

Jeff is the son of a Swedish immigrant. Pastor Jeff began in the ministry at his home church in Rockford, Illinois, where he was born and raised.

In 1989, he and his wife, Brenda, moved about 30 minutes north up I-90 to begin Faith Community Church in Janesville. "We had nothing but a vision," he said. "No people, no equipment, and no place to meet. Just a vision and the Lord. And that was enough."

Over the years, Pastor Jeff has turned that vision into a beautiful house of worship and fellowship at the heart of our community. I have been there many times. It is really an impressive place.

Pastor Jeff has been a very good friend to me and to our family for many years. I will note, however, that he is a Bears fan, and we can forgive him for that one.

But it is an absolute honor and privilege of mine to honor and to welcome Pastor Jeff here, and I want to thank him for offering today's prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING MORGAN SCARBRO FOR HER WORK WITH VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable student in my district with a heart for helping veterans, our military, and their families. Morgan Scarbro is a 14-year-old from Eaton Rapids who created a nonprofit called Morgan's HUGS.

Since the age of five, Morgan has been giving back to veterans. If there is a veteran in need, Morgan springs into action. She organizes donation drives and collects items like hygiene products, food, clothing, and more. When Morgan competes in beauty pageants, she encourages her fellow contestants to donate as well.

Morgan helps in so many other ways, too, including visiting veterans in nursing homes and putting her own Christmas on hold to give presents to military families.

Morgan's dad is a disabled veteran, and she has seen, firsthand, the sacrifices made by the men and women who serve our country. We owe them an immeasurable debt.

As Veterans Day approaches, may we follow Morgan's example and do everything we can to take care of our Nation's heroes.

OPPOSING REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Republican tax plan. As I have said many times before, this plan gives tax breaks to the wealthy and corporations, over the needs of American families, while adding a predicted \$2.1 trillion to the national debt over the next decade.

Particularly devastating for New Jersey is the partial elimination of the State and local tax deduction. More than 25 percent of New Jerseyans would face a tax hike over the next decade due to this change.

Per person, New Jersey taxpayers paid \$3,478 more in Federal taxes in 2015 than they received from the government, more than any other State. Not only would the bill aggravate this disparity in New Jersey, it would also eliminate vital deductions that give relief to those burdened with high medical costs, student debt, and unexpected losses due to natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, I will not support a one-sided plan that harms New Jersey and those who are most in need of tax relief.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LEWIS VILLA

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, this coming Saturday marks Veterans Day, a day on which we honor and cherish heroes like Lewis Villa from Hopewell Township, Pennsylvania.

Nearly seven decades ago, Mr. Villa, a graduate of Aliquippa High School, followed in the footsteps of his two older brothers by enlisting in the Army. He joined the 456th Airborne Field Artillery Battalion of the 82nd Airborne and eventually became an Army Ranger assigned to 1st Company, 1st Platoon, 1st Squad of the Airborne Rangers.

He deployed in 1950 to Japan, and then Korea, where he was captured by communist Chinese forces and spent 28 months in a prisoner of war camp.

After returning home, Villa became a mailman, where he met his beloved late wife, Helana, and had two children.

Lewis Villa is a treasure of the Aliquippa community, and he rarely fails to land a joke, and always lights up a room with laughter. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to him as well as to all our veterans.

Happy Veterans Day, and may God bless them and their families.

THE REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

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

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the need for tax policy that benefits hardworking families in New Hampshire and all across this country.

We are long overdue for real tax reform, but, unfortunately, the plan unveiled by my Republican colleagues is more of a giveaway to millionaires, billionaires, and corporate special interests.

In fact, consider this: 80 percent of the tax breaks in their bill go to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans. This is while cutting \$500 billion from Medicare and \$1 trillion from Medicaid. That trade is, frankly, unconscionable. This bill is a bad deal for Granite Staters and a bad deal for the American people.

The Republican tax plan eliminates important deductions for hardworking middle class families. It caps property tax deductions, eliminates student loan interest deductions and the medical deduction tax credit. The plan even ends the Work Opportunity Tax Credit that encourages employers to hire veterans.

House Democrats are offering a better deal. I urge my Republican colleagues to work with us to support working families.

HONORING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our Nation's veterans. I would like to take a moment to thank our Nation's heroes for their selfless service to our country.

It was a privilege to welcome home veterans on the Indy Honor Flight last month after they traveled to D.C. to visit memorials honoring their service and the sacrifice of our Nation's Armed Forces. It was both a humbling and inspiring opportunity to meet so many veterans who are patriots in every sense of the word. We owe it to them and their families to ensure they have access to quality care and the services they deserve.

I am proud to see many important veterans bills pass through the House this week and look forward to continuing our work in Congress to support our American heroes.

To all of our veterans, we thank you for your service, and enjoy Veterans Day. We salute you.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CARRIE BARNETTE

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Carrie Barnette, a woman who was known for her love of pickles, hummingbirds, and willingness to help others.

Carrie loved country music, and she grew up listening to it at her grandparents' house. She frequently went to country music concerts and had traveled to the Route 91 Harvest music festival with her childhood friend, Jenn.

