

170th Group provides support to the 55th Wing by training airmen conducting worldwide missions for our Nation.

In addition, they have become a premier example of total force integration between the Active Duty Air Force and the Air National Guard. In my 30 years in the Air Force, this is the best Active Duty and National Guard relationship that I have seen. I think it is the best in the Nation.

Since September 11, the Nebraska National Guard has deployed over 10,000 soldiers and airmen. The guardsmen not only provide assistance to the United States, but throughout the world. There are dozens of Nebraska soldiers deployed to Guantanamo Bay supporting detainee operations. Next year, the Nebraska Air National Guard will deploy to key locations in the Pacific and Middle East.

Most recently, members of the Nebraska National Guard deployed to Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to assist with the hurricane relief efforts.

The Nebraska National Guard rescued 461 people and 22 pets, and they served 6,000 pounds of bottled water, 3,000 pounds of food, and 1,000 pounds of medical supplies to the people of Texas.

In response to Hurricane Irma, 102 Guard members were in Florida providing an aviation task force for support operations. Currently, there are 58 soldiers and airmen providing support to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. These efforts range from rescuing people to cleaning up St. Croix's Ricardo Richards Elementary School.

The Nebraska National Guard's value to Nebraskans and Americans across the Nation cannot be understated. Our soldiers and airmen risk their lives to save our neighbors in need.

I thank the Nebraska National Guard for their service to the Nation and Nebraska. All Nebraskans are proud of their service.

ADDRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN PUERTO RICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, marking the 48th day since Hurricane Maria made direct landfall on the island of Puerto Rico.

Wreaking havoc for over 3.4 million American citizens living on the island, this administration's response has been beyond atrocious. I witnessed it myself a couple of weeks ago, and so did a group of 50 registered nurses from across the country who volunteered for a two-week disaster relief fund and mission.

What these courageous women described upon returning was not at all reassuring. The lack of efficient action has led to deadly conditions and consequences: lack of food, water, medi-

cine, proper healthcare services, houses with roofs blown off or infested with black mold, and leptospirosis outbreaks across the island.

Laura Maceri, a registered nurse, said: "It's hell there. The people have nothing, yet they are the first to offer you the shirt off their back."

Another nurse, Hau Yau, expressed: "We couldn't believe this is part of the United States. We did home visits in low-income communities with the public health liaisons there who identified those in need, and helped them do basic blood pressure checks, blood sugar checks, to refill their medicine, et cetera. They have already had chronic diseases going on, and now their environment is full of hazardous materials, and the sanitation is very, very poor."

From another nurse, Erin Carrera: "Spent the day in Rio Grande, a hard-hit area right outside of San Juan. No power or water here since Maria. We set up a clinic at the FEMA site for the first time here. People lined up blocks since 10 p.m. last night. But FEMA was only handing out papers—papers, which need to be filled out in order that they may receive some reimbursement eventually. Each person received a small bottle of water, a mini bag of Cheez-It and a little pack of vanilla cookies. Outrageous. We were able to provide care to some, not nearly enough, but one small contribution to this tragedy today."

Another nurse said: "Today we went to a town called Barranquitas. They had almost no water or food there. They were desperate. They are relying on rainwater. One million chickens died during the storm and are now decomposed and causing people to get sick. Overwhelming is the only thing I can say to describe it."

Mr. Speaker, I stand with these nurses in their demands to address the humanitarian crisis on the island of Puerto Rico. This administration must respond immediately.

We need to waive FEMA's cost-sharing requirements in Puerto Rico. Yesterday, Representative GUTIERREZ and I introduced the WEPA legislation—the Waiver of Emergency Payments Act—that chooses and aims to do exactly that.

□ 1030

PROPER NUTRITION FOR EVERYONE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about nutrition and, more specifically, malnutrition. My family and I have traveled across the country doing mission work, from the poorest country in this Western Hemisphere, Haiti; to the plains of Kenya; across Mexico; and throughout Central America.

