

the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. I wish them the best today and for many more blessed years to come.

HONORING JACKSON SCOTT
GARRETT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jackson Garrett. Jackson is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jackson has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jackson has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jackson has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jackson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

STEM PROGRAM AT WHEAT RIDGE
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the STEM Program at Wheat Ridge High School for being recognized as the 2017 Horizon Award winner by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation (Jeffco EDC).

The Horizon Award recognizes an organization or program that is a rising star in the community and will contribute to the future economic vitality of Jefferson County. Established in 2014, Wheat Ridge High School's STEM Program focuses on taking science, technology, engineering & math taught in class and using it in a real-world application through the building of concept vehicles. Since it was created, it has expanded to 80 students. The cost to run the STEM program is approximately \$50,000 per year and 80 percent of these funds are raised by the students themselves, expanding their learning opportunity into fundraising and finance. Participating students are responsible for all their own fundraising, marketing, social media and videography. The Wheat Ridge High School STEM Program gives students real world experience from concept to implementation and everything in between.

Congratulations to the STEM Program at Wheat Ridge High School for this well-deserved award, and I thank them for their contribution to our community.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THERESA
RANDLEMAN

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the 8th Congressional District of Michigan joins in celebration as we commemorate Theresa Randleman as she is recognized with the Business Excellence Award by the Greater Lansing Area Club.

Whereas, Ms. Randleman has dedicated her career to speaking on behalf of women and female youth with an emphasis on producing, hosting, and sponsoring female empowerment programs. Her work ranges from international speaking which empowers women across the globe, to hosting local Expos which guide aspiring female entrepreneurs on the path to success. She has shared her knowledge and passion all around the world and dedicated herself to the ideals that advance our community.

Let it be known, that the Member of the United States Congress, the Honorable MICHAEL D. BISHOP of the 8th Congressional District of the State of Michigan, hereby recognizes Theresa Randleman for her outstanding achievements. Therefore, this document is signed and dedicated to honor this milestone. May others know of my warmest wishes and continued support in the future.

TRUMP REPUBLICANS ARE WAG-
ING WAR ON THE WORKING
POOR

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to Executive Order 13828, entitled "Reducing Poverty in America by Promoting Opportunity and Economic Mobility," issued by the President last Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

The President would have the American people believe he is bringing the country together and growing the economy for all Americans.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Executive Order 13828 is a thinly-veiled attempt to restrict access to health care, housing, food, and many other basic living programs by adding onerous "work requirements."

These social safety net programs provide necessary government assistance to help Americans families maintain a basic standard of living, and are a safety net for the poorest of the poor.

Millions of Americans, despite working two jobs, depend on these programs just to keep food on the table and a roof over their heads for their families.

In addition, the vast majority of full-time workers live paycheck to paycheck.

In fact, 70 percent of Americans rely on at least one means tested federal program throughout their lives.

America, one of the richest countries in the world, should be able to help families caught in, to use the celebrated LBJ biographer Robert Caro's famous phrase, the "tentacles of circumstance."

However, we have a president who is insensitive to the plights of every day Americans.

Trump and the conservative acolytes who seek to implement his agenda paint an inaccurate portrayal of poor people as lazy "Welfare Queens" who would rather depend on the government than pull themselves up by their bootstraps, but nothing could be further from the true reality that millions of Americans face.

Mr. Speaker, the President should know that it is unreasonable to expect the poorest people to pull themselves up by their bootstraps when they do not have boots.

Our nation's social safety net programs already fail to help all of the families in need:

Only 1 in 4 poor families with children receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);

SNAP only provide \$1.40/per meal; and

Housing assistance reaches just 1 in 5 eligible families.

That is because the federal government has failed to raise the minimum wage in almost a decade, so even if you work a full-time minimum wage job, you are still living in poverty.

Members of the CBC are here to tell the American people, do not be fooled.

Donald Trump says this is about a "poverty trap," but the real trap is not raising the minimum wage.

The President opposes increasing the minimum wage and eliminating labor protections for middle and lower income workers in the African American community.

Mr. Speaker, raising the minimum wage to just \$12 per hour would save \$53 billion in SNAP benefits alone.

