

□ 1015

HONORING SHERIFF'S DEPUTY DAVID SOLIS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service and heroism of one of California's finest, Riverside County Sheriff's Deputy David Solis, who serves in Coachella, California.

On May 25, 2017, Deputy Solis engaged in a chase with a suspect in a vehicle, which led to a foot pursuit. The suspect unexpectedly drew a firearm and shot Deputy Solis six times at close range. Though he was critically injured, Deputy Solis continued to feed his team information, ensuring other officers could secure the area, which led to the eventual capture of the suspect.

Incredibly, Deputy Solis was back to work after just 4 months of recovery. His bravery, strength, and professionalism exemplify the very best in law enforcement, which is why his department selected him to receive the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor for exhibiting "extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty." It is the highest decoration for public safety officers.

Deputy Solis, you truly embody these values. Your courage has made our entire valley a safer place. You and all law enforcement officers put yourselves in harm's way each day to keep us safe.

On behalf of my wife, Monica, and the entire 36th Congressional District, I thank you, Martha, and your children—Caleb, Jonah, Grace, Jeremy, and Penny—for your service and sacrifice.

GOP TAX PLAN

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, the tax plan being considered in conference right now will be devastating for the people I represent, in particular, seniors, homeowners, students, and taxpaying middle class Californians.

According to every nonpartisan estimate out there, this tax plan will blow a giant hole in our deficit, a \$1 trillion hole, in fact.

So my first question is: Who is going to pay for it?

Well, next year it will be our seniors, to the tune of \$25 billion in cuts to Medicare.

And 10 years from now?

We will be looking at cuts to programs that invest in our children and our future, like Pell grants for our students.

My next question is: Who will actually benefit?

Well, it won't be California homeowners, who, on average, will see their taxes go up by \$800 a year. It won't be hardworking families in southern California, who will be double-taxed on their income.

It will be corporations that will get free rein to ship jobs overseas, because

any income "earned" abroad will be completely tax free.

It will be the wealthiest 1 percent who get more than 50 percent of the tax cuts in this plan, while sticking our children with the bill.

I want to simplify and modernize our Tax Code to give middle class families the purchasing power they need to improve their lives and spark the economy. This plan, unfortunately, will further burden the middle class for the benefit of millionaires.

So, let's start over. Let's come back to the table to make real, bipartisan tax reform a reality and to give real tax cuts to all the people we serve.

HONORING PAUL WENGER

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a true friend and advocate of agriculture. For the past 8 years, Paul Wenger has led the California Farm Bureau with passion and dedication, ensuring that one of our State's most vital industries remains at the forefront worldwide. As a longtime native of California's Tenth District and the city of Modesto, Paul has consistently been engaged in making our community a better place.

As a third-generation farmer, Paul grows almonds and walnuts on the family farm, which includes property purchased by his grandfather in 1910. His farming operation also includes a marketing component for processed almonds and walnuts through his Wood Colony Nut Company.

Paul attended Modesto Junior College, or MJC, before transferring to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he earned a degree in animal science.

From 1990 to 1994, he served as president of the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau. Three years later, Paul became a statewide officer, when he was elected second vice president. He was then elected first vice president in 2005. He also served as a member of the Bureau's board of directors and chaired its water advisory committee and water development task force.

Since 2009, Paul has served as president of the statewide California Farm Bureau. He has been on the front lines fighting for water rights and supplies, less government overreach, immigration reform, and sustainable working lands that are essential to keeping farming and ranching alive.

In 2014, he received the Stanislaus Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service Award and has been long praised for his effective messaging, engagement, passion, and unwavering principles.

Paul has successfully given California a strong voice at the national table by serving on the board of directors for the American Farm Bureau.

Alongside his work to advocate for our region at the State and national level, Paul has dedicated countless hours to our local community as well.

He served on the Salida Volunteer Fire Department, the Hart-Ransom School Board of Trustees, the Central Valley Farmland Trust Trustee Council, and the Stanislaus Land Trust and Agricultural Pavilion boards, just to name a few. He has been very active.

Paul's tenure as president ends this year, but I am confident he will continue to play a vital role in the advocacy and evolution of our agriculture industry.

I thank Paul for his hard work and continued friendship. I thank his wife, Deborah, his three sons, and their grandchildren for graciously sharing Paul with the farmers, ranchers, and our community, who have relied on his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing my good friend for his unwavering leadership, accomplishments, and contributions on behalf of the agriculture industry.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOWELL HAWTHORNE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a great man, a loving husband and father, a visionary entrepreneur, a philanthropist and humanitarian, my beloved and dear friend, Mr. Lowell Hawthorne of the Bronx, New York.

Lowell Hawthorne immigrated to the United States from the beautiful island nation of Jamaica in 1981 and, like most immigrants to our country, began his pursuit of the American Dream.

After working his way up the administrative ranks of the New York City Police Department as an accountant handling police pensions, he was bitten by the entrepreneurial bug and started a home-based business doing tax returns for coworkers and friends on the force.

Determined to provide for his family a life that he never had, in 1989, inspired by his father and sisters, who were bakers, and with the financial support of his wife and siblings, he would go on to open the first Golden Krust Bakery, on East Gun Hill Road in the Bronx, New York. His specialties included the Jamaican beef patty, Caribbean baked goods, and other culinary delights.

From there, his entrepreneurial talents, work ethic, and dogged determination allowed him to soar, methodically expanding his empire to include over 120 stores in nine States across the country. Golden Krust Caribbean Bakery & Grill would become the first Caribbean-American-owned business in the United States to be granted a franchise license. Producing more than 50 million beef, chicken, and vegetable patties a year, Golden Krust is also the largest Caribbean-American-owned business in the Nation.

Lowell has been described by his employees as a nice boss, a wonderful guy,