

First, we explore the roots of hunger and renew our commitment to tackling this urgent problem. Hunger and food insecurity are obstacles that no family, no child, and no senior should have to confront. More than 477,000 people in Dallas County are food insecure, including over 172,000 children. In Congress, I have been a steadfast supporter of anti-hunger programs. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of preserving nutrition programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

Often, I remind my colleagues that 95% of SNAP funding goes directly to families to purchase food. For many of these at-risk populations, SNAP is the sole form of income assistance they receive and is a powerful anecdote to extreme poverty. Tens of millions of people rely on federal nutrition programs to feed their families and help make ends meet. When we know that nutrition programs not only help struggling families, but also generate economic activity, we must support these assistance programs.

At last year's Summit, we came together to learn, share about our successes and challenge ourselves to do more. This past year we have seen a fantastic growth in partnerships as many of you lent your time, passion and expertise to the work of the Coalition and its five Action Teams. I'm glad to share just a few of the great things that have been accomplished this year. First, the Child Hunger Action Team continued to partner with DISD to expand the number of schools that served suppers during afterschool programs—growing participation from 28 in 2013 to over 160 today. Second, the Faith Community Action Team organized 15 congregations and ministries to jointly provide vegetable gardens to 190 families across the County, many of them growing their own food for the very first time. Third, the Senior Hunger Action Team has begun implementing collaborative pilot initiatives to increase the number of seniors with access to SNAP benefits and to increase participation in senior congregate meal programs. This is vital as we owe it to our seniors to make sure they have the food they need to be healthy. Fourth, the Urban Agriculture Action Team achieved a great victory in spurring the City of Dallas to amend zoning ordinances to allow sales from urban gardens, which will both increase access to healthy food, and spur jobs and economic development. Lastly, the Neighborhood Organizing Action Team successfully launched a new, resident-led community organization called Empowering Oak Cliff, which is engaging community members in southern Oak Cliff in leading a holistic campaign for neighborhood revitalization, including ensuring that the many seniors in the community have access to healthy food.

Thanks so much to all of you that have been part of making these achievements possible. It is amazing what can be accomplished when we work together. Thank you to all of the participants and especially to the Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions for your commitment to this cause.

WELCOMING HIS HOLINESS, POPE FRANCIS, TO THE UNITED STATES AND EMBRACING HIS MESSAGE OF HOPE, HEALING, AND RECONCILIATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District, I rise to express joy and appreciation on the occasion of the historic visit to the United States by His Holiness, Pope Francis.

I am deeply honored to have participated in the historic arrival ceremony at the White House welcoming His Holiness, the spiritual leader of 70 million Catholic Americans and 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide.

I wish to thank President Obama for his gracious welcoming remarks on behalf of the American people which conveyed to Pope Francis and the world what is best about our nation.

I especially appreciate Pope Francis's message of hope, healing, and reconciliation which inspires us all to do more "to care for the least of these," to be good stewards of the earth, and to work for peace.

Mr. Speaker, the messages of President Obama and Pope Francis affirm the value and good works performed daily by Catholic organizations and charities in the United States, including those in my congressional district represented by the many advocates for social justice who accepted by invitation and made the pilgrimage from Houston to Washington, D.C. to bear witness to this historic and joyful occasion.

I am pleased that my office was able to extend invitations to many organizations and Galveston-Houston Archdiocese churches from my congressional district to come to Washington, D.C. to salute His Holiness.

Among them are the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, St. Francis Assisi Catholic Church, St. Monica Catholic Church, Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, and a number of Houston's Wounded Warriors.

I am also pleased that Deacon Sam Dunning, the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston's Director of the Office of Justice and Peace, was able to join me in celebrating the pontiff's visit, as were students and staff from St. Pius X High School, members of the Idbo Catholic Community, and World Harvest Outreach.

In his moving remarks today, Pope Francis reminded us that "the Creator does not abandon us" and that we "still have time to make the change needed to bring about a sustainable and integral development."

