

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today just hours before our 45th President, Donald Trump, will deliver his first State of the Union Address.

Members of Congress and guests will fill this Chamber tonight to hear the President speak about a host of issues impacting America, from economic growth to trade deals and infrastructure investments, to immigration reform. I look forward to hearing the President speak about the administration's successes to date and the plans for the future.

The President and the First Lady, Melania Trump, have invited 15 guests to attend the speech tonight, including veterans, law enforcement officers, first responders, and families who have lost loved ones in the fight against the MS-13 street gang. All the guests in this Chamber tonight, invited by Members of both parties, represent a wide cross section of America, and I know that all have hope that our greatest days truly do lie ahead.

Just weeks ago, the House passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act for the American people to get our economy moving again. In February, Americans will see and are beginning to see, today, more money in their paychecks. We delivered a fairer, simpler, pro-family Tax Code to give more money back to taxpayers and spur economic growth.

As the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is implemented, we are hearing story after story about how this is already making a difference in millions of people's lives across the country. We have already seen positive results, and we look forward to hearing more from President Trump tonight on his vision for a safe, strong, and proud America.

Hundreds of companies across the Nation are sharing the benefit of the GOP tax reform with their workers. They are raising wages, awarding bonuses, and increasing 401(k) matching contributions. I want to highlight just some of the companies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that are investing in their employees:

1st Summit Bank in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, provided a \$1,000 bonus to all full-time employees on top of their 2017 year-end bonuses, raised its salary ranges, and increased its charitable giving budget by 10 percent.

AccuWeather of State College in my Fifth Congressional District provided special year-end bonuses to all employees over and above other compensation benefits and year-end bonuses to which employees may be entitled. Company leaders said: "The bonuses are possible due to the company's robust financial performance in 2017 and strong confidence in the growing U.S. and global economy now that the tax bill has passed."

Fulton Financial in Lancaster raised its base wage to \$12 per hour, awarded bonuses for its 3,700 employees, and is increasing charitable contributions by \$2 million.

Kish Bancorp in Belleville awarded \$500 bonuses to part-time employees, \$1,000 bonuses to full-time employees, is adding \$10 million to capital expenditures over the next 3 years, and will raise their base wage.

This is just a fraction of what is happening in the Commonwealth and in States across the Nation. The benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act are just beginning to be seen, and I have great faith that the benefits will just continue to grow for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I know the President will be talking about his record-setting accomplishments in his first year, how the policies of his administration are lifting all Americans and setting a foundation for building a safe, strong, and proud America. From jobs and the economy to his \$1 trillion plan for rebuilding our depleted infrastructure, to important immigration reforms, I know that he will cover a lot of ground tonight and will speak from the heart.

I also hope to hear about our national security, from rebuilding our military to the ongoing efforts to defeat terrorists around the world who try to harm America and Americans.

I know the President's State of the Union Address will resonate with our American values and unite us with patriotism and greater opportunities. I welcome the President tonight to this Chamber, as well as the First Lady and all the guests, and I look forward to hearing his important message for the future of our country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF BISHOP ALEXIS THOMAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bishop Alexis Thomas, who passed away on January 18, 2018.

Bishop Thomas was many things to many people. He was an inspiring pastor. He was a father, a son, and a brother. He was a dynamic and passionate leader not just at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, but throughout our community in Phoenix. Under his careful stewardship, Pilgrim Rest grew by leaps and bounds.

However, Bishop Thomas' service extended well beyond the church. Bishop Thomas founded the African American Christian Clergy Coalition and co-founded the African American Strategic Alliance Coalition in Phoenix. Thanks to these endeavors and many others, Bishop Thomas will be remembered as a man with a remarkable vision for change who was taken from us way too soon.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to call Bishop Thomas my friend. I can per-

sonally attest that he worked miracles, large and small, every day in Phoenix and in Arizona. He touched more lives than we will ever know. And though we are devastated by his loss, we know that his legacy of service and love will live forever in our community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LYLE WELLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to two leaders, one from the First Congressional District of New York, from the North Fork.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lyle Wells, whose family farm is over 350 years old. Lyle was taken from our community too soon. He was a leader, a former president of the Long Island Farm Bureau, and a one-time member of the Riverhead Town Planning Board.

He positively led and left a great impact and legacy on the next generation of farmers who really do need to be better cultivated to give that opportunity to be able to thrive.

Long Island Farm Bureau Administrative Director Rob Carpenter, talking about Wells' impact and a relationship going back decades, said: "He would take all the time needed to explain a program to anyone who wanted to learn about farming—a legislator, a community member, another farmer. It's a big loss. You just can't replace a Lyle."

It was also observed that everyone would start laughing because of his style of laughter. It was an honor that he graced our community and our town. Him having gone through life in this community made the rest of us better. That was the positive impact of Lyle Wells.

A memorial service will be held for Lyle this Thursday, February 1, beginning at 11 a.m. on the hill at Wells Homestead Acres, located at 185 Phillips Lane in Aquebogue.

We will pray for Lyle's family. We are thinking about Lyle, and he will certainly be looking over what hopefully will be 350 more years of great farming on that family farm.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RABBI ISAIAH ZELDIN

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin, who just passed away at the age of 97.

For me, Rabbi Zeldin was Uncle Shy. For the Stephen Wise Temple in Los Angeles, he was their founder, their rabbi, their teacher, and their friend, according to the announcement they posted on their website.

Rabbi Zeldin was born in Brooklyn, New York. His father's picture, Morris, is in my office. Morris Zeldin was a respected scholar and ardent Zionist. Rabbi Zeldin moved to Los Angeles in 1954 to establish the California branch of Hebrew Union College and served as an 11-State regional director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.