

this country held her college dreams hostage.

This morning, a fourth-year medical student started her rotation as an aspiring thoracic surgeon in Cambridge while this country took her talent for granted.

This morning, an enlisted soldier living in Queens eagerly awaited his basic training assignment while his country shrugged their shoulders at his service.

This morning, 800,000 young men and women woke up, offered a brave smile to their loved ones, and sought to better the only home they have ever known.

You can call them DREAMers. You can call them immigrants. You can call them Americans. You can call them husbands, wives, sons, daughters, neighbors, doctors, students, servicemen and -women.

You can call them human beings who deserve to live in a place that they call home; whose lives shouldn't be horse-traded for big walls, petty tweets, and bad campaign ads; who have offered us their talent, their tirelessness, their ingenuity, their empathy, their loyalty, and their patriotism; who have earned their government's protection in return.

We gave those 800,000 human beings our word, and if those of us here in this room who have the incredible privilege of serving in these halls bestowed with the title "Representative," if we aren't willing to defend the American word and make sure that it still means something, then who will?

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, today is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, and so I rise to honor our men and women in blue. My oldest son is a local police officer, so I am acutely aware of the risks and sacrifices made by the men and women in law enforcement.

They assume risks every day—risks we sometimes take for granted in order to keep our communities safe. Being a law enforcement officer isn't a job. It is a calling. It is a service to the community.

□ 1045

Despite the very real risks, they respond to the call always knowing they may not go home.

Just last week, a deputy in the community my son serves in was struck by a car during a traffic accident. Yes, he was responding to a traffic accident, and he was hit by a car. It broke his back, broke his neck, and crushed his face. The last update I received, he was in critical condition. All he was doing was trying to protect people at a traffic accident.

We can't take that for granted. Today we need to pause and simply

offer a thank-you to law enforcement officers across the country and to their families. We offer a prayer for those who have reached the end of watch.

Join me today in thanking police officers across this Nation. Take a moment to simply say thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR OF MACOMB COUNTY

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the bicentennial year of Macomb County, Michigan.

On January 15, 1818, Macomb County was formally organized as the third county in the territory of Michigan. Macomb County was designated nearly 20 years before Michigan even gained statehood. It was named in honor of General Alexander Macomb, a decorated veteran of the War of 1812. Macomb's rich history of service to our Nation doesn't stop there.

In July 1917, almost 100 years after Macomb's founding, Selfridge Field was established. Everyone in Macomb County and the National Guard knows the importance of Selfridge Air National Guard to our national security. Its founding just 13 years after the Wright brothers' first flight is a true testament to the commitment to national security and to innovation that has defined Macomb County for 200 years.

In addition to being the auto capital of the world, Macomb led the manufacturing that resulted in the arsenal of democracy in America's victory in World War II. Our defense industry helped the Allies win World War II and continues to provide necessary resources to maintain our strength and security in the world.

I am proud to represent Macomb County in Washington, D.C., and eager to celebrate the 200th anniversary of this great county.

HONORING AND PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

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 to pay honor and pay tribute to the Honorable Dr. Martin Luther King, and, Mr. Speaker, I am so proud and honored to have the preeminent privilege of doing so here in the well of the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. King was born at a time, to quote Dr. Benjamin Hooks, when he could buy a hat but he couldn't try it on.

He was born at a time when he could only sit in the balcony of a movie, and that was in some movies. There were others that he wasn't allowed in at all.

He was born at a time when he had to sit in the back of the bus or he might be barred from riding the bus totally.

He was born at a time when he would have to wait in line and others of a different hue could always stand in front of him.

He was born at a time when invidious discrimination and when segregation was apparent and lawful.

Dr. King was born at a time when there were few who were willing to challenge the hate and the bigotry that was emanating from this country in all of its arenas for the most part.

But Dr. King was a person who understood that that which you will tolerate you will not change. Dr. King refused to tolerate bigotry and hatred. He refused to tolerate it, and, in fact, that is what separated him from a good many other people, for the most part.

Dr. King, if I may recall, went to Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963. He went there to do something about the conditions, about the discrimination, about the hate and the bigotry. When he went there to do something about it, there were people who were tolerating hatred and bigotry.

There were people there who were very prominent members of the clergy—eight of them—who decided that they would write Dr. King a letter and explain to him that what he was doing was unwise and untimely. They explained to him that law and order should prevail. They commended the constabulary for protecting the city.

These were persons who were considered honorable people, but they were people who were willing to tolerate hatred and bigotry. They, in fact, insisted that we should let the courts handle this: Let's work it through peaceful means by which we might sit and negotiate with those who would perpetrate hatred and bigotry.

Dr. King, on the other hand, sought to use nonviolent protest as a methodology by which change might take place. The things that he could not tolerate he was willing to protest to bring about change.

There were other great orators of the time. Dr. King was indeed a great orator, one of the greatest ever, but there were other great orators. There were other persons who were knowledgeable, had Ph.D.'s, and who were very well versed in what was happening with discrimination and could have spoken up on it. Many did speak up, but many of them were willing to tolerate it. Dr. King was not, and that separated him from a good many people who were orators, who were learned, and who understood invidious discrimination. In fact, they were opposed to it, but they tolerated it in quiet ways.

So when Dr. King went to Birmingham, these eight clergypersons having written him a letter, he found himself incarcerated in the Birmingham jail, and he decided to respond to them. The "Letter from Birmingham Jail" is a response to eight notable clergy members in Birmingham.

So he decided to respond to their letter. In responding to their letter, he gives us this masterpiece that really addresses what invidious discrimination is all about, why you can't consider yourself an outside agitator if you are an American, and why you have to do this not only for yourself, but for the generations to come.