On those trips, I went there as a physician thinking that I could help peo-

ple, but what I quickly discovered was that, despite how many antibiotics or bottles of IV fluids that I had, without proper nutrition, without proper water and sewage treatment, I was simply running into a headwind in a war that I could never win.

Unfortunately, across the globe, there are almost 1 billion people who suffer from malnutrition, and it is a problem that doesn't exist just across the world. It also exists in my own district, in my own communities. We think that actually about 12 percent of the United States households have food insecurity issues, and, in households with children, the number goes up to 16 percent of food insecurity issues.

It would be my opinion, without this hierarchy of needs being met, the hierarchy of the needs of proper water, proper sewage, and proper nutrition, that you will never have a healthy community. Without a healthy community, you will never see economic growth.

This battle against malnutrition is long running. In recent years, many in the hunger community have recognized the value of fighting malnutrition in targeted ways. One way was popularized by Roger Thurow in his book, "The First 1,000 Days: A Crucial Time for Mothers and Children—And the World."

Research shows that good nutrition actually begins before conception. Good nutrition starts before conception, continues throughout the woman's pregnancy, and, especially, those first 2 years after a child's birth are very important.

As a practicing obstetrician for 25 years, I see over and over the impact of proper nutrition. Proper nutrition in those first 1,000 days starts with a well-balanced diet and adequate calories. Additionally, we always try to start our prenatal vitamins at least 3 months before conception.

You might ask: Why is that important? What we have found is that if there is adequate folic acid in a woman's body, along with adequate iron, it decreases birth defects, and it decreases premature birth and low birth weights. Specifically, folic acid decreases neural tube defects. So those two vitamins are particularly important that we continue in these diets preconceptionally, during the pregnancy, then after for at least the first 2 years.

A child that receives the proper 1,000 days of nutrition has a lower chance of obesity, heart disease, and chronic illnesses. The child is 10 times more likely to overcome serious childhood illnesses and is more likely to fulfill their full God-given potential.

What we know and understand is that the most vulnerable will succumb to viruses, whether it is the elderly or the infants, if they don't have proper nutrition. An investment during this critical time period, these first 1,000 days, not only impacts the development of the child, but results in a higher likelihood of healthiness in generations to

follow, allowing the benefits of adequate nutrition to compound over time.

As we in Congress begin to consider the reauthorization of the new farm bill, we have been reviewing many programs targeting hunger and malnourishment. These programs allow our State governments and nonprofits to promote nutrition and assist in providing food for women and children, both here at home and around the globe. I am especially proud of the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education program, but what we, of course, call in Kansas the Dole-McGovern International Food for Education program.

This program has provided over 44 million people in low-income, food-deficient countries across the world with a meal during the school time to help those kids do better in school. This is made possible by donations from the U.S. agricultural products and the kindness of Americans.

Food for Peace is another lifesaving food assistance program that, for more than 60 years, has helped tens of millions of people get enough to eat through emergency development and nutritional support programs.

Not only do these programs provide the food necessary to help these countries provide good nutrition for women and children, they benefit U.S. national security and foster goodwill.

Lending a helping hand to those around the globe is a classic American value, but assisting those here at home is an absolute priority. This is being achieved through the special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the WIC program as most of us have called it. I have got such great, firsthand experience in seeing how important this WIC program is to pregnant women and breastfeeding women. It is not only the vitamins that we give them, but it is the extra education that we give them to help raise their children in a healthy environment.

So we need to provide Federal grants to these States through the WIC program that are used to provide food supplements and nutritional education to low-income mothers and babies. Nutrition is so critical for these first 1,000 days, it goes far beyond anything that I can say or any statistics I can quote. As we continue to strive for improved national global health, the importance of these first 1,000 days should not be underemphasized.

The United States has an opportunity to make a global statement in advancing this initiative. No matter where you are in the world, you can be assured that community health, economic growth, and quality of life begins with good nutrition.

