

one of my constituents in bearing witness to the devastating effects of what some call “free trade.”

On the campaign trail, President Trump repeatedly boasted he would scrap NAFTA and renegotiate a better deal. But his proposal lacks commonsense labor enforcement provisions, falls short of pressuring companies to reshore American jobs, and it provides massive carveouts for Big Pharma that will cause the price of prescription drugs to skyrocket even more.

I have always been an advocate for fair trade among free people, but NAFTA crashed the largest economy in the world—the United States—into that of a developing nation—Mexico—without any plan to deal with the human and economic consequences.

Madam Speaker, as currently written, the USMCA, NAFTA 2.0, continues this failed legacy of NAFTA 1.0, and remains a failure for the American worker. The USMCA is just NAFTA 2.0. It should be defeated.

SOUTH CAROLINA'S SECOND DISTRICT BUS TOUR

(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, every August, I participate in a bus tour of South Carolina's Second District with my wife, Roxanne, and dedicated staff from Washington and district offices.

I especially appreciate scheduler Stephanie Pendarvis for successfully coordinating her first bus tour in the tradition of Emily Saleebey.

Our trip consisted of over 20 stops across 5 counties in the district. It was humbling and inspiring to meet with constituents at small businesses, schools, chambers of commerce, and manufacturers.

Many of the stops I visited were rapidly growing, including Charter NEX Films of Columbia, a world leader in high-performance specialty films, who plan to add 100 more jobs, along with Swiss Krono of Barnwell, who plan to add 105 jobs. In addition, the Orangeburg County/City Industrial Park has begun construction to welcome new businesses and jobs.

I appreciate the Irmo Chamber of Commerce hosting a town hall on the tour. I am grateful to be accessible and accountable to constituents.

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

EXPEDITED ENTRY AND TPS FOR BAHAMIANS

(Ms. WATERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support, strong support, for the people of the Bahamas in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian. Residents of the

Grand Bahama and Abaco Islands are in a desperate situation.

This is a humanitarian crisis, the likes of which has never before faced the Bahamas. I am grateful for the efforts of the USAID and the U.S. Coast Guard, which have been instrumental in leading search-and-rescue efforts and providing emergency food assistance to Bahamians.

As the chair of the House Committee on Financial Services and co-chair of the Congressional Caribbean Caucus, I strongly support an expedited U.S. visa application process or a waiver process for Bahamians who are seeking to enter the U.S., and I am extremely supportive of the extension of the Temporary Protected Status designation for all Bahamians who cannot safely return to the Bahamas.

Displaced Bahamians must be treated with respect, and all applications for visas must be processed efficiently and in an emergency manner. The road to recovery for Bahamians will be long and difficult, but all Bahamians must be treated with respect.

Madam Speaker, the United States is standing with the Bahamas during this difficult time. We will do all that we can to aid in the recovery efforts in the coming weeks and months.

COMMEMORATING FRANCIS BELLAMY

(Mr. COLLINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Francis Bellamy, one of the most influential individuals from Mount Morris, New York.

Francis Bellamy is the author of the Pledge of Allegiance. Yesterday marked the 127th anniversary of the Pledge of Allegiance, which was first published in a magazine called The Youth Companion on September 8, 1892.

The pledge was initially written as part of a campaign to put American flags in every school in the country. In its original form, it read:

“I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

In 1923, the words “the flag of the United States of America” were added. And in 1954, Congress added the words, “under God” creating the 31-word pledge we say today.

Bellamy's words are recited millions of times every day and are engrained in our society as an expression of national pride and patriotism.

D.C. STATEHOOD

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, September 19, the Committee on Oversight and Reform will

hold a historic hearing on D.C. statehood. It will be the first hearing on H.R. 51 in 26 years.

This is not an informational hearing, Madam Speaker. This is a jurisdictional hearing in every meaning of that word.

The State will still be called Washington, D.C., but D.C. will stand for Douglass Commonwealth after the immortal Frederick Douglass, who championed equal rights for D.C. citizens.

D.C. residents pay the highest Federal taxes per capita in the United States. No wonder this bill has almost enough cosponsors to pass right now. It is not too late to cosponsor. Don't let H.R. 51 go to the House floor without you.

HONORING SEPTEMBER VETERAN OF THE MONTH ANDY KOEHL

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor World War II veteran, Colonel Andy Koehl, U.S. Army Retired.

Colonel Koehl enlisted in the Wisconsin National Guard in 1936. During World War II, he spent 43 months in the South Pacific, during which he participated in five amphibious landings as an artillery officer, was wounded in action, and was awarded the Purple Heart.

In August 1945, he again risked his life as one of the first occupation troops to enter Hiroshima after the atomic bomb.

Following World War II, he continued his stellar career by serving multiple worldwide tours of duty, including service in Vietnam from 1961 to 1963 as part of the first advisors dispatched to that area.

And this past May, Colonel Koehl celebrated his 100th birthday. But in fact, it is we who celebrate him.

Our Nation owes him a debt of gratitude for all he has endured over 30 years of service to protect our freedoms and a faith that brought him through the darkest days of war.

Madam Speaker, I thank Colonel Koehl. I thank him for blessing us with his life of sacrifice.

CONGRATULATING CAPE MAY 4-H

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, Cape May County's 4-H Foundation and Fairgrounds recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. After many years of moving from place to place, the 4-H Fair opened on July 24, 1969, at its current fairgrounds in Cape May County in South Jersey.

