

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a significant milestone that occurred 50 years ago this week.

On April 11, 1965, President Johnson signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The enactment of the ESEA followed the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, guaranteeing all children equal educational opportunities. Unfortunately, communities with high concentrations of poverty have never enjoyed equal rights. So, for the last 50 years, the ESEA has remained the single-largest Federal resource for schools that teach our most vulnerable students.

If we are to keep our promise of equal educational opportunity for all, then we must redouble our efforts to level the public education playing field by ensuring that all students have both the resources to achieve academic excellence and the promise of action to intervene when their academic needs aren't being met.

This year, we need to renew ESEA in order to bring our education system into the 21st century, and we must not waver in our commitment to basic civil rights and education that we made 50 years ago this week.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, today, April 13, marks the birthday of Thomas Jefferson—America's third President and one of our greatest—who was responsible in so many ways for the creation of this great Nation.

Thomas Jefferson said on his very simple tombstone at Monticello that he was the author of the American Declaration of Independence, the author of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, and the father of the University of Virginia—those things that, in his mind, he had done for the United States rather than those things that the people of the United States had done for him.

Thomas Jefferson always felt that his greatest achievement throughout his life was the preservation of the American Republic—our system of separation of powers, of checks and balances. Above all, he believed very strongly in, all power not given to the Federal Government is reserved to the States and the people respectively.

That great, good man was born on this day, April 13, 1743, and I hope that the Congress of the United States and the people of the United States will continue to honor his legacy by preserving and protecting this great inheritance, the American Republic, with its separation of powers and its recognition that all power is reserved to the States or to the people respectively.

ALL LIVES MATTER

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, just as the President does, the United States Congress has the bully pulpit. In doing so, I believe that America cries out for a response. Over the past 6 months to a year, we have seen a number of tragic incidences occurring between civilians and police. In particular, we cite the tragedy of the shooting of Walter Scott in South Carolina.

All lives matter.

To those who have been petitioning and protesting—young people indicating that black lives matter—it is a reflection of the high number of African Americans who find themselves at the wrong end of the gun of someone engaged in law enforcement.

We know that there are good people who serve this Nation, and we are a law-abiding nation. So, Mr. Speaker, I think it is extremely important that we begin an open discussion in the Congress that deals with the issues of lethal force, excessive force, police training, statistics.

I intend to introduce and to ask my colleagues to join me on the Cadet bill, which reaches a wide-ranging perspective of the statistics of shootings in America—civilian shootings on police and law enforcement shootings on civilians—because that is the science of criminal justice reform. I draw upon this to say that we cannot be silent anymore. People are hurting. My sympathy to those who have lost lives, including law enforcement and our civilians.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE 18 VICTIMS FROM THE INDEPENDENT HAITIAN ASSEMBLY OF GOD CONGREGATION

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

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last month, 18 members of the Independent Haitian Assembly of God congregation from my district in Florida were involved in a fatal bus accident while traveling home from a church congregation. The accident left 10 individuals with severe injuries, and 8 members of the congregation were fatally wounded.

This weekend, our community will join together to lay them to rest, but I want to take this opportunity on the House floor today to honor those victims who perished.

As it often happens in times of tragedy, our community has come together to support the entire Independent Haitian Assembly of God community. Our hearts go out to the victims of this tragedy, to their families, and to this entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the names of the victims who died in this terrible accident.

VICTIMS OF THE INDEPENDENT HAITIAN ASSEMBLY OF GOD BUS ACCIDENT

Volsaint Marsaille, 58, of Fort Pierce; Judge Petit-Frere, 66, of Fort Pierce; Obernise Petit-Frere, 58, of Fort Pierce; Lifaité Lochar, 58, of Fort Pierce; Madeleine William, 53, of Fort Pierce; Wanie Larose, 60, of Fort Pierce; Dazilla Joseph, 79, of Fort Pierce; Servilus Dieudonne, 71, of Fort Pierce.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. As a Representative from this area, I offer my heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased on behalf of every Member of this body. Our community is strong, and we stand ready to support you as you lay your loved ones to rest.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday April 11, our Nation commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Seven years have passed since No Child Left Behind was signed into law, which was the last reauthorization of the ESEA. A new reauthorization is long overdue. We need to make children our priority by providing equal opportunity for a quality education for all children.

The partisan manner this House displayed for the ESEA's reauthorization is disheartening and leaves too many of our children behind. Democrats and Republicans should be working together to draft a bill that ensures that all students have access to a world class education, that ensures that States set high standards and goals to ensure all students graduate career or college ready, and that ensures that strong accountability measures are in place for children and families.

Let us return to the table and draft a bill that will support an equitable 21st century education system.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 50th anniversary of the ESEA, we reflect on the simple yet powerful promises that are at the center of this civil rights law, promises made to all American children—a promise that no matter where you live or what you look like you will not be ignored, a promise that no matter what resources you have you will not be undervalued, a promise that, no matter what, you deserve a quality education.

The ESEA was a substantial step towards fulfilling these promises, but we still have work to do. As we work towards reauthorization, we cannot break those promises. We cannot break