

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL  
ANNIVERSARY OF FARM CREDIT

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2016*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the cooperative owners and employees of the Farm Credit System for their continuing service in meeting the credit and financial-services needs of rural communities and agriculture.

Since 1916, the Farm Credit System has served rural Americans.

I was pleased to cosponsor House Resolution 591, introduced by House Agriculture Committee Chairman MIKE CONAWAY & Ranking Member COLLIN PETERSON, as well as the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee for Commodity Exchanges, Energy & Credit, Chairman AUSTIN SCOTT and Ranking Member DAVID SCOTT.

This resolution recognizes the cooperative owners and employees of the Farm Credit System for their 100 years of service to Rural America.

Today, the Farm Credit System plays a vital role in the success of United States agriculture, providing more than \$237 billion in loans to more than 500,000 customers.

For example, in my home state of Alabama, Farm Credit makes over 7,000 loans per year. Almost 10 percent of the farmers they serve are considered Young Operators.

Since 2011, Farm Credit has returned \$10.9 million dollars back to their borrowers. I applaud the Farm Credit System's dedication to providing farmers with the means to serve America.

RECOGNIZING THE CALIFORNIA  
STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD  
MEN'S BASKETBALL  
TEAM'S 2015-2016 SEASON

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2016*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) men's basketball team and its unprecedented success in the 2015-2016 season. I commend the hard work of the Roadrunners and strong leadership of Head Coach Rod Barnes, Assistant Coaches Jeff Conarroe, James Alford, and Mark Hsu, and Director of Basketball Operations JD Pollock. The Roadrunner men's basketball team has represented our community well, and brought national attention to Bakersfield through dedication that was always reflected in their games. I am honored—as an alumnus myself—to be able to add my voice to the chorus of praise, and to congratulate their season of accomplishment.

On March 18, 2016, the Roadrunners clashed against the number two seed in Oklahoma, on day one of the 2016 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Basketball Tournament. I witnessed firsthand the perseverance and grit they became famous for throughout the season. The Roadrunners

fiercely fought to match basket-for-basket against their heavily-favored opponents, even snatching the lead midway through the second half, but were ultimately outscored in the final few minutes.

As the Roadrunners celebrate their historic 24 victories in the Western Athletic Conference, and their first appearance in the NCAA Division I Tournament, I want to acknowledge the remarkable determination and incredible teamwork of Aly Ahmed, Jaylin Airington, Bray Barnes, Dedrick Basile, Damiyne Durham, Kyle Ferreira, Darryl Geyen, Justin Hollins, Kevin Mays, PJ Posey, Justin Pride, Matt Smith, and Brent Wrapp. A remarkable winning percentage of .727 reflects upon the immense amount of hard work they demonstrated throughout the entirety of the season.

The CSUB men's basketball team exemplifies our community's commitment to hard work, perseverance, and teamwork. The Roadrunners should be proud of their achievements this season, and I know that the community of Bakersfield joins me in congratulating them on their athletic accomplishments. My fellow Roadrunner alumni and our community look forward to watching their continued success in the seasons to follow.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN JEFF KUSS

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2016*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Marine Corps Captain Jeff Kuss. Captain Kuss was a native of Durango, CO where he attended Durango High School and graduated from Ft. Lewis College with a degree in economics. His life was tragically cut short during a training accident on June 2, 2016 while he and the other Blue Angel pilots were practicing for an air show near Smyrna, Tennessee. Captain Kuss was a loving family man and is survived by his wife Christina Ferrarese Kuss, their two young children Calvin and Sloan, and his parents Michael and Janet of Durango.

Captain Kuss possessed a passion for aviation which took root at a young age. After a great deal of hard work and perseverance, he became one of the Navy's most talented pilots, being selected in 2014 to join the elite Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron. The Blue Angels are one of the world's most renowned squadrons, representing the men and women who serve in the nation's Armed Forces and showcasing the incredible training, skill and capability of our nation's elite military pilots. Since 1946, the Blue Angels have inspired patriotism and wonder in millions of fascinated spectators. Each pilot is hand-picked by current members of the squadron to join—a selection process that is a testament to the respect that his colleagues had for the talent and ability Captain Kuss possessed.

