

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEM-
ORY OF AMBASSADOR CLAYTON
YEUTTER

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Ambassador Clayton Yeutter, a native of Eustis, Nebraska, who recently passed away after a hard-fought battle with cancer.

Mr. Yeutter was a true statesman, who generously shared his time and expertise throughout his very remarkable career. On top of his numerous professional accomplishments, Mr. Yeutter was known as a humble, kind, and respected leader who never lost sight of his commitment to rural America.

No one understood the importance of trade to American agriculture better than he did, and his work has benefited generations of, incidentally, Nebraska agriculture producers as well as others across the country.

Mr. Yeutter grew up on a cattle and corn operation in central Nebraska during the Great Depression. He attended the University of Nebraska, where he earned a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry and, later, a juris doctorate and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics.

After serving in the Air Force in the 1950s and returning home to work on his farm, he got his start in politics as chief of staff for Nebraska Governor Norbert Tiemann in the mid-1960s. Soon he was named director of the Nebraska Mission to Colombia, which led him to the USDA and decades of distinguished public service.

His extensive resume included serving as U.S. Trade Representative under President Ronald Reagan and Agriculture Secretary under President George H.W. Bush. He also ran the Chicago Mercantile Exchange for 8 years and served as chairman of the Republican National Committee.

As we mourn the loss of this influential Nebraskan, I extend my condolences to Mr. Yeutter's wife, Cristena, and his children, grandchildren, and great-granddaughter as well.

I yield to my colleague from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Congressman ADRIAN SMITH, for yielding, and I thank him, more importantly, for honoring the life and memory of our mutual good friend Clayton Yeutter.

In my desk in my office there is a letter, and it was written to me by Clayton Yeutter, former Secretary of Agriculture, a couple of years ago. Of course, we all receive a lot of letters, but sometimes you get one that you just want to keep close to you.

Clayton Yeutter was a gentleman, he was a farmer from Nebraska, and he was a true statesman. In that letter, he basically kindly and gently encouraged me in public service. He was the ideal public servant. He expressed his sentiments to me personally, but in his public life, with a great nobility, a great

yearning and care for our country, he committed himself in multiple ways to serving our institutions of governance. But he never forgot his humble roots back in Nebraska.

So I simply want to say: Well done, good, faithful servant Clayton Yeutter, my friend.

I thank the gentleman for honoring Ambassador Yeutter's life.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I can't say enough to honor such a true giant in public service as Secretary Yeutter, Ambassador Yeutter. The list goes on of his many titles, an incredible man, but his humility did so much for our country.

WOMEN ARE CASUALTIES OF
INACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the topic of casualties of inaction, casualties of inaction, Mr. Speaker, because there are some things that we can do if we would but only act. There are some circumstances that we can change if we would but only act. So today, I want to talk for just a moment about some of the casualties of inaction.

Mr. Speaker, a recent report has indicated that women are casualties of inaction when it comes to their earning power in the United States of America, the greatest country in the world. Mr. Speaker, the report seems to indicate that women earn about 80 cents for every dollar a man earns—about 80 cents for every dollar a man earns.

Mr. Speaker, this is an abomination. It is something that a great nation should not tolerate, and it is something that we can change if we but only have the willpower to do so.

Women earn about \$40,742 if they work year-round on a full-time job. Men earn about \$51,212 working full-time, year-round. This is about \$10,470 difference.

Mr. Speaker, women should not be a casualty of \$10,000-plus in their annual salaries. This is something we can change.

But when we look closer at these numbers, Mr. Speaker, we realize that Asian women earn about 85 cents for every dollar a man earns, Black women earn about 63 cents for every dollar a man earns, and Latinas earn about 54 cents for every dollar a man earns.

Well, what does this really mean in terms of what they can do if they have the equality of opportunity to receive proper pay? Here is what it means:

If this gender gap were eliminated, women would have enough money for approximately 15 more months of child care per year. So children are suffering. This inaction is impacting children. Children are casualties of our inaction.

Women would have approximately 1.2 years of tuition and fees for a 4-year public university, or they would have the full cost of tuition and fees for a 2-

year community college—casualties of inaction.

Women would have 78 more weeks of food for a family; so families, literally, can suffer from a lack of food. Food on the table is important in the richest country in the world. Women should not earn less such that their families would suffer.

Women would have 7 more months of mortgage and utility payment.

Women would have 11 more months of rent.

Women should not find themselves making less than what men make in the richest country in the world, in a country where we have the technology, the know-how, and the ability to make a change. They should not have this circumstance.

We can change this circumstance if we so desire. We but only have to have the will. The way is there to make sure women are treated equally in this great society.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we ought to have task forces that are looking into this, not just for today or tomorrow, but to look into it until there is a solution that is available. Until we have the solution, we should not stop taking the action necessary to make a change in the lives of women.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, we ought not allow the people who have made it possible for every man to breathe the breath of life to be treated unfairly, because every man alive owes his very existence to some woman who is willing to suffer the pains of labor so that we could breathe the breath of life.

EMPOWER SYRIAN PEOPLE AND
REMOVE ASSAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn yesterday's deadly chemical attack in Syria.

Early yesterday morning, while most people were asleep in the rebel-held city of Khan Shaykhun, airstrikes hit, carrying what is suspected to be poisonous gas. These airstrikes are believed to be the work of the Syrian Government or its ally, Russia.

According to the AP, at least 72, if not up to 100 people, including at least 10 children, were killed and hundreds more injured. Entire families were found dead in their homes, and healthcare workers who rushed to help others were also overcome by the poison. A second airstrike hit near a hospital where victims were being treated.

The Assad regime's continued use of chemical weapons on its own people, innocent families, and children is despicable, and this is not the first time. Besides these unspeakable, horrific acts against innocent people since the Syrian civil war began 6 years ago, more than 11 million Syrians—half of the country's prewar population—have been displaced from their homes.

The urgency of this situation cannot be denied. We can no longer ignore the