

trained to wake their owners from nightmares, create a buffer zone in large crowds, remind their owners to take their medication, and watch their owners' back to provide a sense of security and more.

I have heard from veterans suffering from PTSD that sometimes the hardest part of the day is just getting out of bed in the morning. The schedule of walking, feeding, and caring for his or her service dog offers veterans purpose and a sense of responsibility. Ultimately, a service dog and its owner better each others' lives.

It is important that the House pass the PAWS Act and allow the VA to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of providing veterans with service dogs.

While talking about service animals, I would also like to recognize Eli's Fund, an initiative at Texas A&M University created in memory of the late Lance Corporal Colton Rusk and Eli, his service dog, that provides financial support for service animals of Active-Duty servicemen and -women, medically retired veterans' service animals, and retired military animals, to help with veterinary medical bills. It is important that military animals continue to be cared for in retirement.

CONGRATULATING GEORGE GONZALES AND THE CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the Corpus Christi Army Depot, considered as the jewel of the Army Depot system.

CCAD is currently the largest rotary wing aircraft facility in the world. Instead of buying new helicopters, which cost \$17 million or more, CCAD repairs and rehabilitates the current fleet, often at less than half the cost of new helicopters. CCAD saves taxpayers millions of dollars, while ensuring the U.S. Army maintains a superior level of readiness and reliability.

This would not be possible without outstanding employees like Army veteran George Gonzalez, who recently received the prestigious 2017 Donald F. Luce Depot Maintenance Artisan Award, given annually to one individual who makes an outstanding contribution to Army aviation in the area of depot maintenance.

Gonzales leads a 31-man team that reassembles UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Under his leadership, the team has reduced the average build time from 42 to 17 days.

Congratulations, George, and your team, and everyone at CCAD, who are doing an outstanding job ensuring our warfighters are equipped with the aviation assets they need to keep America safe and be a force for good around the world.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF  
COMMANDER ARMANDO SOLIS

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to recognize the career of recently retired Flour Bluff High School Navy Junior ROTC instructor, Commander Armando Solis.

In 1993, following completion of nearly 22 years in the United States Navy, Commander Solis became the inaugural Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps naval science instructor at Flour Bluff High School. Over the next 24 years, Commander Solis not only instilled his students with values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and sense of accomplishment, but he also created one of the most successful JROTC programs in the Nation.

In his first year, the Navy selected the Flour Bluff program as the best new program in Texas and, by his fourth year, the best in the Nation. With 23 years as a distinguished honors program, 22 Texas Navy JROTC championships, a record 11 Navy national championship titles, and the honor of being the only Navy program to win the All-Service National Drill Team Championship, Commander Solis has touched the lives of thousands of students, instilling them with the values of patriotism, loyalty, and, most importantly, service.

Thank you, Commander Solis, for your commitment to our students and our Nation. I wish you the best in retirement.

#### TAX PLAN DOES NOT ELIMINATE LOOPHOLES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor to stand in the well of the House and have the opportunity to speak to not only the Members of Congress, but to the American people.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise because I am in opposition to a tax plan that has been said to eliminate loopholes, but has not done so.

Let me explain, Mr. Speaker. I will address but one loophole. I will address the loophole that allowed a person who made \$3 billion one year—by the way, I don't begrudge him for making \$3 billion. I like to see people make as much as they can make in this country, but I also think that every person ought to pay for his or her fair taxes on whatever they earn. This person made \$3 billion.

How much is \$3 billion?

Well, let me explain. Mr. Speaker, \$3 billion, it would take a minimum-wage worker working full time, Mr. Speaker, 198,000 years to make \$3 billion; 198,000 years. I don't begrudge a person for making it, but here is the point: if you make it, you ought to pay your fair share of taxes on it.

This country makes it possible for us to do great things. This country makes it possible for us to succeed. So if you have succeeded in this country, you ought to contribute to the country itself. He made \$3 billion and paid taxes that were called carried interest. He did not pay ordinary income taxes. In fact, he paid less than half of what a

person making much less—persons who may have worked for him, maybe a secretary, maybe somebody who was making money at a much lower level in that company—paid less than half in taxes in terms of the amount to be paid, the percentage of the earnings; less than half of the ordinary income tax.

It is called carried interest. Well, the commitment was that you were going to close loopholes. You haven't closed that loophole. You haven't eliminated that loophole. I know that there is talk about reducing the size of a big loophole and making it a little less big, but that is not what you promised. You said you were going to eliminate the loopholes. This loophole sends a signal to ordinary Americans who are working hard every day. It says to them that you are willing to allow the rich to have more to do more, but you believe that those who work hard every day can do more with less.

Mr. Speaker, I refuse that philosophy. I reject it. I believe that if you are working hard every day, if you are earning middle class wages, you ought to be able to get the tax break promised. I don't think that the tax break should go to the person who can make \$3 billion and pay less than half of ordinary income tax on it.

Carried interest was a commitment that was made. The elimination of carried interest has not taken place. You have not kept your word. There are many other aspects of it. You can't talk about all of them in one message. But you can do this: you can make it clear to working class people, to middle-income people, that this tax plan is for those who are going to make the carried interest kind of money, the \$3 billion, the money that will allow them to go on and do great things, but won't cause them to have to pay their fair share of taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I believe in fairness for all, and that includes the very, very rich.

#### COMMEMORATING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND HONORING DR. RUDI MITCHELL

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Native American Heritage Month by honoring a dedicated community leader and warrior from Nebraska's Second Congressional District.

Growing up on the Umonhon Nation Reservation in Macy, Nebraska, Dr. Rudi Mitchell was one of eight children raised by a single mother. Rudi's mom, Mary Lieb Mitchell, was a strong woman and a major influence in the lives of her children. Her focus was education and ensuring her children had the opportunities that she did not have.

It was because of her that Rudi and his siblings all went out to pursue