

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, service-men 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.