

NELSON MANDELA INTERNATIONAL DAY

(Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to join millions of people around the world to honor the life and legacy of South African President Nelson Mandela on Nelson Mandela International Day. I submitted comments for the RECORD this morning, but I would like to highlight a few key points.

In his 95 years of life, President Mandela was a transformative leader who forever changed the world through his steadfast dedication to freedom, equality, and human rights.

After spending 27 years in prison, Nelson Mandela became the first Black South African to be elected President and used his administration to dismantle apartheid, combat institutional racism, and begin the process of racial reconciliation in his country.

To me, however, Nelson Mandela was more than a world-renowned leader. I had the distinct honor and privilege of calling him a friend. His courageous leadership in the antiapartheid movement encouraged me to join in the fight, which, to this day, is one of the most defining moments of my life.

We will forever be indebted to Nelson Mandela, who taught the world the power of one man having the fortitude to sacrifice his own ideals for a cause greater than himself.

RECOGNIZING WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY

(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, Saturday marked World Youth Skills Day. The United Nations General Assembly started this initiative to raise awareness about the importance of investing in youth skills development.

Young people are almost three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. Young people around the world are exposed to lower quality jobs, greater labor market inequities, and a longer school-to-work transition period.

That is why I am pleased this House voted in favor of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act last month. Too often we have seen students pushed down the college-for-all pathway that just doesn't work for some students.

CTE has established itself as a path that many students choose in pursuit of industry certifications and hands-on skills they can use right out of high school in skills-based education programs or in college.

By modernizing the Federal investment in CTE programs, we will be able

to connect more educators with industry stakeholders and close the skills gap.

On World Youth Skills Day, I encourage everyone to consider a career in technical education.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE MIECHV PROGRAM

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, Federal funding for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program is set to expire September 30. This program in the Virgin Islands Department of Health gives at-risk pregnant women and families necessary information, resources, and skills to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and ready to learn.

In June, Republicans in the House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee introduced a bill reauthorizing this program. The legislation, which has yet to receive a hearing, included a 5-year reauthorization, but did not expand funding to meet the growing needs for services. It also included serious modifications to the way the program is run, which advocates fear could have harmful unintended consequences.

Home visiting programs are a critical opportunity to reach at-risk pregnant women and new mothers. The first few years of life are the most rapid period of brain development, and home visiting programs provide support to vulnerable families in the earliest stages of their child's life. Home visiting programs establish a solid foundation by partnering with families to support maternal and newborn health and parent engagement.

I would like to express my support for the reauthorization and expansion of this program, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

SOLAR ECLIPSE IN HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a spectacular event that will take place in Hopkinsville, Kentucky this coming August. A solar eclipse will occur on August 21, 2017, the first to traverse coast to coast in the United States in nearly a century. The last time a solar eclipse was in the United States was in 1918. It will not be until 2045 that we witness a similar event.

Hopkinsville is one location in the U.S. fortunate enough to have a position in the direct path of the shadow cast by the eclipse of the Sun. The historic city of Hopkinsville is expecting a huge turnout for this event, as many consider Hopkinsville the "point of

greatest eclipse" for this August lunar display.

August 18 to 20 will be a weekend full of celebrations surrounding this rare and memorable experience, including live music, food vendors, and activities for all ages. I thank the many people who have contributed to the promotion of this event in Hopkinsville, and I look forward to a festive weekend in the First District of Kentucky to celebrate the much anticipated solar eclipse.

STANDING UP FOR THE DACA PROGRAM

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, Colorado is home to 17,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, recipients. This program is an essential help in our dysfunctional immigration system. It allows young people who only know the U.S. as home to legally reside and work here.

Through my congressional service, I have been moved by the stories of DACA recipients who have bravely spoken up for their communities and only want to positively contribute to our country, young people like Brayan.

Brayan is a business marketing and finance major at Colorado State University, in my district. He moved here with his family at a young age. He was only 3. He doesn't even remember making the trek from Chihuahua, Mexico, to Colorado. He grew up here, attended elementary and high school here. He didn't even know he was undocumented until he was in eighth grade.

DACA has allowed Brayan to come out of the shadows and live with a sense of security rather than anxiety and fear. In Brayan's words, DACA has put hope in the hearts of the forgotten.

What I want Brayan and others like him to know is: You are not forgotten, not by me, not by those of us in the community who know you and love you.

I stand by Brayan's side, and I will fight to ensure that the DACA program is continued for the 17,000 recipients in Colorado and 800,000 nationwide. The bottom line is that Brayan and others like him belong here.

PRO-GROWTH TAX REFORM FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the need for pro-growth tax reform for small businesses in America.

Last week, I was on Main Street in Grapevine, Texas, surrounded by local businesses that were started in pursuit of the American Dream. These businesses are opened by hardworking people trying to give their families a better life and create jobs in north Texas and the communities that I represent.