The entire Durango community is incredibly proud of Captain Kuss for his service to our nation and what he was able to achieve. When he was brought home to rest in Durango citizens lined the streets to pay their respects to this fallen hero, a testament to Captain Kuss' service, deep ties to the community and a life well-lived. The host of active duty

members that have and continue to pay tribute to Captain Kuss are a tribute to the many lives he impacted over the course of his career.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Jeff Kuss exemplified the very best of Colorado's Third Congressional District and of the brave men and women who risk all in service to our nation each day. We honor his service and memory, and offer our condolences and prayers for his family and friends. May they find peace during this most difficult time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP  
SAMUEL BLAKES

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2016*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pastor Samuel Blakes on his Episcopal Consecration to the office of Bishop. He is the loving husband of Stacy Blakes and an outstanding father to his two daughters. Bishop Samuel Blakes is the youngest son of Bishop Blakes, Sr. and has been pastoring for more than 21 years.

He and his brother Bishop Robert Blakes, Jr. serve as Co-Pastors at the New Home Family Worship Center, a ministry encompassing six locations across Louisiana and Texas. Bishop Samuel Blakes has the pleasure of serving as Pastor to both the New Orleans and Baton Rouge Ministries.

Bishop Samuel Blakes was called to ministry at a young age when he attended St. Augustine High School in New Orleans. His work in ministry began when he received his Bachelors of Theology from Christian Bible College of Louisiana and then went on to receive his Master's Degree in theology from the same institution. His dedication and love of God has allowed him to travel across the U.S. and abroad to spread the word of God. Not only does he travel to spread his message, but he and his brother, Bishop Robert Blakes, Jr. host their own weekly television show.

I join with the Blakes family in congratulating Bishop Samuel Blakes for his remarkable accomplishment.

HONORING MR. GARRY SAUNER  
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2016*

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special and remarkable civil servant on the occasion of his retirement. After forty-one years of service to the Nation, Mr. Garry Sauner will complete a most distinguished career as a financial manager and congressional liaison for the United States Air Force. For the past sixteen years, Mr. Sauner served as the Deputy Director and Chief of the Budget and Research Branch of the Air Force Office of Appropriations Liaison. In this role, Mr. Sauner has acted as the Air Force's principal liaison to this subcommittee.

From personal experience, I can state that his tireless efforts, wise counsel, and attention to detail led to the successful completion of

hundreds of hearings, thousands of questions for the record, and countless requests for information which all helped our subcommittee make the best informed resourcing decisions.

Mr. Sauner led engagement efforts for senior Air Force leadership in defense of the Air Force budget request for military construction, housing, environment, and BRAC. Hundreds of Air Force officers, enlisted, civilians, and contractors have benefitted from his experience and counsel as a strong and capable mentor, resulting in a bond of trust between this subcommittee and the Air Force that will have lasting positive effects well into the future.

Prior to his dedicated service in his current role, Mr. Sauner served twenty-five years in the United States Air Force, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. With his four years as a Congressional Liaison Officer on active duty, Mr. Sauner can claim twenty years of experience working with the Congress—a rare feat indeed. Mr. Sauner leaves a lasting legacy both in the Executive and Legislative Branches of our government as a result of his quiet professionalism and embodiment of the Air Force core values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House please join me in extending our most sincere thanks for his service and best wishes for the days and years ahead as he begins a new journey.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE REPUBLICAN ANTI-POVERTY AGENDA

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, last week, a group of 8 Republicans traveled to the House of Help City of Hope, a private residential drug and alcohol treatment program here in Southeast DC. There they unveiled their proposal to reduce poverty in America.

Make no mistake: the Republican Party has simply repackaged the same proposals that have locked our most underserved populations in poverty for generations.

I appreciate the group's advocacy for drug and alcohol treatment, but it is misguided and offensive to associate poverty with addiction. We should not be surprised that they are clinging to the tired narrative that victims of poverty are too lazy or irresponsible to pull themselves up by their own bootstraps. The "bootstraps" narrative leaves out the reality that too many children in America are born without bootstraps to parents who never had bootstraps themselves. In the cycle of poverty, opportunity rarely presents itself.

From the schoolhouse to the workplace, children from wealthier and well-educated families arrive at every door with a very different set of skills and expectations than those from underserved backgrounds. For example, research suggests that children from low-income families hear 30 million fewer words than their wealthy peers by the age of 3. Other studies show that less than 50 percent of children living in poverty arrive at school prepared with the math and reading skills, emotional and behavioral control, and the physical well-being necessary to learn. These gaps persist into adulthood.

These are not excuses. They are facts.

