actually introduced legislation that supports this hate-fueled BDS movement, even drawing disgraceful comparisons between boycotting Israel now and boycotting Nazi Germany in the 1930s and 1940s.

Let's not forget that the United States and Israel have a long history of working together to achieve stability in the Middle East, the inventions they work on together, and they remain one of our strongest and most loyal allies today.

Our actions in this Chamber need to unequivocally support that relationship and the lone beacon of freely elected government that is Israel in the Middle East.

As Golda Meir put it:

We will only have peace when they love their children more than they hate us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. WEXTON). The Chair would inform the House that, pursuant to H. Res. 497, the Speaker has certified to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia the refusal of William P. Barr and Wilbur L. Ross, Jr., to produce documents to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, given all of the talk that is going on and the investigations and questions about deficits and the like, I thought it would be useful today to start this discussion, which I will spend most of the evening talking about American manufacturing, but I often want to start these discussions with some sense of

value: What is our goal? What are we trying to accomplish here?

I keep going back to FDR. At the height of the Great Depression, he said: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

And so, last week, the House of Representatives—the Democrats, that is, and maybe just a few Republicans—voted to increase the minimum wage across this Nation so that, over the next 5 years, the minimum wage would rise from, I guess, just over \$7 an hour to \$15 dollars an hour—not a jump immediately, but over time increase it.

Why do we do that? Well, we are for the people.

That is our goal: for the people; and keeping in mind what FDR said: It is not about whether we add more to those who have much, but, rather, what we do for those who have little.

And so we raise the minimum wage. Why? Because those people who are making \$7 an hour across this Nation, they have very, very little, in fact, so little that they cannot have both food and shelter.

And, of course, we talk about healthcare and our goal to expand healthcare to every American so they have insurance, so that the worrying about how they would be paying for their hospital visit or their doctor is set aside and they are able to get the care that they need to lead a healthy and productive life.

That is our goal. We are for the people, and we are going to address this in so many, many ways.

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One of the ways that we want to address it is to make sure that America remains a strong manufacturing country.

Many, many years ago in California, I was looking at how to keep the California economy going, and we hit upon the five keys for a successful economy:

First of all, a great education system so that your workers are well educated and can handle the questions of the day and the tasks of tomorrow;

Secondly, that there be strong research, and, from that research, you build tomorrow's things. Sometimes that is an app. Sometimes it is a computer. Sometimes it is a ship or perhaps a car, an autonomous vehicle, a drone, whatever, so that your research then moves on into things that you make, and, that is, the manufacturing. That is the creation of wealth.

Some time ago, I was visiting one of the wineries in my district in California, and I was talking about this Make It In America Agenda in manufacturing. And, finally, the owner got up from behind the desk, and he said: Come. I want to talk to you.

We walked outside and out to his winery, and he said: You know what this is?

I said: Yeah. It is a winery.

He said: No. This is a manufacturing facility. I take grapes, and I turn them into some of the finest wine in the world. So, when you talk about Make It In America, guess what. I am making it in America.

So, it includes all of these things, putting a tomato into a can, into a bottle of ketchup. But what we are going to talk about tonight is something far more than that.

I want to really not so much talk about these gentlemen and ladies, but to use them as an example of what America used to make. These gentlemen, three of them, are World War II merchant mariners.

This is an effort we have now under way to provide these mariners, who had the highest death rate of any unit in the armed services during World War II, a Congressional Gold Medal. We now have nearly 300 Members of this House who are signed on to that so that they will get a Congressional Gold Medal.

But this is not about their gold medal; it is about what they were able to do.

America, during the World War II period, was the manufacturing center of the world. And we made ships—literally, thousands and thousands of ships—that these gentlemen and so many like them sailed the oceans, provided the material, the personnel to fight that war.

When we met and took this picture, they asked me: Why is it that America doesn't build ships anymore?

I said: Oh, but we build naval ships; we build aircraft carriers; we build destroyers; we build many other kinds of naval ships.

They said: No. No. That is not what we are talking about. We are talking about the ships that sail the high seas. Why doesn't America make those ships?

And I said: We can. We can if we write the laws in the proper way to encourage the shipbuilding industry and, just as important, the cargo to go on those ships.

Now, it happens that America is in the midst of a great energy revolution—the green energy, no doubt about it. We are talking about every kind of green energy, from wind to solar, biofuel and biomass, and on and on. And we are doing that.

But, simultaneously, America, over the last decade, has become a major developer and supplier of petroleum products: oil, as a result of fracking in the Bakken area and Texas, California, onshore, offshore. We are a major oil producer.

And, simultaneously, we are also a major producer of natural gas. All of these energy supplies, whether they are the green energy or the petroleum energy, are a strategic national asset.

And, as these gentlemen told me: Our ships, during World War II, were a strategic national asset. We had oil tankers, we had cargo vessels, all of them built in America and with American mariners.