Carrie was a lifelong Californian who had just celebrated her 10th anniversary as a culinary team member at Disney California Adventure in Anaheim.

Carrie loved the children of her relatives and friends like her own, and friends say that she would have made a great mother. She also had the nickname of Aunt Carrie because all the children loved her.

I would also like to extend my condolences to Carrie's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

ROLL CALL FAKES THE NEWS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a front-page story in Roll Call about Chief of Staff General Kelly is as misleading as you can get. It clearly is an intentional hit job.

The headline read: "Kelly's Antics Rankle Capitol." The article claims, "GOP and Democratic Members are united" in not wanting General Kelly to speak out. But only one Republican, known for his criticism of this administration, is quoted, compared to four Democrats. Of the four Democrats, three are current Members of Congress, and one is a former Clinton administration official.

So much for balance, and so much for the article's unfounded claim. This is what passes for journalism these days. When you see stories like this one, you begin to understand why the President is right to use the term "fake news."

I doubt General Kelly will be intimidated, and I hope he will continue to speak out.

THE REPUBLICANS' TAX SCAM

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Republicans' tax scam. The middle class receives virtually no benefit from this bill.

This bill hits middle class Minnesotans especially hard by dismantling the State and local tax deduction. It increases costs for college students and their families. It abandons adoptive parents, and it punishes people with high medical bills.

So why does this bill hurt hard-working families? So President Trump and the Republicans can pay for giveaways to the wealthiest Americans?

Big corporations and billionaires will see their taxes slashed. Wealthy heirs and heiresses will be allowed to dodge taxes entirely. While the top 1 percent of Americans receive nearly half the tax cuts, 99 percent of us will be stuck with a Federal debt that will explode by trillions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, this Republican bill is not tax reform. It is not a good deal for the middle class. It is a scam, plain and simple. I oppose it, and we must defeat it.

NATIONAL STEM DAY

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National STEM Day, to recognize the importance of encouraging our youth to pursue their interests in science, technology, engineering, and math fields.

As technology continues to advance, STEM occupations continue to grow and become more valuable to the development of our society. Over the past decade, employment in STEM occupations has outgrown non-STEM occupations by nearly 20 percent.

I commend the House's work in implementing the annual Congressional STEM App Challenge for students across our Nation. This competition allows students to compete by creating an idea for an app on a platform of their choice and is designed to engage student creativity and encourage their participation in STEM fields.

As a member of the Congressional STEM Education Caucus and the father of a STEM student in college, I will continue to support the growth of STEM education throughout Arkansas and our country.

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REJECT REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats agree that we need to simplify our Tax Code and provide tax relief to middle-income families. Unfortunately, this Republican tax plan gives big tax cuts to the rich, huge tax cuts to corporations, and raises taxes—yes, the details matter—on tens of millions of American families, middle-income families making \$100,000 or less.

It takes away for some the ability to deduct interest on their home mortgage; takes away the ability to deduct interest on student loans, for goodness' sake; and takes away the ability to deduct interest on medical expenses.

But for the loopholes that apply to the people at the very top, for the loopholes that apply to corporations, they leave them alone. They bring down their rates and let them keep their loopholes, and force us to borrow money from our children and our grandchildren to give great big tax breaks to people at the very top.

This is wrong. This is not what the American people elected us to do. We need to shut this down now. We need tax relief for middle-income Americans, not tax giveaways to the people

at the very top. We ought to reject this plan, and we ought to do it now.

HONORING SERGEANT JOSH RODGERS

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, Army Sergeant Josh Rodgers was killed in action during a raid targeting an ISIS prison in Afghanistan, making the ultimate sacrifice while working to free those imprisoned by evil.

A native of Bloomington, Illinois, in my congressional district, Sergeant Rodgers' heroism and bravery have not been forgotten. A graduate of Normal Community High School in 2013, where he competed on the track and football teams, his teachers, teammates, and coaches remember him fondly. They say he was a natural leader and a hard worker who believed it was his duty to serve his country in the military.

That is why I am proud to stand here today to announce the introduction of a bill, with the support of the entire Illinois delegation, Republicans and Democrats, that would rename the post office in Bloomington, Illinois, the Sergeant Josh Rodgers U.S. Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, there is no way to truly thank Sergeant Rodgers or his family, but it is my hope that this building will serve to honor him and remind all of us of the price of our freedom.

REJECT REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, here is the Republican tax scam: first, cut taxes for the wealthiest corporations and for the superrich. Number two, cut Americans' healthcare.

Don't take my word for it. Just look at the Republican budget. After clearing the way for a \$1.5 trillion tax cut, it proposes cutting Medicare and Medicaid—coincidentally, I don't think so—by \$1.5 trillion.

It gets worse. Under the Republican tax bill, American families would no longer get to deduct major medical expenses from their taxes. Seven in 10 households using the medical expense deduction make under \$75,000 a year, and over half of the Americans who depend on that medical deduction are over 65 years old.

Families struggling to afford cancer treatment or long-term care should not have to pay a health tax so that billionaires can get a huge tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this scam. Americans deserve a better deal.

79TH ANNIVERSARY OF KRISTALLNACHT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House