Mr. Speaker, every day in communities across America and around the world, Catholic organizations and agencies can be found doing the Lord's work of caring for the poor, the sick, the needy, the aged, the helpless, the lost and hopeless.

We see the fruits of this work in the sanctuary found by women fleeing from domestic violence, in the reunification of families separated by natural disasters, in the shelter found by a homeless wounded warrior suffering from PTSD, and the love and support given the child of undocumented immigrants who seek

only the chance to make a better life for themselves and their family in a land that has always been the most welcoming nation on earth.

Mr. Speaker, the good works of the Catholic Church are on display daily in my congressional district where agencies and organizations supported by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston take to heart the biblical injunction that we are our brother's keeper.

Ten years ago, for example, Hurricane Katrina forced thousands of people to flee New Orleans and relocate to Houston.

Among these persons were an adoption specialist for Catholic Charities in New Orleans, one of the birthmothers she was working with, and the adoptive family the birthmothers had just chosen for her baby.

With phone lines down and no communication between them, the adoption was sure to fall through, but somehow they found each other in Houston and the adoption was put back on track.

The Lord works in mysterious ways indeed.

The day following the flood that struck the Houston area this past Memorial Day, staff members of Catholic Charities of the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese were out in the field assessing the needs of their senior citizen clients, one of whom was 74-year old Minthia Terry.

Ms. Terry survived the flood but her house was severely damaged; thanks to Catholic Charities her damaged house was restored and she is able to live safe and secure in the home she worked so hard to acquire.

The Lotus Project is a program of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston that helps homeless female veterans rebuild their lives.

I am thankful for the Lotus Project, and so is a woman named Yolanda.

Yolanda served her country honorably in the Armed Forces but her three-year tour of duty left her with emotional scars that still affect her today.

She was a victim of verbal abuse by an officer, which escalated to physical violence, and then to sexual assault.

After reporting the abuse, violence and assault she had suffered, she underwent psychological counseling and was subsequently honorably discharged.

But the emotional and psychic scars resulting from her traumatic experience did not disappear after her separation from the military.

To combat them and cope with the pressure of caring for her two young sons, Yolanda turned to drugs and alcohol, and committed offenses that landed her in prison.

During her third stint in prison, Yolanda renewed her relationship with God and dedicated herself to a new life, but she needed help to get there.

When the Lotus Project helped her get an apartment under her own name, she cried; then with the help and support of the Lotus Project she went about the business of furthering her education so she can support her family and be a positive role model for her children.

Mr. Speaker, a woman named Esmerelda was living in a rapidly deteriorating situation.

When she became a victim of domestic violence, she knew she had to leave.

But because her immigration paperwork was not in order, she did not believe it would be

safe to turn to law enforcement authorities for help.

Thankfully, she was able to turn to Catholic Charities who helped her secure safe housing, assisted her in applying for an adjustment of her immigration status, and helped her secure employment at a full-time job that support her and her daughter.

These are but a few of the countless miracles of hope and healing that Catholic organizations and agencies work every day and which demonstrate, as the Talmud teaches, that "whosoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world."

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that Members of Congress will receive the hopeful message of the first pontiff to address a joint session of the Congress of the United States with open hearts and in a spirit of goodwill.

If we do this, I am confident we will be able to come together and find the common ground necessary to address the real problems and concerns of the American people such as fixing our broken immigration system, making college affordable, reducing the economic disparities, and reforming the criminal justice system.

In the hopeful message of Pope Francis, we are shown the way to grace.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans are honored by the visit to the United States of Pope Francis, an amazing servant of humanity and an inspiration to people the world over.

HONORING PAULA EMIGH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Paula Emigh a retired teacher, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Paula Emigh was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Paula Emigh was born and raised in Solano County, graduating from Dixon High School. As a student, Paula was very involved in school activities and believes that her experiences as a student led her to consider a career in teaching. When Paula was an undergraduate at the University of California, Santa Barbara, she had an internship at a special education center in the area, where she was first exposed to teaching children with special needs. This experience convinced her that her future was in special education.