But reading Dr. King's letter, as masterful as it is, is not enough. So today, in honor of his birthday, January 15, I am asking people to read the letter that Dr. King was responding to. If you read that letter, then you will understand why you cannot tolerate hate.

ADMINISTRATION'S OIL DRILLING PLAN INCLUDES FLORIDA

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

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Department of the Interior announced a newly proposed plan to expand offshore drilling off our country's coasts, including Florida's. Shortly after making the announcement, Secretary Zinke guaranteed that States will have a voice in this process.

So I have come to the floor today as the elected Representative of the Florida Keys and southern Miami-Dade, a district that includes ecological treasures and economic drivers like the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Everglades National Park, and Biscayne National Park, to be that voice.

I can say this with confidence: the people of Florida and its leaders, including myself, have made it clear over and over again how we feel about offshore drilling near Florida. We don't want it.

We don't want to put our beautiful beaches and environmental treasures at risk. We don't want to risk the livelihoods of millions of hardworking American men, women, and families when there is no need. Florida simply has too much to lose.

Mr. Speaker, I, along with many of my colleagues in this Chamber, both Florida Senators MARCO RUBIO and BILL NELSON, and our Governor Rick Scott, are going to make sure Florida's voice is heard loud and clear on this issue: we don't want drilling near Florida's shores, we don't need drilling near Florida's shores, and we will not allow this or any administration to put our economy or our environment at risk.

HONORING MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENT
DALE ADAMSON

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dale Adamson, a dedicated teacher of mathematics at Howard D. McMillan Middle School in my district and a recent recipient of the prestigious Milken Educator Award.

Central to Mr. Adamson's selection was his classroom rapport with students, ability to explain complicated concepts through real-world applications, and a daily commitment to his craft. Not satisfied with simply lecturing on abstract theories at the chalkboard, Mr. Adamson gained well-deserved renown for exciting his students with real-world problems like how algebra was used by NASA recently to land a probe on an asteroid or the multitude of mathematical principles one might observe launching objects off the school's roof.

The Milken Family Foundation's motto states that "the future belongs to the educated."

As a past member of the Miami-Dade School Board and the proud father of two daughters in the public school system, I am glad to have teachers like Mr. Adamson in our community. I sincerely believe that educators with the heart and imagination displayed by Mr. Adamson are the key to unlocking the next generation's potential.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues how critical it is that Republicans and Democrats work in good faith to find a compromise on immigration policy in the coming days.

Congress first began trying to pass legislation for the benefit of young immigrants who were brought to our country as children through no fault of their own some 17 years ago. All attempts have failed, but this time failure is not an option.

800,000 DREAMers who came forward and registered with the government in recent years would be at risk. These are young people who are working, paying taxes, getting educated, and contributing to our country. They speak English. Some of them want to serve in our military to defend our freedoms. They sat in the same classrooms and grew up with our own children. Many have no memories of their countries of origin.

Mr. Speaker, these are America's children. That is why we all need to work together in the coming days and find a compromise that can secure the future for these young immigrants and, at the same time, make our country safer and more prosperous by securing our borders and reforming our immigration laws.

Americans have been expecting results from Congress on immigration policy for years. Enough is enough. The time for action is now.

A YEAR OF RESULTS FOR THE NORTH COUNTRY

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

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment today to highlight the real results we have achieved on behalf of north country families in this Congress.

In 2017, we worked on many important initiatives to grow the north country economy, support our veterans and military families, strengthen our local healthcare system, and improve education. In fact, last year alone, the House of Representatives passed more than 470 bills and resolutions, 90 percent of which are bipartisan.

In Congress, I focused on important legislation to grow our local economy. I recently introduced two bills that will increase access to rural broadband and help our north country farmers

bring their production into the 21st century.

I also helped the House pass legislation to strengthen career and technical education programs. This bipartisan bill updates Federal career and technical education policies to help more students gain the skills they need to compete for in-demand jobs.

I have also introduced bipartisan legislation to boost north country tourism by extending the time Canadian visitors can spend each year in the United States.

We have also made significant strides when it comes to education. For the past 3 years, I have worked to ensure that our students have the educational opportunities to achieve their limitless potential. In my first year in Congress, I introduced a bill to expand Pell grant access so that students can access this critical financial aid resource during summer months. I was pleased to see my initiative for year-round Pell signed into law this past May, meaning students and families in our district now have another important tool to achieve their higher education dreams.

As the proud Representative of Fort Drum and the Navy nuclear site at Kesselring, my district is home to thousands of military families that make incredible sacrifices serving our Nation.

In 2017, I was pleased to have a bill I authored pass the House of Representatives to help military spouses. This legislation eliminates a loophole that requires military spouses to establish residency every time their servicemember receives a new assignment.

I also introduced two bills that will help military spouses that were signed into law in December. The Lift the Relocation Burden from Military Spouses Act increases professional license portability. This provides reimbursement for licensing fees of up to \$500 for each permanent change of station. The second is the Military Residency Choice Act, which allows spouses the choice to establish the same State of residency as their servicemember spouse for voting and tax purposes.

New York's 21st District is the proud home of more veterans than any other district in New York State. My district offices have been hard at work on their behalf helping to recover over \$2.25 million in hard-earned VA benefits for our veterans.

Congress also passed an extension of the GI Bill education benefits that lifts the expiration on when they can be used, giving veterans more flexibility to attend higher education institutions.

Last summer, Congress passed the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, which President Trump signed into law. This important law makes it easier to terminate failing VA employees and provides stronger protections for whistleblowers who raise the alarm over wait lists or medical malpractice.