

heat, without sufficient breaks, or adequate protective gear.

These hazards have led countries like Russia and Kazakhstan to restrict tobacco harvesting to adults, but no such protections exist for children in the United States.

The time has come for the United States of America to bring child labor laws in line with our American values and give all of our children the fundamental protections they need and rightfully deserve.

That is why I am once again re-introducing the Children's Act for Responsible Employment, better known as the CARE Act.

While retaining current exemptions for family farms and agricultural education programs like 4-H and Future Farmers of America, the CARE Act raises labor standards and protections for farm worker children to the same level set for children in all other occupations.

Specifically the CARE ACT ends our country's double standard that allows children in agriculture to work at younger ages and for longer hours than those working in all other industries.

It raises the minimum age for agricultural work to 14 and restricts children under 16 from work that interferes with their education or endangers their health and well-being.

The CARE Act also prohibits children under the age of 18 from working in agricultural jobs which the Department of Labor has declared as particularly hazardous. This is consistent with current law governing every industry outside of agriculture.

No child should be discriminated against based on the work they do. All of America's children deserve to be protected equally under our laws.

Mr. Speaker, it is our moral obligation to do everything in our power to protect the rights, safety and educational future of our most precious resource—America's children, and I urge my colleagues to support the CARE Act.

HONORING COLONEL JAMES C.  
HODGES

**HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2015*

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel James C. Hodges of the United States Air Force for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our nation as the Commander at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey. Colonel Hodges is leaving his position at the Joint Base and transitioning to a new role.

Today, the Joint Base stands as a model, state-of-the-art facility with Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard operations, including airlift and air refueling, soldier training and deployment and aircraft carrier research and development. The Joint Base's officers provide an invaluable service to the military. In particular, the 87th Air Base Wing provides installation management support for 3,933 facilities with an approximate value of \$9.3 billion in physical infrastructure.

Colonel Hodges has been serving as the 87th Air Base Wing Commander and Installation Commander, where he has provided installation support to more than 80 mission partners. Colonel Hodges has also been re-

sponsible for providing mission-ready expeditionary Airmen and Sailors to combatant commanders in support of joint and combined operations. As the Commander of the Nation's only Tri-Service Base, Colonel Hodges has had a very difficult job, which he has performed masterfully.

A career civil engineer, Colonel Hodges obtained his degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1991. Upon receiving such degree, Colonel Hodges has served a variety of staff positions at the base, major command, joint, multinational and Pentagon levels. He has also commanded at the squadron and group level. His contingency experience includes service as a commander of an expeditionary civil engineer squadron in Operation Iraqi Freedom and as a joint-multinational staff officer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Along with his lengthy service, Colonel Hodges has devoted countless hours of his time to furthering his education. He holds a Master of Science in engineering and policy from Washington University, a Master of Arts in organizational management from George Washington University and a Master of Strategic Studies from the Air War College.

Colonel Hodges' great work has not gone unnoticed. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Joint Achievement Medal and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Colonel James C. Hodges as he transitions into a new role and continues to serve the United States of America. I wish him the best as he proceeds into the next chapter of his career.

HONORING MICHAEL KARLS OF  
THE FESTUS TIGERS

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2015*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Michael Karls of the Festus Tigers for his first place win in the 3200 Meter Run at the 2015 Class 4 Track and Field State Championship.

Michael and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community. He was also chosen as his school's scholar-athlete of the 2014–2015 year by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Michael Karls of the Festus Tigers for a job well done.

HONORING WASHINGTON STATE  
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ELSON  
FLOYD

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2015*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today we remember the life of Washington State Univer-

sity President Elson Floyd. Dr. Floyd was one of the leading lights of education in our state. He not only ensured that he personally engaged with the lives of the students on his own campus, but he advocated for higher education across the state to any who would listen. He made educating his top priority and took extra measures to help his school succeed—such as cutting his own salary when he saw the effects of the economic downturn on WSU. I have had the pleasure of personally meeting Dr. Floyd and was moved by his passion and sincerity. We need more men and women like him throughout this country, helping our young people realize the advantages of pursuing a good education and pursue their dreams. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife and children as well as with his WSU family. As we say in the law enforcement world, he is gone but never forgotten.

CELEBRATING THE 77TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2015*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 77th Anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

As you know, we can thank the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1938, for providing workers with an hourly minimum wage, overtime pay, and child labor protections. Since then, the FLSA has been amended numerous times in an attempt to reflect changes in the cost of living. The most recent increase was in 2007, bringing the hourly minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to its current rate of \$7.25 per hour.

Unfortunately, many key components of the FLSA are outdated and have failed to keep pace with the demands of daily life in 2015. This includes the value of the minimum wage, which has decreased sharply over the past few years—a mere \$7.25 per hour equates to \$14,500 per year for a full-time minimum wage employee. This makes it difficult for individuals to support themselves and their families, forcing many people to live below the poverty line. Other present day workers' concerns include the subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has remained at \$2.13 per hour for the past two decades. Domestic workers lack access to health care, paid sick days or paid time off—something I believe must be changed. Moreover, “comp time” in lieu of overtime pay, and break time for nursing mothers are workers' rights issues that need to be addressed in order to have a more productive workforce that can compete in a global marketplace, as well as to maintain a thriving society here at home.

We just celebrated the Fair Labor Standards Act's 75th Anniversary two years ago, and there was a lot of positive discussion around the issue at that time. We must keep up this momentum and continue to fight for workers' rights in our increasingly global economy. People deserve a livable wage for a hard days' work, and we urge you to bring up legislation that will lift so many Americans out of poverty.