

communities that many of our Members and colleagues represent. We should work together to make sure that the border is safer.

However, Mr. Speaker, there is a reality in the Nation, and that is that Dreamers are young people that are teachers and nurses. They are part of our communities. They own their homes. Many of them have their own businesses. Yet, they haven't been given the opportunity to be a full part of America.

Dreamers have been, on the average, in the United States for about 20 years. They have lived here. Many of them pay taxes. They haven't committed any crimes. They play by the rules. They stay within the parameters of the law. Yet, we have failed to allow them to be fully part of this American experience. We should work very hard to ensure that Dreamers are given that opportunity. In fact, 80 percent of Americans feel that Dreamers should be given that opportunity.

Farmworkers, Mr. Speaker, we all know many of them aren't going to work because they are afraid they are going to be deported. In fact, 40 percent of farmworkers are undocumented, and they are not showing up at the farms. That will show up at our cash register. That will show up at our dinner table.

Farmers are also a sector of the immigrant community that we should help. Prices will come down. They will be able to go to work, and we will get greater goods in our houses, in our grocery stores, and in our supermarkets.

Dreamers and farmers are an important part of the immigration equation that often are left out. You would think that the only part of the immigration debate is the border. We all agree that the border should be safer.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, families should be kept together. The average immigrant family has been here in the country for over 10 years. Families, if they are divided, or if a young boy or a young girl is taken away from his or her mother, that family will be weaker, and as such, our Nation will be weaker.

The equation is simple. Weak families make a weak nation. Separated families become weak families, and as such, make a weak nation.

Dreamers, farmworkers, and keeping families together are an important and central part of the immigration debate, which is a very broad debate that includes other topics.

We all agree that the border should be safer. How is it that we cannot agree and come to a consensus that Dreamers and farmworkers are important and that families must be kept together?

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF SCOUTING AMERICA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize

the 115th anniversary of Scouting America.

On February 8, 1910, Chicago businessman William D. Boyce, who grew up in western Pennsylvania, incorporated the Boy Scouts of America, now known today also as Scouting America.

For more than a century, Scouting has built character, fostered leadership, and instilled in young people the values that strengthen families, communities, and our Nation.

Generations of Scouts have learned that leadership is not about titles but about action. It is about stepping up when others step back and about lending a hand when it is needed most.

Time and time again, Scouts have answered the call, whether responding to natural disasters, local emergencies, assisting veterans, or leading conservation efforts in their communities.

Even in my current role as U.S. Representative for Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District and chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I use the lessons and values learned in Scouting to ease and to guide my decisionmaking.

The Scout Oath tells us that we have a duty to God, country, others, and self. This is a checklist that I use when voting on the House floor.

The first question I ask myself is how this affects my duty to God. Is the bill righteous according to God's Word, according to my faith?

If the bill passes this test, I ask myself whether this fulfills my duty to country. Will this benefit the country and my constituents? What does the Constitution have to say about the decision I am making?

If the bill passes this step, I will move on and ask myself how this fulfills my duty to others. For me, as Representative of Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District, that is more than 780,000 citizens in 18 counties, a third of the land mass of Pennsylvania. In my role as chairman of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, that is being accountable to every individual in this Nation when it comes to food, fiber, and energy.

If the bill passes that step, I will move on and ask myself how this fulfills my duty to self. While this may sound selfish, it represents the duty I have to myself really based on another principle of Scouting: Am I prepared to do my best?

The Scout Law, Motto, and Oath are moral benchmarks for serving others, our community, and ourselves. Scouting enables the next generation of youth to develop leadership skills, connect with their community, build self-confidence, and gain numerous other benefits for themselves and their country.

The Scouting program is one of the best youth organizations for cultivating a sense of responsibility and leadership development, allowing them to become engaged citizens who care and respect their communities.

I will always cherish the time I spent in Scouting and value its role in shaping me into whom I am today.

I have been involved in Scouting for more than 50 years, including serving as a Scoutmaster and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in 1977. Scouting helped me discover my life purpose: helping others.

