

safety net better for farmers in our farm bill. But here comes more proposals to restrict eligibility, reduce benefits, cap or reduce funding, and alter SNAP's core purpose—to help struggling Americans when tough times hit—and tough times are right now, Mr. Speaker.

The fact is that for low-income families, every single dollar counts, no matter where these families live. If they are urban families, they are rural families, tens of millions of Americans who are old and young, hunger sees no gender, race, religion, or culture. And, Mr. Speaker, there are hungry Republicans as well.

I just want to send a reality check to our colleagues who are running around the country praising their tax cuts for the wealthy. Poverty and joblessness remains a stark reality in our country, and the populations that have the highest levels of poverty and unemployment, including older Americans, are the ones most affected. Punishing disadvantaged families will not break the grip of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge us to reject these cuts.

CELEBRATING 80TH BIRTHDAY OF BOB CASHELL

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

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday of a Nevada icon. I am sure you all recall that the State of Nevada turned 150 a few years ago, and that the Biggest Little City in the World, Reno, is turning 150.

Well, Bob Casshell, former University of Nevada regent, former Nevada lieutenant governor, and former mayor of the city of Reno, is past the halfway point in catching the State of Nevada and the city of Reno at 150. He is 80, four score.

A native of the Lone Star State, like many Nevadans, Bob got to Nevada as fast as he could. A leader in Nevada's gaming resort industry, an A list philanthropist, and a blue chip public servant, he has done some great work as a Nevadan.

Of course, he owes all of his success, and his defiance of the actuarial tables, to his wife Nancy, who has performed miracles during their lifelong partnership of transforming this pilgrim from Texas into a special part of Nevada's fabric. Thank you, Nancy. And happy birthday to you, Mr. Mayor, for life. Bob Casshell is 80.

MUELLER INVESTIGATION MUST CONTINUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once again, I rise because I love my country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise because I want to thank the President and compliment the President. I thank the President for indicating this morning that he will not—N-O-T—will not interfere with the Mueller investigation. He said as much on national TV. I compliment him for saying this, Mr. Speaker, because if he does so in contravention of Article II, section 4 of the Constitution, it would be tantamount to impeachment.

So, I compliment you, Mr. President, for being forthright, and I assume you meant what you said. However, you went on to say: "I may change my mind."

Mr. Speaker, I trust that the President meant what he said initially, and that he will not change his mind. Because, again, to do so in contravention of Article II, section 4 of the Constitution will be tantamount to impeachment. The only body in this country that can litigate impeachment is the Congress of the United States of America.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, I want to assure all—especially the President—if you do this, Mr. President, I assure you there will be articles of Impeachment brought before the Congress of the United States of America.

Now, Mr. President, I am in no rush to do this. As a matter of fact, I don't enjoy using the personal pronoun when it comes to this kind of dialogue—monologue, in this case, as I am talking directly to you. But, Mr. President, if no one else does, I will. I will not allow the Constitution to be ignored and, to a certain extent, trampled upon. I will bring the Articles of Impeachment. As a matter of fact, I have instructed my staff to draft them. They will be ready to go.

I also have instructed my staff to tweet this message that if you do so, Mr. President, if you interfere in contravention of Article II, section 4, I will bring the Articles of Impeachment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING COLONEL STAN CASS

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

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Stan Cass, United States Army, retired. Colonel Cass passed away on April 14, at the age of 84.

Born in Weld County, Colorado, to a family of farmers, Colonel Cass graduated from Briggsdale High School and attended West Point.

After brief stints in Germany and France, Stan began his first tour of duty in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot, dangerously traversing the skies to support infantry troops. He briefly came back to the States to complete a

master's degree before returning to Vietnam to command 300 helicopters in an air cavalry fleet.

After his valiant efforts in Vietnam, Colonel Cass worked in the Pentagon on the Hellfire missile system, and then returned to Weld County to take over the family farm.

