

CONGRATULATIONS TO FOREST LAKE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Forest Lake Area High School for being named a Green Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education. This award is given to schools that have recognized the environmental impact of their facility, promote health, and ensure high-quality environmental education programming that prepares students with sustainability skills.

Forest Lake Area High School is among only 35 schools, 14 districts, and 4 postsecondary institutions across the country to receive this award. I look forward to welcoming the honorees to Washington, D.C. in September for a ceremony to recognize their wonderful achievement.

Congratulations to Forest Lake Area High School for the Green Ribbon School award.

THE GROWING RACIAL WEALTH GAP IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the crisis that is the growing racial wealth gap in the United States.

A recent report from the Institute for Policy Studies noted that the median wealth for Black families, adjusted for inflation, declined from \$7,323 to \$3,557 between the years 1983 and 2013.

Mr. Speaker, if these alarming trends continue, the average Black household is on track to own \$0 in wealth by the year 2053.

This stands in sharp contrast to the average wealth of White households, which increased by nearly \$14,000 during the same period, to an average of \$137,000 by the year 2053.

Zero dollars for the Black families, \$137,000 for the White families by the year 2053.

The wealth disparity between Black and White families persists across nearly all levels of income and education.

White middle-class households have almost eight times more wealth than a Black household in the same income bracket.

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Mr. Speaker, even a 4-year degree cannot remedy these disparities. A 2014 census survey found that a Black family whose head of household has obtained a master's degree owns an average \$37,600 of wealth, compared to an average of \$181,220 in a comparable White household, a difference of nearly \$150,000.

Mr. Speaker, the racial gap in our Nation must be addressed, as it is a critical concern for all of our Nation.

The barriers between Black families and White families must be addressed. The barriers preventing Black families

from accumulating wealth drive up poverty rates and stifle America's economy.

This is not just a Black issue; this is an American issue.

The inability to secure your future no matter how hard you work runs contrary to our basic American principles. We must do more in this House of Representatives to alleviate this critical issue, this crisis, and we must continue to make our Nation, these United States of America, the land of opportunity for all of its citizens.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB MISSOURI STATE YOUTH OF THE YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Boys & Girls Club 2019 Missouri State Youth of the Year, Ms. Jazzmine Jones.

Jazzmine is a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Cole Camp Site, where she serves as a junior staff member. In her position, she helps run programs and mentors the younger club kids.

Earlier this year, Jazzmine was named the Missouri State Youth of the Year at a 2-day event in Jefferson City, Missouri, marking the first time a student from the Boys & Girls Club of West Central Missouri was awarded this title.

Last week, on July 18, Jazzmine represented Missouri at the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Midwest Regional Youth of the Year competition. She made Missouri proud with her speech highlighting the importance of a healthy lifestyle, education, and the impact of one's actions.

I am so thankful to have such a talented young individual in Missouri's Fourth Congressional District working hard to be the best person that she can be and sharing her knowledge with younger kids as a mentor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Jazzmine for her hard work and dedication in using her actions to inspire others. I also want to wish her well in her future endeavors as she begins her freshman year at the University of Missouri.

Go, Tigers.

FAYETTE OPTIMIST CLUB

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Optimist Club of Fayette, Missouri. This club, founded on December 13, 1968, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. For half a century, they have helped to support youth, and cultivate an overall stronger community in Fayette.

The Optimist Club relies on their dedicated volunteers to raise funds and complete projects that impact the lives of kids in their community.

The Optimists promote youth involvement in Fayette by hosting a summer recreation program, a youth appreciation banquet, and a fishing

derby every year, as well as numerous other activities that promote local programming for young people throughout the community.

It is organizations like the Optimist Club that create the backbone of our small towns and help preserve their treasured culture.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Optimist Club of Fayette, Missouri, for their hard work and dedication to the youth of the community for the last 50 years.

COMO FIRE CHIEF RANDY WHITE

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Columbia, Missouri, Fire Chief Randy White on his retirement.

Since joining the department in 1998 as a firefighter, Chief White has dedicated his life to the safety of mid-Missouri families. He has saved countless lives and led his department to new heights.

During his time as fire chief, Randy's department became one of only 258 in the world to achieve accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. His hard work and leadership have been a blessing to the Columbia Fire Department and a true role model for other departments to follow.

I join with many Missourians, families, and friends to wish Chief White a fulfilling retirement. I hope Randy enjoys the days he has worked so hard to earn and wish him continued health and happiness in this new phase of life.

WE ARE A COUNTRY OF BRAVE AND BEAUTIFUL CITIZENS AND IMMIGRANTS

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, let me set the record straight. The way President Trump talks about women, minorities, immigrants, and pretty much every American who does not look like him is fueling hate in our great country.

Last week, in a series of tweets, President Trump attacked four Congresswomen, all of whom are American citizens and women of color. The President doubled down on his attacks and singled out one of my colleagues from Minnesota in a rally, during which the crowd chanted, "Send her back," which he seemed to relish.

Mr. Speaker, watching that clip made me sick to my stomach, and I am concerned about the direction President Trump is leading our country.

Mr. Speaker, President Trump appears to be encouraging Americans to assume patriotism by the color of one's skin and not the content of one's character. This is, in fact, the opposite of what American heroes like Congressman JOHN LEWIS, Dolores Huerta, Cesar Chavez, and Dr. King fought and bled for.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake: our President is stoking the flames of hate and division in our great country.

