

Martin Luther King, Jr.

So Mr. Speaker, on this 50th anniversary of this beautifully written letter, I hope my colleagues will join me in reflecting on its powerful words. "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" stands as a reminder of how far we've come in our Nation and living up to the ideals of justice and equality for all.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, Ranking Member WAXMAN and I have sent 24 letters to Chairman UPTON of the Energy and Commerce Committee and Chairman WHITFIELD of the Energy and Power Committee since May 2011 requesting hearings on the science of climate change.

Mr. Speaker, since Mr. WAXMAN and I are not able to get the majority on the Energy and Commerce Committee to act, I take it upon myself to come to the House floor to speak directly to the American people on why this issue is so important to them. Power to the people.

Mr. Speaker, last year, 2012, marked the hottest year ever recorded in U.S. history. Fully two-thirds of our Nation experienced drought. Half of the Nation's grazing pastures and up to 30 percent of the Nation's corn crop was in poor condition, or in very poor condition, which impacted the price that the American people pay for their food, for ethanol, and for consumer goods for all of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, just because some of my colleagues might not like what the science is telling us, it does not mean that they can continue to put their collective heads in the sand and simply ignore these facts or wish these facts away.

Last year's record temperatures, serious droughts, pervasive wildfires, and widespread flooding prove that there is climate change occurring all around us on a regular basis continually.

And Mr. Speaker, the majority ignores climate change, not at some of our peril, not at a portion of our peril, not at a minority of our peril, but all of our perils are being impacted because of the majority's refusal to simply have the scientists come before the committee of jurisdiction and tell this Congress, in no uncertain terms, what is really happening to the world's climate.

□ 1040

Mr. Speaker, these very same scientists, these experts, these people who have spent and dedicated their lives to understanding climate and climate control and what is happening, these climatologists are waiting, they're willing, and they're eager to come before this Congress to share their information and their expertise with the Members of this Congress. The scientists are sounding the alarm and in-

forming us that we are reaching a critical tipping point as it relates to this very important issue of climate control.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are for the people of Boston, my prayers are for the people in Boston, and my prayers are for the American people. All power to the people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the people's House gathers today, our Nation's heart is heavy as once again our domestic tranquility has been shattered by the selfish and violent actions witnessed yesterday near the finish line of the Boston Marathon.

We ask Your blessing, Lord, on those who died and those who mourn them, on those who were physically injured, and on those who have been emotionally traumatized. We give You thanks for those many who responded to the injured and to those who kept the order and keep it still.

And send Your Spirit upon whomever perpetrated this bombing and others who might contemplate emulating it. Calm their troubled souls, stay their violent hands. May those tasked with investigating this tragedy find success in their work, so that justice might be served and peace returned to our Nation's communities.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. O'ROURKE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEES ON THE JUDICIARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignations as a member of the Committees on the Judiciary and Homeland Security:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 16, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In light of my recent appointment to the House Committee on Financial Services, I hereby resign my position on both the House Committee on the Judiciary and the House Committee on Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

KEITH ROTHFUS,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the resignations are accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 162

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Rothfus.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HONORING SAIGE HALSETH

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

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Saige Halseth, a fifth-grade student at Shawnee Heights Elementary School in Topeka, Kansas, who has brought together her community by helping her classmate, Alex White.

Alex suffers from a progressive neurological condition that affects his balance and mobility, and relied on a special companion, a service dog named

Hope, until March, when Hope was tragically killed by a motorist. For Alex, Hope was a blessing, a best friend and, to quote Alex directly, quite the “chick magnet.”

Saige knows how much Alex depended on Hope, and she started a fund-raising campaign to help him afford a new service dog. She wrote letters sharing his story and sold wristbands that read, “Always Have Hope.”

I want to thank Saige, a caring young leader and inspiration to her community, for her selfless commitment to helping her friend, Alex.

It's because of young people like Alex and Saige that even after yesterday's tragedy in Boston, we can always have hope.

THERE IS STILL MUCH MORE TO LEARN ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, I will participate in a symposium on dementia being sponsored by the western New York chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. This event is a reminder that, while progress has been made in understanding Alzheimer's, there is still a great deal that we must learn about how to treat this terrible illness.

Alzheimer's is a disease whose origins are unknown, but whose end is absolutely certain. It's a disease that's touched the families of many in this Chamber, including my own.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, as many as 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, with its prevalence expected to increase over the next several decades.