Wage gaps between are larger today than they were in 1979.

For example, African American men's average hourly wages were 22.2 percent lower than those of white men in 1979 and declined to 31.0 percent lower by 2015.

Young African American women have been hardest hit since 2000.

The racial wealth gap is much larger than the wage or income gap by race.

Average wealth for white families is seven times higher than average wealth for African American families.

Worse still, median white wealth (wealth for the family in the exact middle of the overall distribution—wealthier than half of all families and less-wealthy than half) is twelve times higher than median African American wealth.

Wage gaps are growing primarily because of discrimination and racial differences in skills and worker characteristics.

Declining unionization has also had a role in the growing black-white wage gap, particularly for men newly joining the workforce.

African Americans have been disproportionately affected by the growing gap between pay and productivity.

Not only are the President's policies divisive along racial and cultural lines, they also serve to further increase economic inequality due to their clear design in favor of the wealthiest among us at the expense of everyone else.

Trump's billionaire tax heist robs the U.S. Treasury of \$1.5 trillion in resources that could be invested in economic growth in underserved communities.

The President has proposed doubling down on mass incarceration and the war on drugs, which drains the African American labor pool.

The President has taken every opportunity to harm health care for African-Americans from sabotaging the ACA to ending Medicaid as we know it.

This president is no friend to African Americans, or their pocket books.

Trump also wants you to believe that he wants a bipartisan infrastructure plan.

Do not be fooled.

Trump's review of "welfare programs" is an immoral attempt to gut the programs that provide a basic standard of living for Americans struggling to make ends meet, all to pay for massive tax cuts to himself and the richest 1 percent.

Instead, he should raise wages and invest in job training programs to prepare Americans for the work of the future.

Mr. Speaker, our nation still has a long way to go before we achieve economic equality for all its citizens.

The President and Congressional Republicans should work with Democrats to put more money in the pockets of hardworking Americans.

At the end of the day, our constituents should be able to support their children with one full-time job.

Ultimately, we need to give families the tools they need to rise out of poverty, not undercut programs that keep them afloat.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF CALTRANS STRUCTURE MAINTENANCE & INVESTIGATIONS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Office of Structure Maintenance & Investigations upon the occasion of its 90th anniversary since its creation.

The Office of Structure Maintenance & Investigations engineers and structural technicians perform ongoing inspection of more than 24,000 state highway and locally owned bridges within the boundaries of the Golden State. They ensure the safety of the traveling public and to protect the public's multi-billion dollar investment in its bridge inventory; and

Since its creation in 1927 California's bridge inspection unit has completed nearly 770,000 routine bridge inspections, and thousands of special steel, underwater, hydraulic, sign structure and tunnel inspections. The bridge inspection program has become the model for other bridge departments in the United States and around the world.

Structure Maintenance & Investigations, based on the findings of its inspections, has worked with its District Maintenance counterparts to complete hundreds of millions of repairs to ensure the safety and structural integrity of each public agency bridge in California. The dedicated personnel of Structure Maintenance & Investigations has responded over its nine decades of service to every emergency impacting the state's bridge inventory, includ-

ing the 1989 Loma Prieta and 2011 Napa earthquakes.

Mr. Speaker, Caltrans Office of Structure Maintenance & Investigations and its employees have kept California's highways and bridges safe. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the Office and employees past and present today.

ZIMMER BIOMET SPINE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Zimmer Biomet Spine for being recognized as the 2017 Business Recognition Award winner by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation (Jeffco EDC).

The Business Recognition Award shows appreciation for a local company who has shown exceptional growth in primary employment, sales and/or capital investments in the last year. Zimmer Biomet Spine is a leader in restoring mobility, alleviating pain, and improving the quality of life for patients around the world by delivering surgeons a comprehensive portfolio of quality spine technologies and procedural innovation. It maintains world-class scientific facilities and resources and collaborates with leading clinicians and researchers around the world. Today, it has operations in more than 25 countries and sells products in more than 100 countries.

Congratulations to Zimmer Biomet Spine for this well-deserved award, and I thank them for their contribution to our community.