I take the lessons learned throughout my young Scouting career and apply them at every aspect of my life today, including at my job serving as a United States Congressman.

As co-chair of the Congressional Scouting Caucus, I was proud to introduce a resolution, alongside my fellow Eagle Scout from Georgia, Mr. SANFORD BISHOP, designating Saturday, February 8, as Scouts of America Day to honor the tireless service of Scouts, volunteers, and participants in our communities.

The Scouts have a slogan: "Do a Good Turn Daily." I hope everyone sees the value in helping those around them and continues to pursue kindness.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Scouts, leaders, volunteers, and families who have helped keep this movement strong. Their dedication ensures that Scouting will continue to inspire and guide future generations.

PUERTO RICO'S OUTDATED ELECTRIC GRID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. HERNÁNDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, imagine it is New Year's Eve, and you are full of hope and optimism. This will be your year. You might finally get that promotion or you will graduate. You might finally lose those extra pounds.

All of a sudden, the power goes out. You are used to it. It is maybe the first time it happens that day. It probably isn't the first time it happens that week. It certainly isn't the first time it happens that year.

The hours go by, and the power doesn't come back. The clock strikes 12, you hear the fireworks, you hear the countdowns, but when you try to turn on the power, it doesn't turn back on.

That was the sad reality of nearly 1.2 million Puerto Ricans on New Year's Eve. That is the sad reality that many thousands of Puerto Ricans will face on an average day. Why? Because of an outdated power grid and a slow recovery process after Hurricane Maria.

Puerto Rico's energy crisis is not a partisan issue. The left can treat it as a humanitarian crisis. The right can see it as an obstacle to making America great again. The center can view it as both.

It is a problem and it needs a solution, which is why I, alongside Representatives TORRES and SOTO, sent a letter to the administration in support of our Republican Governor's request

for a federal emergency declaration to address this crisis.

We urge the administration to act. We urge the administration to unblock the Federal resources that Puerto Rico needs to address this problem. We urge the administration to empower the people of Puerto Rico to be able to overcome this issue.

Now, for the benefit of my constituents, I will repeat my remarks in Spanish.

(Spanish translation of the statement made in English is as follows:)

Señor presidente,

Imagina que es la víspera de Año Nuevo.

Estás lleno de esperanza y optimismo. Este será tu año. Vas a terminar la escuela; conseguirás ese ascenso; tal vez, finalmente, perderás esas libras de más.

Y, de repente, se va la luz. Puede que sea la primera vez que pasa ese día, pero probablemente no es la primera vez que pasa esa semana y, sin duda, no es la primera vez que pasa ese año.

Lamentablemente, ya estás acostumbrado. Pero pasan las horas y la luz no regresa.

El reloj marca la medianoche, ves los fuegos artificiales, escuchas la cuenta regresiva, pero no puedes encender las luces. Recibes el nuevo año con un sentimiento de desesperanza, frustración y desconsuelo.

Esa fue la triste realidad de casi 1.2 millones de puertorriqueños el 31 de diciembre.

Esa es la triste realidad de miles de puertorriqueños muchas veces al año.

¿Por qué? Por una red eléctrica anticuada y una recuperación lenta después del huracán María.

Este no es un asunto partidista. La izquierda puede verlo como un asunto humanitario. La derecha puede verlo como un obstáculo para "Make America Great Again". El centro puede verlo como ambas cosas. No importa; esto es un problema y necesita una solución.

Por eso, junto a los representantes Torres y Soto, envié una carta al presidente Trump en apoyo a la solicitud de la gobernadora republicana de Puerto Rico para que se declare una emergencia federal debido a la crisis energética de la isla.

Instamos a la administración a actuar. Los instamos a declarar un estado de emergencia, liberar recursos federales, y empoderar a Puerto Rico a enfrentar este reto.

CASE OF ETHEL ROSENBERG

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the case of Ethel Rosenberg, who along with her husband, Julius, was convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage and executed in 1953.

For decades, evidence has cast serious doubt on the charges against Ethel Rosenberg. She had no KGB code name. In 2001, her brother even admitted falsely testifying against her.

