

on a bill that has made a huge difference to millions of Americans.

□ 1015

PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania kicked off one of my favorite events, the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

For more than a century, farmers have gathered each January at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This week, we are having the 102nd Pennsylvania Farm Show. This weeklong event is the largest indoor agriculture exposition in the Nation, showcasing over 6,000 animals, featuring nearly 12,000 exhibits, and more than half a million visitors.

Each year, I host a listening session at the Farm Show and we cover a range of topics during the public forum, from raising awareness about agriculture education to hearing very real concerns from our dairy farmers and more. As we embark on crafting the next farm bill, the 2018 listening session was extremely important.

I want to thank the following Members who were able to join this year's Farm Show: Agriculture Committee Ranking Member COLLIN PETERSON, Congressman DWIGHT EVANS, Congressman TOM MARINO, Congressman ROGER MARSHALL, and Congressman LLOYD SMUCKER. I also want to thank USDA Under Secretary Greg Ibach for coming up to join us. I was honored to be joined by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show truly does bring together so many different people in the ag community and it is an event like none other. As vice chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I am very proud of this fine event that takes place in the Commonwealth.

The Farm Show complex houses 24 acres under one roof, spreading throughout 11 buildings, including three arenas. There is no admission fee and it is a great event for the entire family. There are numerous educational shows that are all free of charge.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show provides an atmosphere for everyone to walk through, observe, and educate themselves about different areas of agriculture, the Commonwealth's largest industry, which brings in nearly \$6.9 billion annually in agricultural cash receipts. Almost half a million jobs are tied to the industry, which positively impacts all Pennsylvanians.

Undoubtedly, one of the most popular attractions at the Pennsylvania Farm Show is the Food Court. Located in the Expo Hall and Main Hall of the complex, the Food Court offers visitors a

variety of Pennsylvania products—PA Preferred products—and it generates income to support the nonprofit Pennsylvania Agricultural Commodity Organizations.

Mr. Speaker, over a century ago, the first Pennsylvania Farm Show was a 3-day exhibit. Today, the event is a weeklong, 8-day celebration of how the agricultural industry touches our everyday lives. Proudly, this event draws visitors from across the country to highlight everything our State has to offer when it comes to ag.

Numerous students participate in the event as well from 4-H clubs and FAA organizations.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show truly showcases our Nation's farmers and landowners, and I was thrilled to again take part in the best agricultural expo in the country.

THE NATIONAL DEBT AND OUR SHARED FUTURE

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the national debt and our shared future. Our country has been on an unsustainable fiscal path, regardless of which party has been in power, and we all know this. As a result, our national debt is the largest it has ever been.

As of this week, the national debt is in excess of \$20 trillion. This works out to be an average of \$62,670 debt for every man, woman, and child in the United States. It is outrageous. It is a completely unacceptable amount of debt, and we have it because of irresponsible governing and a lack of political courage here in our Nation's Capital.

Sadly, this Congress has chosen to continue this irresponsible and unsustainable fiscal course. The tax cut legislation that Republicans rammed through the Congress last month will add \$1.45 billion to our deficit over 10 years, estimated, and over \$2.2 trillion to our national debt. We are going in the wrong direction.

But there is something I think that I have learned about this tax legislation last month, and that is that it seems that deficits matter under Democratic administrations, but under Republican administrations, deficits don't matter at all.

So when it comes to lifting our debt ceiling later this year, I would expect or hope to see every Republican who voted for the tax bill that adds \$2.2 trillion to our deficit—our debt to vote to increase the debt ceiling, seeing as deficits no longer matter.

Let's think about this \$2.2 trillion tax bill that will add to our debt. That is \$2.2 trillion in additional moneys that our children will have to pay for unless we do something. We can be fiscally responsible, and we must be fiscally responsible. But to act to change this course, we must stop digging this hole bigger.

I had a farmer friend who once told me: JIM, I've got a theory about holes, and that is, once you find yourself in one, just stop digging. Sometimes you think if you dig harder and faster, you're going to get out of it. Just stop.

