

RECOGNIZING JOE FRACCOLA

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joe Fraccola of New Hartford, New York, my hometown.

Joe was drafted into the United States Army in 1968, serving in the Vietnam war. On June 7, 1969, Joe was injured during an enemy rocket attack, earning the Purple Heart medal.

After returning home from Vietnam, Joe worked for the United States Postal Service and became active in veterans advocacy in central New York, serving as the commander of Central New York Chapter 490 Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Under Joe's leadership, the chapter has visited wounded soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines at Walter Reed; supported military honors at funerals and events; assisted in honor flights to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., and helped to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Vietnam.

Joe is also active in the Vietnam Veterans of America and supports our local Gold Star Mothers.

Our community owes Joe our gratitude for his service and sacrifice for this country and for all he has done to support veterans and their families after his service.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of November as National Adoption Month in honor of the 111,000 children waiting to be adopted from the foster care system.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Foster Youth Caucus, I strongly believe that every child deserves a forever family. The love and stability that a family provides leads to far better outcomes for youth of all ages, and we must work to ensure that we have this support system.

But adoption does take a toll on families, both financially and emotionally. They need assistance, and the adoption tax credit provides them with up to \$13,570 in tax refunds for adoption expenses. I am truly disturbed, Mr. Speaker, that Republicans have introduced a tax bill that would eliminate the adoption tax credit.

During National Adoption Month, I call on my colleagues to support adopted children and families by rejecting this misguided measure.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make sure that adoptions are affordable, that they are possible, and that, long-term, they are successful, and the adoption tax credit does exactly that.

VOTING RIGHTS

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, the United States held an election for President.

Going into that election, there were 251 million Americans old enough to vote, but only 139 million people actually voted. That means that just 55.3 percent of the voting-age population took part in the selection of the person to fill our Nation's highest office.

Mr. Speaker, we should break down barriers to voting, not build them. We should make registering to vote easier, not harder. We should ensure elections are competitive, not guaranteed.

Mr. Speaker, we must restore the Voting Rights Act. We must restore voting rights for people who have served their prison sentences. We must end partisan gerrymandering. We must protect the sanctity of our elections. We must do this before the next Federal election.

IT IS ALL ABOUT GUNS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, there are so many things that the American people have to deal with, and I think you have heard many of us offer our sympathy and concern for the tragedy that happened in my State, and, clearly, one more thing that we don't want to deal with, the shooting of those people of faith praying on their day of worship, which is what happened in Texas on Sunday.

So, today, I am introducing H.R. 4268, the Gun Safety Not Sorry Act of 2017, that addresses a 7-day waiting period for purchases or sales of semiautomatic firearms, silencers, armor-piercing ammunition, or large capacity ammunition magazines for purchase or transfer.

And let me respond to those who offered mental health. The data shows that Americans have more mental health problems than do people in other countries with fewer mass shootings. But it shows that it is estimated that only 4 percent of American gun deaths could be attributed to mental health issues.

Let's not keep giving excuses or blaming people with mental health issues. I can assure you that is not the problem. As the article in the New York Times says, it is all about guns—guns, guns, guns.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 4268.

OPPOSE DISASTROUS RYAN-McCONNELL TAX PLAN

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Ryan-McConnell tax plan that puts the interests of wealthy

elites and corporations ahead of the needs of the American people.

This bill tears away protections for Americans with student loans and Americans who choose to adopt children. It strips support for individuals with unexpected health challenges, even those whose homes have burned down.

Under this plan, some 8 million American families will see their taxes go up almost immediately, and millions more will face tax increases in the future.

All this is done while giving permanent tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires and increasing the deficit by trillions of dollars. This puts America's social safety net and our economic future in deep jeopardy.

This is not the type of tax relief the American middle class and working poor need—or deserve—right now.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every one of my colleagues to put the needs of the American people first and oppose the very disastrous Ryan-McConnell tax plan.

CONGRATULATING THE HOUSTON ASTROS

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, and the Houston Astros for winning the 2017 Major League Baseball World Series. The Astros finally earned history this season by winning their first World Series title.

But they weren't the only ones to earn something by beating my Los Angeles Dodgers. Congresswoman JACKSON LEE also earned some of LA's iconic Philippe's French dip sandwiches as part of our friendly wager.

We may be on opposing teams when it comes to baseball, but we both play for the blue team here in Congress, and I look forward to working with her to fight for working men and women across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I couldn't have had a wager with a greater Member of Congress. I love his orange tie. I love him looking at this sign: Beat LA.

All of those players—LA Dodgers and the Houston Astros—had great character and great sportsmanship.

I love the sandwiches. Let's do it again. Let's see them in 2018 in the World Series.

Go Astros.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Houston: Houston strong, and Houston proud.

LET'S LEARN FROM KANSAS, NOT BECOME KANSAS 2.0

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, what happens if Congress goes nuts on tax cuts without paying for them?

Kansas, which did just that, has now had to raise State taxes back to where they were, providing a valuable object lesson for Congress right now: tax cuts about ideology, not economics, do not work.