But he wasn't finished serving. In 2008, he launched the northern Colorado chapter of Honor Flight, a nationwide nonprofit that transports America's veterans for visits to our war memorials in Washington, D.C.

Stan helped transport over 2,500 veterans to Washington over the past decade, giving our heroes a chance to reflect on and find closure in their wartime experiences.

Like so many other families in northern Colorado, Colonel Cass very personally impacted my family. My wife, Perry, has volunteered for the organization, and my father-in-law, Bill, has gone on one of those flights as a veteran. They both have been alongside Colonel Cass and meeting some of the amazing veterans living in our community. Their humility, endurance, and wisdom have taught us so much.

Colonel Cass dedicated his life to this country and the men and women who serve it. I offer my condolences to his wife, Cecily, the rest of his family, and everyone in our community who had the chance to know this humble, incredible human being. I know there are many.

RECOGNIZING RANDY BANGERT

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Randy Bangert, editor of the Greeley Tribune newspaper.

On April 14, the Colorado Press Association inducted Mr. Bangert into the Hall of Fame, honoring his incredible 45-year career with the paper of note in Weld County. Just 3 years ago, he earned the Newspaper Person of the Year Award from the same association.

The Greeley Tribune is a reflection of Randy, conducting itself with class and dignity. His goal is to equip the public with knowledge so that citizens can make things right in their community.

□ 1100

Randy never shies away from telling the truth. If he disagrees with one of my positions, he lets me know it, and he lets everyone else know it, too, in his editorial that day. But Randy's critiques are always fair and respectful. He wants to build consensus to make our community, State, and country a better place. We need more people who believe in civility in our public discourse like Randy.

Randy also cares deeply about his community. I know this, because I see him everywhere around town. This is what makes him such a good newspaper editor. He knows who he works for, the people, and he listens to them.

But last year Randy received some bad news. He faces the toughest battle so far in his life—cancer. The thing about Randy is we know how he is fighting it. It is the same way he ran

the newspaper. He is feisty, passionate, caring, and optimistic.

I pray for Randy and his family in this challenging time, and I pray for our community, as others step up in the big shoes they must now fill as Randy transitions to the editor emeritus role.

Randy's induction into the Colorado Hall of Fame is important. I congratulate him on this incredible honor, but what seems more important is the impact he has had on our community. I thank him today for the way he has shaped Greeley and Weld County. That impact will never be forgotten.

FARM BILL AND SNAP

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by saying that there are a lot of things in this farm bill that I actually agree with, and I would like to be supportive of such components of this bill. I agree with and would like to be a partner in getting this bill passed. However, there are some things I need to mention.

For the last 50 years, Democrats and Republicans have worked together to combine food and farming programs in a bipartisan effort. However, when discussing the 2018 farm bill, which will come up for a vote very soon, I want to shed some light on some things that don't quite add up, some things that aren't what I would call common sense.

In essence, this bill aims to restrict eligibility and reduce benefits of the Nation's most effective antihunger program, SNAP, formerly known as food stamps. Moreover, this proposed bill dumps a massive burden on State governments. Therefore, although I intend to be an active partner in the final passage of this legislation, I cannot and will not support the 2018 farm bill until the necessary changes are made.

If enacted, this bill, as it is currently designed, will deal damaging blows to the very heart of America by cutting nearly \$20 billion from SNAP, resulting in higher levels of hunger, poverty, and critical health problems.

I want to take just a minute to remind my colleagues and those who are watching at home who the SNAP recipients are.

In my home State of Missouri, SNAP reached 759,000 residents, more than 10 percent of the population. That is 1 in every 10 Missourians. SNAP kept 221,000 people out of poverty in Missouri, including 109,000 children, which reminds me—and this is the painful part of being in a body that has now become tribal in the way we conduct business, and it is so sad that we have come into this situation.

Over and over and over there is this theory that is floated out in America that people are stealing food stamps and living in luxury homes and all of this; and it is just so sad because, when you hear something like this for dec-

ades, people actually believe it. There is no proof to what they say when they make these allegations.

