

that it is a livable wage. If you work in this country, you ought not to be poor, and you certainly ought not to be homeless.

Mr. Speaker, in the richest country on the planet, I know we can do more to solve homelessness. Spending the night at the Interfaith Hospitality Network was a learning experience. I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same in their districts.

Those of us who serve in Congress are blessed that we don't have to worry about whether or not we will have a roof over our heads on any given night, but there are many families, too many families all throughout this country who do. We need to do a better job of listening to their stories, of trying to lend a helping hand so that they can get out of their difficult situation and move on to a better life.

I urge my colleagues to listen to what I said today and to do what I did and spend a night in a shelter in their own district.

#### STACIE WALLS STORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the war on coal touches every family in my home State of West Virginia. Whether you are a miner or not, you feel the consequences of this administration's regulations that are shutting down our coal mines.

Closing a coal mine doesn't just affect a miner and his family. It affects everyone in the community, from the small town mom-and-pop stores who depend on customers, to our schools that depend on tax revenue. A decline in coal hurts us all.

Stacie Walls contacted me. She is a wife of a coal miner and a mother in Boone County. She sees the consequences firsthand.

Here is what she wrote me: "My husband has been laid off four times since last April.

"Because of the war on coal, my county is closing my son's school due to not having the coal tax to help keep it opened.

"My son's education is now going to suffer because of the war on coal. I've watched many families leave the State because they must find work.

"There are more 'for sale' signs up than there are kids riding their bikes."

This, Mr. Speaker, is Stacie. This is Stacie's family. These are the true faces of the war on coal.

West Virginia's families deserve peace of mind. It is time for the EPA to get off the backs of West Virginians and let them do the work that powers our Nation and puts food on our tables.

I am working every day in Congress for our coal families, for all families. I believe in the future of West Virginia coal.

President Obama must stop his war on coal, and we must pass policies that

create jobs to ensure a future for West Virginians in West Virginia.

#### TWO GREAT AMERICAN HEROES

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Bipartisan Policy Center for the establishment of the Congressional Patriot Award and naming SAM JOHNSON and JOHN LEWIS as its first recipients.

I can think of no two people who are more deserving than SAM JOHNSON and JOHN LEWIS, both of whom serve in this Chamber with distinction, both of whom I have the honor of serving with on the Committee on Ways and Means who do an extraordinary job on behalf of the citizenry of this great Nation. For all of our membership here, we can all be proud to say that we served with both SAM JOHNSON and JOHN LEWIS.

I want to thank and commend TOM COLE, my co-chairman in this effort, on behalf of our two esteemed colleagues. By now every Member should have received, and the public will become increasingly aware of, an invitation to this event on March 15. The event will be held at the Library of Congress. What a fitting place for us to honor our colleagues. The Library will have on display photos and documents from the Vietnam war and photos and documents from the civil rights movement.

It was 50 years ago that SAM JOHNSON was shot down over Vietnam. It was 51 years ago that JOHN LEWIS made that historic trek from Selma to Montgomery and crossing over the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Most people don't realize today that SAM JOHNSON was imprisoned by the Vietcong for 7 years, 42 months of which he spent in solitary confinement, nearly beaten to death but never said a word. What an incredible American.

JOHN LEWIS, nearly beaten to death by the Alabama police as he had the temerity to lock arms and cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge, faced with undaunted courage an unwelcoming crowd who could never deter the will of a movement that he is so identified with.

To have the Bipartisan Policy Center recognize a conservative, a progressive, a Republican, a Democrat, people who served this Nation extraordinarily with their patriotism long before they ever got here, to have a medal named in their honor and to present that once in a biennium to deserving Members of this body, past and present, is a great notion.

It demonstrates to the American people that at the end of the day it is not about conservative or liberal or it is not about Democrat or Republican, it is about the great nation that we serve. There are no more exemplary figures than SAM JOHNSON and JOHN LEWIS.

