

Not every student is bound for college, but every student should leave high school with the skills and knowledge necessary to join today's workforce.

CONGRESS MUST PROTECT COMMUNITIES ACROSS NATION

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, in the dark of night in January 2020, my constituents near the Watson Grinding and Manufacturing Company were awakened by a catastrophic explosion around 4 a.m. in the morning. Unbeknownst to these working families, this particular manufacturing building had propylene, and there was a leak, and there was a seismic explosion.

Four hundred homes have been damaged to the extent that people cannot return. Tragically, two employees were killed. Due to the fact that the shift had not started, there wasn't a catastrophic killing of employees, innocent employees. A truck was blown from one part of the street to the other.

We now cannot find the owner of this particular company. Homes are still destroyed. Businesses are destroyed. There is no one to call.

I will be introducing legislation that insists that companies have the responsibility to report to local jurisdictions the dangerous flammable and toxic materials that they are holding.

We are still fighting to get relief for these innocent victims, and we are asking Mr. Watson to stand up and do what he said he would, which is to take care of all of these persons. Well, he is doing it by filing bankruptcy.

We will not rest until all of these homes and homeowners find a way for relief. I ask Members to join me in the legislation that will protect communities across the Nation.

RECOGNIZING ARTHUR PARKER

(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, upon his well-deserved retirement this month, I rise today to recognize Plano police officer Art Parker on his 34 years of dedicated service to the city of Plano, Texas.

During his tenure as a school resource officer, Art made headlines for his incredible ability to memorize the names of over 20,000 students.

A true public servant and a man of many talents, Officer Parker was often seen playing extravagant harmonica solos, making balloon animals, and, most impressively, making people laugh from their cars while stuck in school traffic.

In 2015, Officer Parker was the first ever school resource officer to be

named Plano Officer of the Year. This came as no surprise to so many inspired by his power to make others feel valued.

Officer Parker has made a lasting impact on the Plano community. Although he will be missed, we know his future has wonderful things in store for him. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Officer Art Parker on his successful career and wishing him luck as he begins his next chapter.

SUICIDE AMONG VETERANS IS PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, this is Damon Clayton, the son of my dear friend, Dearborn Heights City Councilwoman Lisa Hicks-Clayton. Today, I rise in honor of his precious life.

Thirteenth District Strong lost Damon to suicide last week at the young age of 28.

One friend wrote: "This man was a friend and a brother to me. We may not have shared DNA, but we shared a common desire to protect." He was a U.S. Army paratrooper in Afghanistan and a firefighter/EMT for the city of Ecorse. "When we lost Damon, we lost a very special blessing from God. This special soul spent his life protecting us."

He said: "I finish my EMT school in 3 weeks. I would like to finish in honor of him. Damon was a factor in my choice to pursue public safety. I want him to always be remembered."

For me, Damon was dearly loved by so many people, including his parents and his siblings.

Death by suicide among veterans represents a public health crisis in our country. In 2005, over 5,700 veterans died by suicide, a number that rose to over 6,100 in 2017.

In Damon's memory, I promise to do everything in my power to get our veterans the healthcare and help that they deserve.

HONORING DR. JIM FARHA

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

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Dr. S. Jim Farha.

On January 17, 2020, Dr. Farha passed away, leaving behind family, friends, and a legacy of making Wichita and our State a better place.

After leaving his native Lebanon in search of an opportunity in America, Dr. Farha worked hard to become a cardiothoracic surgeon. In 1963, Dr. Farha and his brother George began a surgical practice in Wichita to meet a critical need of surgeons in the region. Over time, the practice would eventually become the largest of its kind in the State of Kansas.

In addition to leading the practice for nearly 40 years with his brother, Dr. Farha also worked tirelessly to improve our community. From landmarks like the Wichita Art Museum to the YMCA, the philanthropy and service of Dr. Farha and his late wife, Darla, can be seen throughout Wichita and our region.

His dedication to serving others, whether in the operating room or in the community, has left an inspiring imprint, which will be felt for generations. Dr. Farha's life is a true testament to the American Dream, and he will be missed.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SUFFRAGE

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, 100 years ago, the great State of New Jersey became the 29th State to ratify the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote.

New Jerseyans of all ages are honoring this anniversary. On Sunday, the Kinnelon Girl Scouts held a women's vote celebration, inviting residents to learn about the suffrage movement and what it means today.

In towns across my district, like Morris Township, the municipal building will be lit purple this week, a nod to the purple of the suffragette sashes that symbolized dignity and loyalty.

I thank all our residents for recognizing this milestone and what it means in 2020.

New Jersey's most influential suffragette, Alice Paul, started the National Woman's Party. She said something that still resonates today: "There's nothing complicated about ordinary equality."

In our complicated world, women have made significant strides since 1920. As we celebrate 100 years of suffrage, let us remember all the work that lies ahead.

HONORING CHASE TOWNSEND

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I love to listen to music, modern country like Kenny Chesney, classic country like Johnny Cash, '90s grunge like Pearl Jam, and '80s rock like The Who with Pete Townshend doing windmills.

But there is another Townsend that does more than Pete to keep music alive. This past Saturday, I dropped by to meet Chase Townsend and to thank him for creating jobs. He runs The Music Factory in Pearland, Texas.