MOMENTUM IS BUILDING

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise because I love my country. Mr. Speaker, because I love my country, I rise to thank those who voted to reject bigotry, racism, xenophobia, ethnocentrism, sexism, and hatred in all of its forms, Mr. Speaker. I rise to thank them for what they did when they voted to reject these things.

Mr. Speaker, because I love my country and because I cannot accept these things, I refuse to accept hatred. I refuse to acquiesce to any forms of bigotry. Mr. Speaker, because I rise to reject these things, I now announce that before Christmas there will be a vote on the chief inciter of racism, bigotry, hatred, xenophobia, sexism, ethnocentrism; there will be a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker, on the impeachment of the President.

Mr. Speaker, this vote will take place before Christmas because there still is a need for the public to weigh in. I announced earlier this year, I called for the impeachment of the President right here on the floor of the House. Since that time, I have read Articles of Impeachment. These Articles of Impeachment have been circulated, and we are giving people an opportunity to respond.

Momentum is building, Mr. Speaker. The momentum is building. More people favor impeachment than not. Momentum is building. People should weigh in. They should let others know how they feel about impeachment. They should let others know how they feel about the chief inciter of all of these ugly actions by way of persons responding to the chief inciter.

Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to say this vote will take place, but I am also proud to say something else. I am proud to say that I am an American, and while I have been told that there are political consequences for what I will do, I accept the consequences. I accept the consequences because I was not born in Congress. I wasn't born to be a Congressman. I am a child of God.

Mr. Speaker, I refuse to come to Congress and acquiesce to bigotry and hatred. I am proud to announce that this vote will take place and people will be able to vote to table the Articles of Impeachment. They will be able to vote to reject them, or support them, or they will be able to vote to send them to a committee.

Whatever others will do is their choice. My conscience dictates that I will vote to impeach. Let others do what they may. History will judge us all. I pray, Mr. Speaker, that this country will continue to reject what the inciter in chief, Donald J. Trump, has been causing this country to have to endure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

REFORMING OUR TAX CODE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, reforming our Tax Code isn't an easy thing to do. If it was, we would have done it at some point in the last 30 years. But here is the reality: because of high-powered lobbyists and special interests within a 5-mile radius of this body, we have failed, time and time again, to do what is right for the hardworking American taxpayer.

But in the coming weeks, however, we have a rare opportunity to finally deliver a tax bill that puts working families first by passing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act into law.

First, let me address the fact that there are certain provisions within this bill that some of my colleagues and I might differ on. That will always be the case. But instead of bickering, I urge my colleagues not to look at things in a vacuum and, instead, evaluate it by asking ourselves three important questions.

The first question we should ask is: Does this bill cut taxes for the vast majority of hardworking American families? The answer to this question is yes. Studies already show that if this bill passes, a typical family of four making around \$60,000 will see nearly a \$2,000 tax cut.

Let's think for a second what this money could be used for. Instead of giving it to the Federal Government, families could spend it on their children, they could put it in savings, or they could even pay off their debts. President Trump promised working families around the country a tax cut. And if this was put on his desk tomorrow, that promise would be delivered.

This leads us to the second question we should ask ourselves: Would this bill bring back jobs from overseas? The answer to this question, like the first one, is also yes. By cutting the corporate tax rate to below the global average and making other necessary reforms on the business side, this bill would make us competitive with our foreign competitors and encourage business to be done here instead of abroad.

Job creators, both large and small, have been coming out in support of this bill. Companies as big as UPS and AT&T, to small businesses right in North Carolina, have said that reforming our Tax Code will make it easier for them to create more good-paying jobs, and we should listen to them.

This takes us to my last question that we should all ask: Would this bill simplify the tax filing process for working families next year and in years to come? The answer to this, as well, is yes.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most striking statistics that I have seen with my constituents and people all around the country is that they spend more than 10 hours a year doing their taxes. Because of the many different forms they