President Trump, his America is an America where Congress does not include Native Americans, Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, or LGBTQ Americans. His vision for America is one where people like my parents and grandparents are not welcome.

What I find ironic about Donald Trump's anti-immigrant vision for this country is it contradicts his own family's history. Donald Trump's grandfather, Friedrich Trump, moved to the United States in 1885 for many reasons, including to escape poverty. Today, President Trump is hurting our reputation by denying entry to asylum seekers who are fleeing many of the hardships his very own grandfather was escaping.

In 1905, after making his fortune in the United States running a brothel, Grandfather Trump attempted to go back to Germany, only to be denied entry for failing to complete military service in his own country of Germany, something that apparently runs in the family.

After attempting to appeal the denial in a flattering letter to the Prince of Germany, addressing him as the much-loved, noble, wise, and righteous sovereign and sublime ruler, Friedrich Trump's request to return to Germany was denied for a second time.

My father and mother moved to the United States in 1946 seeking a better life for their family because they heard of the promise of the United States of America, that if you work hard and play by the rules, you can succeed and your children can have a better life.

I stand before you today an American-born citizen and a Member of the United States Congress because my parents worked hard and played by the rules. I wasn't handed a fortune like President Trump. I was taught the values of keeping my word, being kind to others, and working for what I earn.

Mr. Speaker, this President would like us to believe that he is more patriotic than the Congresswomen he has repeatedly attacked, not because of anything he has done for this country, but because he believes that this country's rights and protections only apply to the privileged, like himself.

Honor and patriotism exist in some more than others. My brother-in-law, Hector, who was born in Mexico and is now a citizen of the United States of America, answered the call to serve our great country, when Donald Trump avoided service time and time again.

While Donald Trump was dodging the draft five times, my brother-in-law, Hector, was serving the United States of America in Vietnam.

While Donald Trump was ripping off small businesses right here at home, Hector was shot while serving his country in Vietnam.

My Mexican-born brother-in-law has served this country honorably, and if Donald Trump had his way, Hector would never have had the chance to serve our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, does the word "patriot" come to mind when you think of a man who dodged the draft time and time again, or does the word "patriot" come to mind when you think of a man who answered the call of duty and bled for our great country?

Mr. Speaker, I tell these truths to remind us all why the United States of America is great: We are a country of brave and beautiful American citizens and brave and beautiful immigrants from all over the world who contribute to the greatness of our great Nation every single day.

May God bless the diverse and beautiful people of the United States of America, and God bless the United States of America.

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

REPEAL THE MEDICAL DEVICE TAX

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak against the medical device tax.

Utah has earned a reputation as a thriving hub for innovation in life sciences, leading the Nation in technology breakthroughs. Each year, medical device manufacturers in Utah pioneer new, exciting medical technologies that help patients live longer and more productive lives.

Unfortunately, the culture of collaboration and innovation has been threatened by the medical device tax, a tax on device manufacturers that has stalled medical technology investment across the country.

Although Congress has come together on a bipartisan basis time and time again to delay its implementation, the continuous threat of heavy, onerous taxation has stifled job growth among medical technology innovators and has delayed cutting-edge research that could potentially lead to breakthroughs in patient care and treatment.

As it stands today, this tax will come into effect January 1, 2020. The impact would be devastating in Utah, where the med tech industry employs thousands of Utahns and contributes approximately \$5 billion to the local economy. One local company estimated the tax would cost them over \$7 million, money that would otherwise be reinvested into workforce and technology development.

As we approach this January deadline, I call upon my colleagues to come together and finally repeal the tax on innovation once and for all.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight our critical relationship with Israel, an alliance not only important to our two countries, but to the tectonic plates of global geopolitics.

I was pleased to both cosponsor and vote in favor of the United States-Israel Cooperation Enhancement and Regional Security Act and the resolution opposing the efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Disinvestment, and Sanctions movement targeting Israel, two important legislative priorities, because I believe Israel's safety and security is critical to our own safety and security. More importantly, it is the right thing to do.

I have shared with my colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee that Israel holds a special place in my heart. As a college student 40 years ago, I had the opportunity to spend a semester in Jerusalem and get to know the people and cultures. I developed a unique appreciation and understanding for the struggles they face on a daily basis.

As many of us know, the BDS movement exists solely to delegitimize Israel's very existence, and I am proud of the House of Representatives coming together on a bipartisan basis with a unified voice that we will not stand idly by while one of our closest allies is targeted and vilified. The path to peace between Israel and Palestine will not be hindered by that kind of blind hatred.

Although this BDS resolution sends a critical message, it falls short of what is ultimately needed to address the long-term challenges. I am hopeful that the House will consider stronger legislation with actual binding policy provisions to help the United States stand with Israel against BDS.

I am prepared to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address these issues and those facing our allies.

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RECOGNIZING APOLLO ENGINEER MARION JOHNSON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Marion Johnson for her contribution to landing a man on the Moon 50 years ago this month.

A product of the First Congressional District of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON used her love of math to break barriers throughout her life not only in math and science but also for women and people of color.

With a math degree from Talladega College, Ms. JOHNSON took a risk and applied to become one of the first female and/or minority engineers at Boeing. She was accepted. By chance, it happened to be around the same time that President Kennedy announced the national mission of sending a man to the Moon.

At Boeing, she worked on a team of engineers with the specific mission of putting a man on the Moon.