It may be important to know that 82 percent of the places where food stamps or SNAP are redeemed, there is 0.5 percent fraud.

But if you listen to people, they are not going to say it on the floor. They could go and say it out in the world, but they won't say it on the floor, because they know that it is inaccurate, but you would come to believe that, boy, these people are ripping these hardworking Americans off.

Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive. That is from Macbeth, and it is exactly what is happening. We are deceiving the American public.

I read somewhere that says the generous will themselves be blessed for the food they share with the poor. That is something that we should remember, particularly those of us who are inclined to read the book from which that quote came.

As Representatives of the United States of America, it is our responsibility to pass legislation that is proactive, not reactive. It is our responsibility to understand the very real and human consequences that could take place if this legislation is passed as it currently stands.

Once again, let me remind you of the fact that the SNAP program is the most effective way to combat food insecurity. I know. I grew up poor. I grew up in public housing. I saw my father working three jobs to get us out of public housing. We lived there 5 years. He would not even take food stamps because he didn't want anybody to think that he was not working hard enough. So I get a little frustrated when I hear people lying about people who receive SNAP.

The fact that, in the year 2018, there are children and adults in America who go hungry is absolutely appalling. It is important to note that over 70 percent of the people who receive SNAP are the children, the disabled, and the poor.

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman, my colleague, Democratic colleague, for his comments and his personal testimony, and I respect his dad and the heritage of work that he left for his son.

I am on the Agriculture Committee, and I have got to say I am confused, I am perplexed, and, quite frankly, I am outraged in many ways with some of my colleagues' comments about work and the work requirements that we are putting in the Food Stamp program. This doesn't have anything to do about children, about disabled people, about the elderly. This is about requiring people who are able-bodied to work who aren't working.

We are long overdue for reforms in this country. We are long overdue to have policies in place that encourage work. We want people to have the blessing and dignity of work. We want people to fulfill their God-given potential. We want them to contribute to society.

We have 6 million jobs, surplus jobs. We want folks to make the best out of the life that God has given them for their communities, for their families, for themselves.

This is unbelievable in the United States of America. We are asking that, if you receive assistance from hardworking, taxpaying Americans, you would just work 20 hours a week or volunteer or be trained to work. That is all we are asking.

I see hardworking people throughout the gallery, and I bet you they feel the same way. I have seen the polls. Over 80 percent of the people in this country say more people need to work and pay taxes and contribute to this great country.

I believe in the safety net. I believe in compassion. I believe that is the heart of God, and I think it should be reflected in our policies. But God also expects personal responsibility, and He expects us to have responsible policies that pull people up and out of a cycle of dependency and poverty. That is not compassion; that is not decency; and that is not common sense.

So I support this farm bill, and I appreciate the tone, I really do, of my colleague. He is a gentleman, I can tell. I don't even know him, but I can tell he is a gentleman and a statesman, but I cannot listen to folks who, in my opinion, are scaring folks in the public and my colleagues who are on the Agriculture Committee and here in the House from not voting to make responsible, reasonable, compassionate, and commonsense reforms to food stamps.

We need to do that in every government assistance program. We need to pull people out of the welfare trap, and we need to equip them and encourage them and support them to be the best that they can be.

I don't know how much time I have left, Mr. Speaker, but I want to also comment on some fellow west Texans who are here in town to compete for the 2018 National Science Bowl.

This week, Lubbock High School will join select schools across the country who earned the opportunity to compete at the national finals. I want to thank the Department of Energy and my fellow Texan, Secretary Rick Perry, for sponsoring this important competition.

The students from Lubbock competing in this tournament are part of a national effort to ensure America continues to lead the way in science and remains the laboratory of innovation in the entire world. That is the greatness of American innovation.

We want this generation to discover the cure to cancer, to solve the challenges of cybersecurity, and to push the boundaries of outer space.