

Arkansas mourn the loss of my fellow Russellville Cyclone and his fellow servicemen. My prayers are with his wife, Lorri; his two children, Rebecca and Heath; and his parents, Lew Wyatt of St. Augustine, Florida, and Deborah Boen of Atkins, Arkansas.

May God bless those he leaves behind, as they search for peace and understanding through this terrible tragedy.

LONG-TERM SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BILL

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have had more than 4½ years to craft a long-term surface transportation bill. Their dysfunction and inability to govern is starting to have a real impact on hard-working Americans and on our communities.

They continue to lurch from crisis to crisis; meanwhile, our Nation's crumbling roads and bridges—and our economy—suffer as a result. It is like *deja vu* all over again, another highway deadline this week.

Mr. Speaker, no more short-term month-to-month fixes. Enough is enough. In the last decade, Congress has passed 11 short-term funding bills to keep the highway trust fund solvent. If we are going to pass a long-term solution to rebuild our roads and bridges, it is going to take the courage of our convictions; it is going to take us working together across the aisle to get this done.

Our Nation's roads, bridges, and rails are in an urgent state of repair. One-third of America's roads are in poor or mediocre condition. One out of every four bridge is in need of significant repair.

The House Republican leadership needs to get serious and find a long-term fix to the highway trust fund. Our country relies on it.

FARM FAMILIES—LINKING THE PAST TO THE FUTURE

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the importance of farm families throughout the great State of Minnesota.

The University of Minnesota recently recognized the 2015 Minnesota Farm Families from across the State, and I am proud to represent five of these families who call the Sixth Congressional District home.

These farm families include the Bruce Bacon Garden Farm in Anoka County, the Scapanski Dairy in Benton County, the Buckentine Family Dairy in Carver County, the Reuter Family Farm in Washington County, and the Bernings' Green Waves Farm, Inc., in Wright County.

For many Minnesotans, farming isn't just a profession; it is a way of life. Family farms link the past to the future with each generation passing their work ethic, land, and traditions to the next. These farms make up the heartland of America and exemplify what makes Minnesota's agriculture industry great, which is why they should be celebrated.

Congratulations to the 2015 Minnesota Farm Families, and thank you so much for everything that you do.

REFORM OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I came to the floor and said it felt like open season on Black men in America. People around the country agree that the police killings undermine the efforts of good police and break the trust between police and their communities.

Black women and girls face the same threats and many more. Unsettling video of a police officer in Texas manhandling an unarmed 15-year-old girl in a bathing suit served as a wake-up call to all of us.

The arrest and death of Sandra Bland reminds us that the fight for equal justice under the law continues.

Black women also face a unique and, too often, unreported violence: sexual assault. In Oklahoma, an officer is on trial for sexually assaulting eight Black women. Tragically, this story is not unique. The challenges Black men face are real, but I was humbled to learn how unequal justice affects Black women.

Black women are the fastest growing prison population, and their stories must be told if we are going to break this trend.

Mr. Speaker, it is open season on all Americans.

FLOOD INSURANCE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to underscore a serious problem in Pasco County, Florida, this week that is devastating homeowners—flooding—after days of continuous rain.

After Tropical Storm Debby in 2012, the Army Corps of Engineers worked with county officials to implement some measures to mitigate flooding, but more needs to be done.

For instance, Pasco County officials have been working for 19 years to extend Ridge Road. One of the main justifications for the Ridge Road extension is a matter of safety. An extension is a much-needed evacuation route in the case of natural disasters, like flooding or hurricanes.

As of today, an evacuation issued for Elnora, Florida, in my district, is ongoing.

The Ridge Road extension needs to be approved. Nineteen years is far too long. The Army Corps must stop dragging its feet.

The serious flood this week demonstrates the need for action. I hope that the Corps gets the message.

PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN MEDICARE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of our responsibility to preserve and strengthen the Medicare Program for future generations.

Last week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released its annual Medicare trustees report, an update on the long-term solvency and effectiveness of this vastly important health insurance program.

While the report projected that the trust fund that finances Medicare's hospital insurance coverage will remain solvent until 2030, it also cautioned that a high number of Medicare beneficiaries could see their Medicare part B premiums sharply increase in January of 2016.

As a former healthcare professional and nursing home administrator, I understand the importance of providing access to quality care at a realistic cost. One of the ways we can make Medicare services more affordable is by targeting waste and abuse within the program.

With this in mind, I have consistently worked with my colleagues to introduce and support legislation aimed at reducing fraud and increasing administrative effectiveness.

I look forward to continuing these efforts and urge my colleagues to join me in finding new ways to safeguard and sustain Medicare.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EMMER of Minnesota) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 24, 2015.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 24, 2015 at 10:19 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 23.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 2499.

That the Senate passed without an amendment H.R. 1626.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.