Mr. Speaker, this will be difficult, especially considering the opportunity we missed to put the Nation back on a fiscally responsible path with the tax reform effort last year. Yet there are important steps that we can take—and Congress should—to balance our budget and to keep it from getting worse, like the amendment proposed by Representative STEPHANIE MURPHY from Florida, a balanced budget amendment.

We should also move to implement targeted reforms on government spending, both mandatory and discretionary spending, in ways that contribute to economic growth and invest in our future. It is tough work. It requires political courage and the willingness to reach across the aisle, for Democrats and Republicans to join hands and jump, in essence, on these tough decisions.

The last time we had such an opportunity to address the challenge was in March of 2012, when Congressman JIM COOPER from Tennessee presented a budget resolution similar to the recommendations under Simpson-Bowles. That plan would have reduced the deficit over \$4 trillion over a 10-year period.

Sadly, the political courage was in short supply then on that day, as it is now. There were 38 of us who were willing to support the plan. I was attacked by political groups on the left and on the right for taking such a vote, but that vote was the right thing to do and I was proud to take it.

Congress has a chance to do the right thing now. Congress has to come together. We need Democrats and Republicans to put our Nation's fiscal house back in order for the sake of all Americans.

The Blue Dog Coalition, of which I am a co-chair, has a long history of standing for fiscal responsibility, even when it was hard. Bridging the divide between Republicans and Democrats, both in Congress and this administration, is what we must do.

So as we are debating today how to put together the votes for the concurrent resolution to fund our Nation's budget for the rest of this year, let's think about this. Let's work together. What a novel concept.

As I stand here today, as a Blue Dog, as a proud Representative of California's 16th Congressional District, and as a concerned American, ready to reach across the aisle to create the bipartisan, long-term policy solutions that will help us tackle our national debt and our deficit, and that will help put us back on a fiscally sustainable path, I invite my colleagues and my fellow Americans to join me.

This is what good governance is really all about. This is where responsible leadership is necessary. It is what

Americans want and need, and it is what we should be doing.

TRYING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
FOR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a very troubling issue, but also to tell the story of one of my high school classmates who is trying to make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, every day, 22 veterans in the United States take their own lives. At this pace, veterans are committing suicide at a rate of 19 percent higher than the general adult population. We, in Congress, will not turn a blind eye to these servicemembers in need of our support. This issue is a top clinical priority for the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as for this Congress.

In a unanimous vote, the House passed legislation that works for the VA to examine the effectiveness of the Veterans Crisis Line. I am also a proud cosponsor of the Oath of Exit Act written by my close friend and colleague, Congressman BRIAN MAST from Florida. This legislation will require all individuals retiring or separating from the Armed Forces to take a pledge not to harm themselves. But these actions alone are not enough, and more must be done to protect our servicemembers.

To help our veterans with this mental health battle, we are now turning to our four-legged friends. Therapy dogs have a proven success record for helping our veterans tackle the physical and mental challenges that they face in their transitions back to civilian life.

As I stand before the House today, I want to bring awareness to one organization that I am especially proud of, K94Heroes. This nonprofit group provides therapy dogs to our servicemen and -women who are in desperate need of compassion and support. I am overjoyed to see members of the community empowering our veterans and I am honored to say that this organization was founded in my home State, in my hometown, by one of my high school classmates, John "Big Daddy" Lipscomb.

John founded the K94Heroes program after connecting with one of our other classmates, an elementary classmate, who specializes in service dog training for veterans. In 2015, John and his daughter established K94Heroes and raised private funds to mitigate training costs. Together, they work tirelessly to ensure every veteran who deserves a service dog receives one.

We owe it to those who protected us abroad the assurance of protection here at home. With upstanding citizens like John "Big Daddy" Lipscomb and with continued action on the Federal level, we will be able to better protect our veterans who sacrifice so much for this

country. Still, this Congress must make continued efforts toward veteran suicide prevention, and I commend the efforts of organizations such as K94Heroes.