Last year, with the help of my colleague, Intelligence Committee Ranking Member JIM HIMES of Connecticut,

I urged the National Archives and Records Administration to release information that we believed would exonerate Ethel.

Working with Robert and Michael Meeropol, Ethel's sons, we helped shake loose a Freedom of Information Act request for a crucial document written by a senior U.S. Army code breaker and analyst, Meredith Knox Gardner, in 1950.

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In August 2024, we finally secured the release of this document, and it confirmed what we suspected and what the Meeropol brothers have always known: Ethel Rosenberg was not a spy.

Not only that, the government knew that she was not a spy and executed her anyway. Let me repeat that. This government, the United States Government, knew way back then that she was innocent and executed her anyway.

In fact, Gardner explicitly wrote in his classified memo that Ethel "did not engage in the work," meaning espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union, "herself."

Despite this concrete evidence, the government has never righted this wrong, and I, for one, think it is unconscionable. The truth is clear: Ethel Rosenberg's execution was motivated by fear and politics, and it was not based on the facts.

I urged former President Biden to exonerate her. The proof is right there in the documents, and we handed over everything. Yet, unfortunately, President Biden did not act.

Ethel Rosenberg's execution was a miscarriage of justice. I think it is a disgraceful stain on our history. It was also a tragedy that left two young boys orphans.

Her sons, Robert and Michael Meeropol, have spent their lives seeking justice for their mother, turning their pain into advocacy. Their work continues through a fund supporting children whose parents have been incarcerated or executed for political reasons. Their own children and family are even involved in this advocacy, and I greatly admire the way they have taken such a terrible tragedy of their lives and used it to put good back into the world.

I deeply admire them, but no family should have to fight this long for the truth. It is my hope that, one day, a Presidential administration will acknowledge the wrongfulness of her death and fully exonerate Ethel Rosenberg so that her name may be cleared once and for all. Until then, let the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD show and every person in this building know that the U.S. Government knew that Ethel Rosenberg was innocent.

We knew that she was not a spy, and we executed her anyway. I find that to be a disgrace, and I want to apologize for the pain and grief her family suffered because of what happened.

Ethel was put to death during the height of McCarthyism, a time of

hysteria when due process was cast aside. She was put to death at a time when due process was not guaranteed and our democratic values were not always upheld. We let fear, anger, and hate get the best of us.

We are currently living through an equally troubling time in our country. People are being targeted and attacked for the way they think, what they say, and who they are.

Facts must still matter, Mr. Speaker. Let's learn from our imperfect history. Nothing will bring Ethel Rosenberg back or erase the pain and challenges her sons have had to face in her absence, but as we continue to work to exonerate her, my hope is that by telling her story, we can prevent this dark chapter in our history from repeating itself.

Ethel's story has not been forgotten, and she must be exonerated.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY DATA

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address ongoing concerns about Social Security, especially just in this past week since Mr. Musk has decided that he, in an unauthorized position not approved by the Senate and with no accountability, is after everybody's data and information at SSA.

Mr. Speaker, it might surprise some of the viewers in our audience to know why the wealthiest man in the world needs to know your Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid information. Privacy is something that Americans value. Data is something that billionaires can turn into money. Mr. Speaker, we need to know what role Elon Musk and DOGE—or I call it Dodge because they dodge accountability—will have with the agency and everyone's hard-earned benefits, as if an unconfirmed, unelected billionaire should have access to yours or anyone's sensitive information.

If the cuts that they are promising and what he is looking for come through, then that means people's personal Social Security will be reduced by 36 percent. It hasn't been enhanced since Richard Nixon was President of the United States. Now, Mr. Musk is out because he has been charged to cut the budget by \$2 trillion. As everyone knows, 70 percent of the Federal budget comes from Social Security, Medicare, and defense.

They are coming after you. Specifically, they need that data also so he and his minions of unauthorized, unaccountable people can go forward.

We have written to Acting Commissioner King. Attorneys general across the country, including my own from the State of Connecticut, Attorney General Tong, are putting forward attempts. Then, we learned today or this