The children of the wealthy are provided tutors, lawyers, contraceptives, therapy, and more when they stumble socially, physically, and academically. Their less affluent counterparts are instead met with financially struggling parents, probation officers, and ill-access to basic health services. Social scientists call the protections afforded to wealthier children in times of trouble "air bags."

It's time to dispel the blanket notion that the poor are to blame for their poverty. The government has a role to play, and for many, it is the star of the show.

When opportunity presents itself in low-income communities, it comes via a Head Start teacher, an after-school program, a Job Corps coach, a Pell grant, a Social Security check, a child tax credit, and through other resource programs implemented during and after the War on Poverty.

Our friends across the aisle want the American people to believe that the effective anti-poverty programs of the War on Poverty have been a waste of taxpayer dollars. In truth, the safety net's effectiveness at reducing poverty has grown nearly ten-fold since 1967.

Pell grants, senior centers, the breast and cervical cancer early detection program, grants to improve water and waste disposal systems, Job Corps, and the Foster Grandparent program are just some of the programs that have been effective in helping millions of Americans into the middle class. Despite the progress made under these programs, the Republicans deem them all as welfare.

The Social Security program has lifted 27 million Americans out of poverty, including 1.6 million children yet Republicans have proposed to privatize and cut the program.

The Earned Income Tax Credit has lifted 9 million working Americans out of poverty and has reduced poverty for 22 million more. Despite these tremendous benefits, the Republicans did not include this program in their proposal.

The SNAP program, which the proposal cuts, has lifted 10 million Americans out of poverty and 5 million more out of deep poverty.

Seventy percent of Americans will turn to the safety net at some point in their lifetimes. Attempts to cut these programs are rooted in dangerous and misguided ideology.

I was sent to Congress to build upon programs that work and craft new proposals to create ladders of opportunity into the middle class for my constituents.

On the contrary, the Republican blaming strategy is not "A Better Way"—it's the wrong way. On behalf of the hardworking Alabamians I represent, I urge all of my colleagues to reject this dangerous agenda.

HONORING RICHARD TWISS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF OF POLICE FOR THE CITY OF INDIO POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2016*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to congratulate City of Indio Police Chief Rich-

ard Twiss who is retiring after 32 years of service to the people of California and the citizens of the United States. Throughout his career, Chief Twiss has been an exemplary public servant. He has taken on his vocation to service with a sense of duty and a strength of character that is needed to accomplish such a noble calling.

Richard Twiss' time in uniform began in 1984 as a United States Marine and continued as a police officer with the City of Indio Police Department. Through his leadership, Chief Twiss led a police force that helps build a safer community and is an incredible influence on the lives of hundreds of residents in the Coachella Valley located in California's 36th Congressional District.

Chief Twiss' distinguished career in law enforcement spans from his time as an officer at the Indio Police Department, to an investigator for the County of Riverside District Attorney's Office, to a special agent for the California Department of Justice, and for the last four years as the Chief of Police for the City of Indio.

At a national level, Chief Twiss has lent his expertise to help advance the cause of public safety. Chief Twiss participated in the President's National Committee on 21st Century Policing and served as a member of the California Attorney General's Community Oriented Policing Subcommittee. Most recently, he was appointed to the California Police Chief Association Homelessness and Mental Health working group. Chief Twiss implemented the Community Outreach Resource Program as a way to reduce homelessness and provide resources to the most vulnerable members of our society. This program received local, national, and international recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize and honor Chief Richard Twiss for his service. And on behalf of the thousands of families of California's 36th Congressional District, I offer my sincerest thanks and congratulate Chief Twiss for his exceptional commitment to public safety. I wish him and his wife, Anna, all the best on his well-deserved retirement.

THIS IS THE WEEK WE MOURN TOGETHER IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 49 LIVES LOST JUNE 12, 2016

**HON. DAVID W. JOLLY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2016*

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, this is the week we mourn together. As one nation. This week we know no party, we know no prejudice. This is the week we all as Americans suffer loss together, come together, and resolve together that we will not fall to the architects of terror.

Mr. Speaker, this is our Paris.

The mass shooting in Orlando is now one more defining moment of our time. One more defining moment of terror. And one more defining moment in the fabric of modern America. Innocent brothers and sisters were targeted by evil, in the name of a radical Islamic jihad against America that despicably perverts religion to justify taking the life of innocent people. But this is the week we resolve to destroy terror forever, to destroy those who wish to destroy us.

In an election year, its natural for anger to divide us, to draw us into a partisan divide.