HONORING JOHN YOUNG, CENTRAL
FLORIDA'S LOCAL HERO

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

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of an Orlando favorite son, a hero that we lost this past weekend, Astronaut John Young, who was inspirational and legendary to our community and who grew up in College Park in Orlando, Florida. Streets named after him span our district, as well as Congresswomen MURPHY's and DEMINGS' districts in central Florida.

He was described by our local paper as a "country boy who grew up in Orlando, Florida, back when it was mostly farmland." He even got in trouble for smuggling a corned beef sandwich into space on Gemini 3.

He was mostly known for his coolheadedness and calm demeanor as he took numerous trips into space with NASA. Some of the flags and mission patches he flew into space are on display in our Orlando Science Center. In central Florida, we are proud to have the John Young Parkway bear his name. He died on January 5, this past Friday, at his home in Houston.

Mr. YOUNG was NASA's longest-serving astronaut. He was the first person to orbit the Moon by himself and the ninth person to walk on the Moon as well. He was the first person to travel to space six times during NASA's Gemini and Apollo lunar missions, and into the space shuttle programs as well.

John Young commanded the first space shuttle flight mission, an iconic view that so many central Floridians and so many Americans have seen over the years during that program. He was awarded the prestigious Congressional Space Medal of Honor in 1981. He represents the very best of the Orlando area.

Rest in peace, Astronaut John Young.

□ 1030

HONORING ISABEL CASTANO-LUGO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARSHALL). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Isabel Castano-Lugo, who will turn 112 years young on January 11. Isabel, a supercentenarian, is one of only a handful in the Nation who has lived through some of the brightest times and darkest chapters in our history.

Born in 1906, in Manizales, Colombia, Isabel was one of 13 brothers and sisters. At age 41, Isabel married and had 2 sons, Omar and Danilo Lugo. Because

of the increasing violence in her home country and the kidnapping of her husband, Isabel began a new life with her children in the United States in 1970, and, for 26 years, she resided in my district in beautiful Miami Beach.

Throughout her long and distinguished life, Isabel has never ceased placing the needs of others before her own. Isabel has served as a strong advocate for many important issues and organizations, such as the Jewish Community Center of Miami Beach, and has continued to serve as a voice for the voiceless to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this historic birthday with Isabel, who is the oldest living person in the State of Florida.

CONGRATULATING COACH MARK RICHT

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mark Richt, head coach of the Miami Hurricanes football team on being named the Walter Camp 2017 Coach of the Year and the ACC Coach of the Year.

In only two seasons at the helm, Coach Richt has created a winning environment at my alma mater, the University of Miami. This season, the Hurricanes won their first ACC Coastal Division title and ended a 7-year losing streak against rival Florida State University.

Coach Richt's success on the field this past year also earned him two notable accolades. He is the first Miami Hurricane's coach to be named ACC Coach of the Year and only the second UM coach to receive the Walter Camp award. Coach Richt is truly a phenomenal leader, and I am confident that he will continue to guide UM's football program to greater victories in the years to come.

Once again, "congratulations," "felicidades," to Coach Richt on your success this last season, and "Go Canes."

CONGRATULATING COACH JIM MORRIS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Jim Morris on celebrating his 25th and final season as head coach of the Miami Hurricanes baseball team. Coach Morris has dedicated his life to college baseball. He has won over 1,500 Division 1 games, the fifth most in the history of the sport.

During his tenure, the University of Miami, my alma mater, qualified for the College World Series more times than any other baseball program throughout the country, and he led the team to two national championships. Coach Morris has also been named National Coach of the Year three times.

Coach Morris' outstanding leadership for the past 25 years has left a positive and lasting impact on the University of Miami. I am confident that this historic legacy will continue to inspire and will continue to shape Hurricane baseball in the years to come.

Once again, "congratulations," "felicidades," to Coach Morris on a long and distinguished career.

"Go Canes."