JOHN MCCAIN will be presenting on behalf of SAM JOHNSON. No one under-

stands what SAM JOHNSON endured better than Senator JOHN MCCAIN. Andrew Young will be speaking on behalf of JOHN LEWIS. He was alongside of JOHN LEWIS during that historic march. No one knows better what they endured.

We are so fortunate to both have the Library of Congress but also to have David Rubenstein, who will be there, who will conduct an interview that evening with SAM JOHNSON and JOHN LEWIS. It will be a wonderful evening, made more special by what the Library of Congress will present in terms of what transpired 50 and 51 years ago respectively, but made greater by the presence of everybody here recognizing the great contribution of our colleagues, SAM JOHNSON and JOHN LEWIS.

I look forward to having everybody on March 15 at the Library of Congress to recognize these two great American heroes.

#### HISTORIC ROSENWALD SCHOOLS

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, for recently freed African Americans, education denied to them under slavery was a critical component of understanding freedom.

In the wake of the Civil War, with the widespread awareness that education was essential to the advancement of a free people in this society, African Americans flocked to schools established by the Freedmen's Bureau.

The recognition of this relationship between schools, community, and the broader ideal of the American Dream led African American parents and teachers to be among the first Southerners to advocate for universal public education.

However, the dual education system that arose, determined by race and based on the fiction of separate but equal, brought about a hand-me-down approach to Black education in the South. This flawed duality resulted in the perpetuation and exacerbation of institutional inequity.

In the face of such obstacles, leaders like Booker T. Washington, founder of the Tuskegee Institute, embraced and expanded on the early belief in education as the great hope of a truly democratic society.

Washington's vision inspired many, including philanthropist and president of Sears, Roebuck, Julius Rosenwald.

The philanthropic and educational partnership between these two men led to the construction of 5,000 Rosenwald schools across 15 Southern States. In Arkansas, 389 school buildings were constructed in 45 of our 75 counties, with communities pooling their often meager resources to fulfill Rosenwald's pledge to match their contribution.

For many, these buildings were not simply schools but monuments to Black achievement and symbols for an ardent hope in a better future. Rosenwald schools contributed to the education of thousands of African American students across the American

South, including notable figures like Arkansas poet Maya Angelou and our own esteemed colleague and friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

In 1954, with the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, to which Julius Rosenwald contributed one-third of the litigation costs, his carefully crafted schools became obsolete. In Arkansas, the tensions behind this great achievement played out in the tumultuous 1957 Little Rock Central High crisis. The courageous determination of the Little Rock Nine hearkens back to that fundamental belief in education equals freedom.

This is the continuing legacy of Washington, of Rosenwald, and the countless parents and teachers who were determined to give future generations the means of mobility, economic advancement, opportunity.

In 2002, the National Trust for Historic Preservation listed Rosenwald schools as one of America's most 11 endangered places. Today in Arkansas, only 18 of those original school buildings remain. One of those remaining buildings is in the Second Congressional District. The only Rosenwald school to be built in Perry County, the Bigelow Rosenwald School, was constructed in 1926.

After 38 years of service toward education, the Bigelow Rosenwald School was transformed into a community center. With a revival of interest in and knowledge about the schools, efforts are being formed around the country to restore these embodiments of our history.

Aviva Kempner's documentary "Rosenwald" pays tribute to the man, his work, and the rippling impact on the evolution of African American education in our country.

As we celebrate Black History Month, I rise to recognize how far we have come, how far we still must traverse, and pay a special salute to Julius Rosenwald and his contributions to the advancement of education.

#### THE EXTENDED DROUGHT IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention again to the devastating drought that has impacted California for over 4 years.

Much is said about California and the success that we have had post-World War II, but a lot of it is owed to the fact that we have developed a water system, both a Federal and State water project, that allows us to move water throughout California for beneficial use to every region of California, and that has been a great success.