Whereas, after graduating, Paula began a substitute position in Woodland which eventually led to over 30 years as a special education teacher. She was an integral team member in the development of the BEST program at Freeman Elementary School, helping to create a positive school climate for staff, students, and families. Because of the incredible work she has done with staff on disability awareness, Paula was named Woodland Joint Unified School District's 2014 Educator of the Year.

Whereas, in all ways imaginable, Paula credits her career as being a team effort. Throughout her years teaching, Paula worked cooperatively with many paraprofessionals,

parents, and families. Together they were able to prioritize and strategize plans to allow the students to grow beyond previous expectations.

Resolved, that I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Paula Emigh.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MAYOR REID

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very happy 90th birthday to Pearland, Texas Mayor Tom Reid.

Mayor Reid has seen a great deal over the last 90 years—during his lifetime he's seen humans walk on the moon and the invention of the Internet. In his nearly 30 years as mayor of Pearland, Mr. Reid has seen his city boom in both population and economic strength. Mayor Reid is a dedicated mayor who has guided Pearland through some tremendous growth. Thank you to Mayor Reid for his steadfast leadership of this great city in Texas 22. We all wish him many more years of health and happiness.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, happy birthday to Mayor Tom Reid.

TRIBUTE TO PAT MCGINN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lt. Pat McGinn of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on his recent retirement from the Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Department, where he completed 31 years of service.

Lt. McGinn has worked for the Sheriff's office since he was 24 years old, and during his tenure he has risen through the ranks within the Sheriff's department. Lt. McGinn has worked and supervised road patrol, civil and records divisions, technical accident investigations, K-9 patrol, and uniform patrol. He retired as a Deputy.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. McGinn has spent his career making a difference in his community by helping and serving others, and it is with great honor that I recognize him today. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in honoring his accomplishments. I thank him for his service to Pottawattamie County and wish him and his family all the best moving forward.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. CHARLES ALLEN WATERS, JR.

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my colleagues, Representative

COSTA and Representative VALADAO, to recognize the life and valued service of Dr. Charles "Charlie" Allen Waters, Jr., a distinguished military veteran and community advocate who passed away on September 3, 2015 in Fresno, California.

Dr. Waters was born on September 17, 1932 in Norfolk, Virginia. He was the son of Naval Officer Charles Allen Waters, Sr. Charlie served in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) from 1951 to 1958 and fought in the Korean War from 1951 to 1952. Charlie received many medals and awards for his honorable service in Korea, most recently the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal.

For the past few decades, Charlie made an immeasurable impact in Fresno and the greater San Joaquin Valley by serving on numerous boards, commissions, and foundations supporting veterans, and the community as a whole. The opening of the Fresno Veterans Home was due in large part to his invaluable and tireless efforts. Dr. Waters served as President of the Central California Veterans Home Support Foundation (CCVHSF), was Past Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps League Detachment 14, and Commander of American Legion Post 4, in addition to his many unofficial contributions to other local organizations.

A diligent champion of Fresno veterans, Dr. Waters once said, "I have a great affinity for anyone who would go into service and volunteer their life. So, whatever I can do for my comrades, I do." These words speak to his deep commitment to service and his inexhaustible altruism.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that we ask our colleagues in the House of Representatives to honor the life of Dr. Charlie Waters. He will always be remembered as a man of great service and dedication. It is our hope that his memory will live on through his family, the veterans groups he guided and supported and we trust that his legacy will live on for years to come.

HONORING PREET DIDBAL

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Preet Didbal a city councilwoman for Yuba City, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Preet Didbal was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, against all odds, Preet Didbal made history when she took the oath of office December 2, 2014 to become the first Sikh American woman elected to the Yuba City Council. The daughter of farm laborers, Preet worked alongside her parents in the peach and prune orchards and on the graveyard shift at the local cannery during the summer months. She was the first in her family to attend and graduate college, earning her Master's degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Health Services. She is a health care services manager with the California Department of Corrections.

Whereas, Preet's focus as a councilwoman is on education, children and public safety.