

Mr. Speaker, we can come together to save lives.

COMMENDING SERGEANTS CHARLES JEFFERS AND GERALD "JAKE" STOFKO

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the careers of Sergeants Charles Jeffers and Gerald "Jake" Stofko of the Johnstown Police Department.

Sergeant Jeffers valiantly served the Johnstown community for 48 years, forging a legacy of bravery in public service.

Sergeant Stofko's 25-year-long career with the Johnstown Police Department is one marked by excellence and dedication. Spending the majority of his career working the midnight shift, the Johnstown residents could sleep soundly knowing that Sergeant Stofko was on watch.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank and congratulate these brave officers for their combined 73 years of service and commitment to protecting the people of Johnstown. I wish them both the best as they move forward into the next chapter of their lives.

REPUBLICAN TAX GIVEAWAY INCREASES DEBT BY \$2.1 TRILLION

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the Congressional Budget Office revealed that the Republican tax giveaway to corporations and the wealthiest Americans will increase our debt by \$2.1 trillion.

Over the next 10 years, our debt will equal 105 percent of our gross domestic product, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

And the Republicans' idea to close this gigantic increase in the deficit is to make massive cuts to Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid. They want seniors to sacrifice their retirement security and their dignity in order to pay for a Republican tax giveaway.

President Trump's budget for fiscal year 2019 cuts \$500 billion from Medicare, \$1.4 trillion from Medicaid, and \$72 billion from Social Security disability insurance, and that still isn't enough to balance the budget. So they will, of course, continue to propose cuts to education, veterans, working people, and other critical resources for families across America.

This is shameless. The American people are going to see right through this. A gigantic tax cut for the richest people in this country, the most powerful corporations, and now the Republicans are trying to make seniors pay for it by cuts to Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid. Shame on them.

MONTANA IS BENEFITING FROM THE TAX CUTS

(Mr. GIANFORTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to let colleagues know that the tax cuts are working in Montana.

For the last 2 weeks, I met with hard-working Montanans who are benefiting from tax cuts.

Owners of the Billings Flying Service are investing in new equipment, as well as more research and development.

Workers at the UPS facility in Missoula are receiving expanded benefits and more money in their paychecks.

The owner of KFC restaurants throughout Montana gave employees a raise, boosted starting wages, and plans renovations for many of its facilities.

Owners at Loenbro in Great Falls are increasing benefits and investing in new equipment.

A farmer near Bozeman plans to double his food processing staff from 6 to 12.

Mr. Speaker, the tax cuts are working in Montana and throughout the country. They are leading to job creation, bigger paychecks, greater investment, higher wages, and economic growth. We must remain focused on policies to encourage growth, optimism, and the American Dream.

THE FARM BILL MUST PROTECT NUTRITION PROGRAMS

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, every day, over 162,000 people in my county of Mecklenburg are considered food insecure. Worse, 47,000 of those are children who risk going to bed hungry every night.

No one should have to wonder where their next meal will come from.

In 2015, I founded the Adams Hunger Initiative to bring together a coalition of advocates in Mecklenburg to end hunger in our community.

For over 3 years, we fought to protect important anti-hunger programs like SNAP, expand public-private partnerships, and find creative ways to the systemic issues that leave families hungry.

The coalition will visit Capitol Hill to continue advocating for our priorities.

During National Nutrition Month, we sent a letter to the chairman and ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee urging protection for SNAP benefits in the upcoming farm bill.

Thirty-five thousand households in Mecklenburg and 20.3 million nationwide rely on SNAP to put food on their family's table.

As Congress considers the next farm bill, we must protect nutrition programs for those who need them most

and ensure that no one in Mecklenburg or in America goes hungry.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Equal Pay Day.

The Equal Pay Act became law more than 50 years ago, and today women comprise almost half of the American workforce. They serve in our hospitals, schools, and our factories. They are executives at major corporations. They are doctors, they are lawyers, and they serve in countless other occupations that make our economy one of the greatest in the world.

Yet, women are still disadvantaged by the gender wage gap. They are compensated at only 80 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

This must not continue. It is unjust, it prevents a fair and productive economy, and is something that we need to close, this gap. Closing the wage gap is an economic imperative.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIANFORTE) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 11, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 11, 2018, at 10:56 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 455.
Relative to the death of the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka, former United States Senator for the State of Hawaii.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

□ 1215

ELECTING A MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 814

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Rothfus.
The resolution was agreed to.