Many of the traditions established back then are still carried on today, such as a chicken BBQ, pet parade, and talent show for the young people who participate in the 4-H program.

Through clubs that specialize in things like fishing, small animals, reptiles, horses, sewing, robotics, the program enriches many aspects of learning.

Research has shown that young people in 4-H are almost four times as likely to engage in STEM programs during the school year, thanks to what they explore and learn during their time in the program.

The four H's stands for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health, and it is clear that Cape May County 4-H has been deepening these young people's skills in all of these areas.

To all the participants, workers, volunteers, and especially Linda Horner of Cape May County's 4-H Foundation and Fairgrounds, congratulations on 50 years, for sure.

You are helping youth become confident, mature adults ready to take on the world. And you are making South Jersey proud.

RECOGNIZING LAURA ANDERSON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Laura Anderson, who retired from her broadcasting post with WTKS in Savannah on September 6.

Originally from South Carolina, Ms. Anderson came to the First Congressional District of Georgia after her college graduation for love, life, and work.

For life, it was our large green spaces and easygoing people in our area. The love portion included her marriage and becoming a mother. But her work is what nearly everyone in Savannah has woken up to for the past 21 years.

Ms. Anderson hosted the Savannah News Now radio program on WTKS, along with her morning costar, Mr. Bill Edwards. With high-quality news, the program has become one of the most trusted in the Savannah area, interviewing countless community leaders, and giving commuters important daily updates.

Now, she is leaving the air to spend more time with her family.

Madam Speaker, I wish Laura the best of luck in her future endeavors. Laura will be missed on the air every morning.

DEVASTATING FIRES AFFECTING THE WEST

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, during our August recess, we had a very successful trip to the Tahoe area looking at some of the work that has been done following the Angora Fire some years ago for recovering our forested areas and doing the types of thinning and management that needs to be done to make our areas much more fire-safe and sustainable into the future.

This has been a very successful and bipartisan effort. Senator FEINSTEIN, as well as our local Members of the House, had support of this work. And we are at that time of year again—devastating fires affecting the West, affecting my own district in California right now. The one known as the Walker fire is burning our national forest in Plumas County—people are being displaced, having to desperately move their cattle out of the area.

And a lot of good work is being done. A lot of dozers are up there, a lot of aircraft are going. But why do we have to do this year after year after year? We should be managing our assets—the people's assets—our national forest—in a way that makes it fire-safe, it makes the habitat safe for the wildlife that is there. And later on, all the negative effects you have from all the ash and all the things that get into the streams, you have negative water quality. We need to be much more proactive.

Madam Speaker, there are 44,000 acres burning in my district right now, just on that one Walker fire and the fear people have to put up with, and the loss of wildlife.

We have to do much more. We need the Forest Service to be empowered with the tools to get this work done.

□ 1945

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST ENSLAVED AFRICANS BROUGHT TO AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on my Special Order for tonight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I am honored tonight to share and conduct the Special Order sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus, and I want to thank Chairwoman KAREN BASS for her tremendous leadership of the Congressional Black Caucus and for holding this Special Order tonight in our effort to raise to the public and this body's attention the observance of 400 years since the first enslaved Africans were brought to the shores of America, which began 250 years of one of the most horrific crimes committed against humanity: the government-sanctioned institution of slavery.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Chairwoman BASS) for her statement, and I

want to say to her that I really commend her tonight for her leadership and, really, for keeping Africa as central in our foreign policy, because we are all reminded, through her leadership, that Africa does matter.

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, along with my fellow CBC colleagues, I am pleased to join Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, and Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS for this CBC Special Order hour. Tonight, my colleagues and I will take the time to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first enslaved Africans arriving in the United States.

The transatlantic slave trade was the largest coerced migration of human beings in the history of the world. An estimated 10 to 12 million enslaved Africans were transported across the Atlantic Ocean between the 16th and 19th centuries.

The brutality, murder, rape, disease, and starvation were so high that some historians assess that around 15 to 25 percent of the enslaved Africans died aboard slave ships.

Slavery in the United States officially lasted from 1619 to 1865, or 246 years. Enslaved Africans worked 10 or more hours a day, in dangerous conditions, and also worked 18-hour days in peak cotton-picking and sugar harvest season.

The average lifespan of enslaved Africans who labored on sugar and rice plantations was only 7 years. Violence on the plantations was always a danger and threat to the lives of enslaved human beings.

Wealth from the enslaved Africans and their labor established global capitalism and set the economic foundation for Europe, the Caribbean, and the Americas.

According to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, by 1860, 4 million enslaved people produced well over 60 percent of the Nation's wealth, and the slave trade valued them at \$2.7 billion. The financial legacy of the slave trade contributed to the creation of nation-states such as France, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Great Britain, South America, the Caribbean, as well as the United States.

One of the contemporary myths that too many Americans believe is that only the South gained from slavery. However, both the southern and northern economies of the United States profited from slavery. For example, in Manhattan, enslaved Black men accounted for one third of the labor force by 1740.

During Reconstruction, former enslaved Africans made some progress: The first Black Members of Congress were elected to the House and the Senate. Nevertheless, Black Members of Congress were still not allowed to eat in the same cafeteria as their White colleagues and were segregated, overall, in the institution.

And this went on for many years. There was a period in which there were