But today that water system is broken. It is broken because it was designed to meet the needs of 20 million people and the agriculture that we had in the 1960s and 1970s. Today we have

over 40 million people in California, we have more intensive agriculture, producing half the Nation's fruits and vegetables—the leading agricultural State in the Nation—and demands for water for the environment that was not part of the project in the beginning.

I have made and will continue to make it a priority to speak on the House floor regularly regarding the devastating drought impacts and will attempt to offer solutions both for the State and Federal agencies to maximize our ability to move water through the system where it is most needed to ensure that we also make the changes at the Federal level and at the State level to fix this magnificent but broken water system today that no longer can meet all of the demands and needs that are subscribed for it.

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Protecting and securing a reliable water supply in the San Joaquin Valley is arguably the most important issue facing the region of 4 million people that I, along with four of my other colleagues, represent. We worry every day about job security and the future success of the San Joaquin Valley's economy, which are directly dependent upon our access to a reliable and secure supply of water that is of high quality. The people of the valley and the entire State of California have been directly impacted by this devastating drought in one way or another.

There are many examples of how the San Joaquin Valley, a place I represent, has been impacted:

Over 6,000 acres of productive agricultural land has been fallowed, unplanted.

The land in the San Joaquin Valley is subsiding because, out of devastating need, families are drilling deeper wells to meet their everyday needs to keep what land they can in production and permanent crops irrigated, and farmers are pumping groundwater at unsustainable rates to avoid the catastrophic impacts of pulling out hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of permanent crops.

Unemployment in the San Joaquin Valley is twice as high as the rest of the country; and in 2015 alone, California lost \$2.2 billion as a result of the drought.

These devastating impacts have brought many of us to pray for rain and snow in the mountains, but that is not enough. We need to fix this broken water system.

While we will continue to hope for the El Nino year to bring additional rainfall amounts that are significantly greater than average, we know that that is not enough.

With above-average rainfall and snow in the mountains, San Joaquin Valley communities and farmers can now rest easy; right? Sadly, no. Since October 1, 2015, over 3.4 million acre-feet of water has gone out into the ocean. That is water that could be used in the valley and in southern California. This is

nearly 1.1 trillion gallons of water. To put that number in context, an average American family uses around 400 gallons of water a day.

My point is that only a small amount of water is being pumped out of the delta to move south for the San Joaquin Valley to assist the farm communities, as well as for southern California. We have yet to recover from the devastating impacts of the drought over the last 4 years, even though we have got more water this year as a result of the El Nino conditions.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced recently that, even with well-above average rainfall, reservoirs in California are still below the 15-year average for this time of year, and there is no Federal water stored in a major reservoir, the San Luis Reservoir, for the San Joaquin Valley that would be available for water this summer.

Yet, this week, we were devastated to hear that the Bureau of Reclamation is releasing 200,000 acre-feet out of Folsom Lake because of flood control purposes. We are not moving that water—not even 100,000 acre-feet—through the system. That is just not right. This is directly due to the unwillingness of State and Federal agencies to pump water at the maximum levels based the biological opinions that many of us believe are flawed because the science is at least 10 years old.

While weather patterns have had a great impact on the delivery of water over the last 4 years, it has only been one of the impacts. We must make a difference. We must fix this broken water system. I will continue to update the Members of the House on the challenges we face and on legislation that is important to do just that.

#### HONORING ALLAN BOWLES ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on February 29, 2016, I rise to thank Allan Bowles for over 32 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Allan began his career in the labor division on September 1, 1983. Shortly after that, he worked as a storeroom clerk. Not long after that, he made his way into the cabinet shop and began his rapid ascent through the ranks from apprentice to journeyman cabinetmaker.

He can be proud of the many projects that were successfully completed during his tenure. Some of these projects include custom cabinets made for Speaker Wright and Members in leadership, such as Mr. HOYER, Mr. Army, and Ms. PELOSI.

Allan's list of accomplishments is indeed long. In over 32 years, he has produced some of the most exemplary and useful projects, many of which are still being utilized today.