With so many in Washington mindlessly devoted to the agenda of austerity, we must remember that our budget is not only an accounting statement, but also a statement of our values. I urge the rejection of austerity and an increase in the funding we need for medical research to find a cure for diseases like Alzheimer's that devastate so many American families.

DOUBLE DIP: SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as part of my ongoing effort to protect precious, hard-earned taxpayer dollars by going after waste, fraud, and abuse, I have introduced a commonsense bill, H.R. 1502—listen up—the Social Security Disability Insurance and Unemployment Benefits Double Dip Elimination Act of 2013.

This bill would stop people from receiving disability at the same time they are receiving unemployment. Under current law, a person can receive

both disability and unemployment at the same time. This isn't right. It just doesn't make sense. I don't know how someone can be able and available to work and also be unable to work because of a disability.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill in order to help make sure the disability program is there for those who truly cannot work.

President Obama also included a similar proposal in his budget, and I look forward to working with the administration to get this bill signed into law.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of immigration reform. I wanted to take a moment to read an excerpt from a letter I received from Father Sean Carroll, a Jesuit priest who's with the Kino Border Initiative in Arizona.

He writes:

I have been working with deported migrant men, women, and children along the U.S. border with Mexico. These past 4 years I have witnessed their brokenness in body and spirit.

I have held the hand of a mother separated from her children in Chicago and listened to a father deported away from his children in North Dakota. I have been present with the son seeking to be reunited with his mother in Central California.

I know God calls us not to oppress the widow, the orphan, and the stranger—Exodus 22 and Deuteronomy 27—and yet I have witnessed how we make widows out of women migrants when we deport them away from their husbands. And I'm aware of how we turn U.S. children into orphans by repatriating their parents to Mexico and placing them in foster care.

I see the ways we reject the stranger, the person seeking a better life for their families, the one who, in the Gospel of Matthew, reflects the presence of Jesus Himself.

What would happen if we accepted God's invitation to remember the moments that we were in exile, in Exodus, the times when we felt like strangers, and to recall how God had led us through those experiences to new life?

□ 1210

TRAGEDY IN BOSTON

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we saw yet another sickening act of terror yesterday in Boston. It was a grim reminder that there is evil in the world. There are those with dark hearts and twisted ideologies bent on killing Americans because of who we are and the values we hold dear.

Early reports indicate the bombs were packed with metal ball bearings to inflict maximum carnage on the innocent. One of the innocent was an 8-year-old boy found dead among the

smoke, confusion, and blood. Eight years old.

As we track down the killer or killers, let us pray for the victims and their families, and let us resolve to never take the freedoms we enjoy as Americans for granted, never take the service of those who protect our freedoms for granted, never forget those who've made the ultimate sacrifice, and never underestimate the lengths to which America's enemies will go to do us harm.

But, Mr. Speaker, our enemies should never, ever underestimate America's resolve to hold accountable those responsible for this deadly attack.

REMEMBERING NAVAL FLIGHT OFFICER WILLIAM BROWN McILVAINE, III

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember William Brown McIlvaine, III, a naval flight officer from El Paso, Texas, who led an exemplary life. Lieutenant Junior Grade McIlvaine died last month during a training flight when his Prowler airplane crashed.

In his 24 years, William accomplished remarkable things and touched many lives with his friendship and his kindness. He was commissioned from the U.S. Naval Academy with Merit in May 2010 with a degree in chemistry. His lifelong dream was to fly, and he earned his wings in May 2012 at the Pensacola Naval Air Station. William was also a gifted musician. He sang in a cappella groups and played the bagpipes. During his time at Annapolis, he led the Pipes and Drums, which toured the U.S. and played in parades, including the St. Patrick's Day parade in Boston.

We remember William as someone who lived his dreams and died serving his Nation. On behalf of the El Paso community, I am proud to honor William's extraordinary life and his service.

HONORING THE DOOLITTLE RAIDERS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the Doolittle Raiders. Seventy-one years ago this Thursday, 16 Army bombers took off from the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, the USS Hornet. The Hornet was spotted by the Japanese hundreds of miles before their intended launch point. Led by Colonel Doolittle, all 16 bombers were launched, knowing that they would not have the fuel for safe shelter and they would crash land in enemy territory. A short 4 months after Pearl Harbor, these heroes bombed Tokyo and sent a message to the world that America