That small business was started 50 years ago by his dad, Steve. I was overwhelmed by the guitars, ukuleles, cellos, keyboards, and drums.

I asked him: Why do you do this? What keeps you going?

He said: It is a Harry Potter and the wand moment. There is that divine light coming down from somewhere. There is music out of nowhere.

Rock on, Chase. Rock on.

PRAISING OPPORTUNITY ZONES

(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, on Friday, I was grateful to travel on Air Force One to Charlotte with my colleagues from South Carolina, RALPH NORMAN and WILLIAM TIMMONS, along with our colleagues from North Carolina, VIRGINIA FOXX, PATRICK MCHENRY, RICHARD HUDSON, MARK MEADOWS, MARK WALKER, TED BUDD, DAN BISHOP, and GREG MURPHY.

WIS-TV News of Columbia reported the President spoke at the North Carolina Opportunity Now Summit at Central Piedmont Community College. President Trump highlighted the impact opportunity zones have made and announced a new nationwide initiative called Opportunity Now.

“Under my administration, we work to restore the American promise of upward mobility,” President Trump said. “We want everyone to get ahead and get ahead big league.”

Over the weekend, everywhere I went, citizens praised President Donald Trump with victory in the impeachment hoax as acquitted, exonerated, vindicated, not guilty, innocent, empowered, esteemed, and cleared.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate President Donald Trump.

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

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HONORING MAYOR RICH PALOMBO

(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, I honor Richard Palombo for an amazing 20 years of service as mayor of Upper Township in South Jersey.

Rich exemplifies leadership in his personal and his professional life.

His gentle leadership is welcome at a time, unfortunately, when we have bitter partisanship. I know firsthand of his ability after working with him for years in his capacity as mayor.

Rich listens to every side and makes informed decisions which are driven by his desire to have the best community possible, whether Republican or Democrat.

At any given time of year, 1,500 to 2,000 student-age children will be participating in sporting events at the area's sports complexes, this is thanks to the leadership of Rich Palombo. I know how proud he is, and should be, of this accomplishment.

Mayor Palombo has kept taxes and crime low without sacrificing services, and I know his community always thanks him for that.

Congratulations, Rich. I look forward to our continuing relationship. And thank you for all that you do for our great community and the communities around you.

May God always bless you, and the best of luck for the future.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to anchor the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order hour, and I thank our chairwoman, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, for her tremendous leadership in organizing this effort.

Tonight, we are marking the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 15th Amendment, which prohibits the Federal Government and each State from denying a citizen the right to vote based on that citizen's race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

In the aftermath of the ratification of the 15th Amendment, well over 2,000 Black men were elected to local, State, and Federal offices, 16 of whom served in Congress. Those elected officials were able to stand up for their communities and to work for the resources and protections they needed.

Today, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus are continuing their legacy. So tonight, we have a number of Members who will speak on both the importance of the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment as well as the present dangers that exist in this body and the issues that we are continuing to address.

Today, we also received the President's budget. Every year, the President's budget shows that he does not reflect the values or the lives of the most vulnerable Americans or the success and security of hardworking families across this country.

This year, I am proud to, again, stand with my colleagues on the House Budget Committee under the guidance of Chairman JOHN YARMUTH to work to protect the programs that the President is seeking to destructively slash in his proposal.

Not only does his proposal threaten my constituents and their access to

Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act programs that protect my constituents with preexisting conditions, but it also hacks away at my State's and all of our States' dollars for affordable housing and nutrition assistance, just to name a few.

The White House proposes to cut spending by \$4.6 trillion over a decade. Medicaid will see a cut of about \$900 billion in funding. Medicare would see about \$500 billion in cuts over that same period. Funding for Federal disability programs, including Social Security Disability Insurance, would be cut \$63 billion. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, would be cut by \$182 billion over 10 years as a result of the proposed stringent work requirements proposed by this administration.

This, after they gave themselves the biggest tax cut proposal enacted by Congress in 2017, giving the top billionaires and big corporations the greatest benefit from a \$1.9 trillion tax cut.

We knew it then and it is now proving out today: those tax cuts are being balanced on the backs of everyday Americans who are depending upon this Congress to stand up and to fight for them.

So in the spirit of the 15th Amendment, we know that every voice matters regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. So today, my colleagues and I will raise both the commemoration of that important amendment as well as speak truth to power as it pertains to these horrendous budget cuts that are being proposed.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to yield to my colleague from the great State of California. She definitely speaks for me and so many other great Americans who are looking for strong advocates here in the United States Congress.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), my friend.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

First of all, I want to thank Congressman HORSFORD for those generous comments, but also for his leadership on so many fronts and for constantly really looking out for the most vulnerable and for those who oftentimes don't have a voice here.

I am really delighted that under the leadership of our fearless chair, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, who chairs the Congressional Black Caucus, she asked Mr. HORSFORD to chair this Special Order tonight, because it is so important that we talk about the budget cuts, and also in the context of commemorating this anniversary, the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 15th Amendment.

We continue to be the conscience of the Congress, and it is so important that we not only remember our history and educate those who may have forgotten about it, but also talk about how we got to where we are today.