Yet Republicans seem to be taking a page out of the Kansas tax cuts, authored by Governor Sam Brownback, that crushed that State's economy.

He promised tens of thousands of jobs to fund the State's schools. He guaranteed a progrowth economy that would pay for the tax cuts and then some.

Kansas did grow initially, but then lagged behind all the rest of the States. Now Brownback's tax cuts have produced new taxes for Kansas.

Let's learn from Kansas, not become Kansas 2.0.

GOP TAX SCAM

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are scamming America. They are offering a facade of lowered taxes that you probably will never see in exchange for massive and permanent tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and corporations.

And for what?

We are told the corporate and upper income tax cuts will result in more investment and greater economic growth, which will yield more jobs and more revenue for the country and higher wages for the middle class.

But this is bunk. They have run this scam twice before. Reagan passed similar upper class tax cuts and told us the tax cuts would generate such economic growth that they would pay for themselves.

What happened?

The national debt—accumulated from George Washington through Jimmy Carter—went from \$800 billion in 1980 to \$4.3 trillion 12 years later, and growth was less than under President Clinton.

George Bush's tax cut turned an anticipated 10-year \$5.65 trillion surplus into a \$10.63 trillion debt in 8 years.

And 3 or 4 years from now, Republicans will use the \$1.5 trillion to \$2 trillion deficit this scam will create to say: Look at this massive deficit. We have to make savage cuts to Social Security, Medicare, education, and infrastructure.

That is what they are building in now. The Republicans are scamming America, and we must reject this bill.

□ 1845

WE NEED TO PASS A CLEAN DREAM ACT NOW

(Mr. SCHRADER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Marco, a DREAMer in Portland, Oregon, and to continue to urge Speaker RYAN to put forth a clean Dream Act bill.

In 1995, Marco was brought to the United States when he was only 3 years old. As a teenager with dreams of going to college, Marco realized he didn't qualify for financial aid because of his immigration status, but he did not allow this to deter him. Instead, Marco worked hard in various minimum wage jobs, allowing him the ability to attend college part-time.

In 2012, after applying for DACA, Marco was granted a work permit, making it possible for him to earn a job with a law firm in Portland, where he worked his way up from the mailroom to be a legal assistant. His salary from the law firm enabled him to enroll in more classes and finally complete his bachelor's degree in accounting.

Marco now works as an accountant for an Oregon nonprofit that helps benefit youth.

This President claims to want only the best. I have news for him: we already have the best and brightest, and it is time we stopped treating them like second class citizens.

Mr. Speaker, we need to pass a clean Dream Act bill.

VETERANS

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

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week we honor America's veterans, a group of men and women with unparalleled courage and love of country.

We owe our veterans an eternal debt of gratitude. We made a promise to look out for them in exchange for their promise to defend our freedom, but gratitude is not enough. That is why I am fighting to maximize the care homeless veterans receive with my bill to improve reporting from our VA hospitals, to make sure no veteran, at any stage in life, falls through the cracks.

I also helped introduce the Patriot Employer Act, which would give tax incentives to American businessowners who employ veterans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I would like to thank all of our Nation's veterans for their service on this Veterans Day and every day.

VETERANS DAY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Veterans Day, which we will observe this Saturday, November 11.

Each Veterans Day, we celebrate America's veterans for their unwaver-

ing patriotism and willingness to serve and sacrifice above self. How noble for liberty's cause, yet too many veterans, upon their return from service, endure long wait-times at VA health facilities.

That is why I have developed a bill that would reduce the VA physician shortage, which is estimated to be about 5,000.

Our VET MD Act would address this by allowing pre-med students to participate in organized clinical observations at VA medical centers. Future physicians will have exposure to the VA healthcare system, and the VA will create potential medical professionals.

This is just one solution Congress should implement to address the VA physician shortage. It will help lead to decreased wait-times, better care, and healthier outcomes.

Our veterans dedicated their lives for our country. We owe these honorable men and women better basic healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, on this Veterans Day, I urge my colleagues to please join me. Let us affirm a commitment to action for the men and women who have defended our liberty and have lived the words duty, honor, and country.

WE NEED FAIR AND STRONG HURRICANE RELIEF PACKAGES

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the continuing urgency of providing relief and recovery aid for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, which were devastated by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. While U.S. efforts have ramped up after a failed initial response, we can and must do more.

In Puerto Rico, some 70 shelters remain open, access to safe drinking water is a problem, and there are dozens of waterborne disease deaths. Nearly a third of hospitals are still running off generators, bridges remain destroyed, and many roads remain impassable. Nearly 60 percent of the island is without power.

The news is not better for the Virgin Islands, where many still lack access to cell service, power, and clean water. Officials estimate \$5.5 billion is needed for the most essential needs there.

Mr. Speaker, there are less than 20 legislative days left on the House calendar. How can we be prioritizing tax cuts for the wealthy? Let's put together fair and strong hurricane relief packages for communities ravaged by these hurricanes, including those in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OF SPECIAL COUNSEL MUELLER AND OTHERS IN THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RUTHERFORD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the