

Colgate University community. She is also a core runner for the New York chapter and has recruited a number of members of our community to participate in this great tribute.

The event is a 175-mile run across the State of New York, each mile representing one hero killed who served during the war on terror, including Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation New Dawn.

I would like to thank Kristi Mangine and those involved in this year's run for inviting me to participate in this important event to honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in our Nation's longest running overseas conflict.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to also join us, as well as any community members who have a moment to pick up a time slot for one of our fallen heroes and give them a special tribute to their sacrifice.

DEFENDING OUR COAST

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

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve policies that will protect our planet, keep loved ones healthy, and preserve access to clean air, water, and land for future generations.

Lately, there has been a relentless assault on the environmental policies that were crafted to protect us, including the commonsense prohibition of offshore drilling in the Atlantic. Despite the Defense Department stating that offshore drilling may impede and hamper military readiness activities, the American people were told that our oceans were open for exploitation.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. That is why, today, I introduced the bipartisan Defend Our Coast Act with my friend, Congressman WALTER JONES of North Carolina. The Defend Our Coast Act will prohibit the Department of the Interior from issuing leases for the exploration, development, or production of oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf in the mid-Atlantic.

Prior tragedies such as Deepwater Horizon's oil spill proved that drilling accidents can be dangerous, expensive, and life-threatening. Mr. Speaker, I urge you to bring the Defend Our Coast Act up for a vote. Offshore drilling negatively impacts our coastal communities. It is not worth the risk.

Let us commit ourselves to leaving the Earth a healthier and safer place for future generations.

RECOGNIZING CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES

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

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, every community has peace officers who put

their lives on the line every day to protect their communities, and we don't say thank you nearly often enough.

Today I rise to recognize four very special school resource deputies of the Cass County Sheriff's Office who have been given the Model Agency Award, which is the top honor that is given by the National Association of School Resource Officers.

This award recognizes the work of law enforcement officers who promote safer schools and safer children, and they singled out the Cass County program as "a shining example of the school resource officers program."

The deputies work with students at Kindred, Maple Valley, Central Cass, Northern Cass, and Mapleton Elementary Schools. Supervised by Sergeant Tim Briggeman and under the command of Captain Jesse Jahner, the deputies are Jason Scott, Joe Crawford, Chris Potter, and Dan Hermann. Cass County Sheriff Paul Laney calls these officers the "best of the best."

On behalf of all North Dakotans, I congratulate them and thank Sheriff Laney and his entire staff for the high bar of excellence they deliver in serving all the citizens of Cass County.

□ 1930

HONORING THE LIFE OF TARA ROE SMITH

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Tara Roe Smith. Tara attended the Route 91 festival in Las Vegas on October 1. She lived in Okotoks, Alberta, Canada, where she was a wonderful mother to her two kids, Lennon and Louis, and was a loving wife to her husband Zach.

Tara was a hard worker who modeled with Sophia Models International, worked as an educational assistant with children with autism, and was about to be promoted to be a manager at a restaurant where she was a waitress.

Tara was very active and loved dancing, swimming, and being at her favorite summer spot, Clear Lake. Going to the Route 91 festival was an annual tradition for Tara and her husband. They would be there every year to celebrate their anniversary.

Tara was dedicated to her community, and if she had survived, her husband has no doubt that she would have done everything she could to help those who were victims of the Las Vegas shooting.

She was a very caring spirit who greeted everyone with a friendly face. I would like to extend my condolences to Tara Roe Smith's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

REPEAL FEDERAL EXCISE TAX ON HEAVY TRUCKS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of a bill I have introduced, H.R. 2946, which would repeal the burdensome 12 percent Federal excise tax on heavy trucks, known as the FET.

It was first created to help fund World War I—that is right, World War I, 100 years ago. The antiquated FET is the highest excise tax levied by the Federal Government today. The financial and regulatory burdens created by the FET hurts truck retailers, drivers, and businesses across the country. It depresses the market for newer heavy-duty trucks, which are cleaner, more efficient, and everybody in government seems to be clamoring for them to be replaced for those reasons.

A repeal of this outdated legislation would seek to promote the use of more modern trucks on our roads—again, something government seems to want and demand. By incorporating this repeal effort into any future infrastructure funding measure, Congress can rebuild our Nation's crumbling road system while ensuring our commercial truck fleet is both cleaner and safer.

I urge my colleagues to support inclusion of this bipartisan bill and repeal the FET, which only hampers economic growth and discontinues truck replacement, which is what everybody seems to want.

BENEFITS OF TAX REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, when I last had the honor to host a Special Order, the House was debating the merits of tax reform, and in that debate, supporters of the tax reform promised higher wages, a stronger economy, greater opportunity, and shared prosperity.

Six months after President Trump signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act into law, the results are in, and we can now confidently say that the days of a weak and sluggish economy are behind us. America is again a rising Nation. America is again a Nation where families are able to keep more of what they

earn. America is growing and advancing to the economic prosperity that our workers and our businesses well deserve.

But the American people don't need us to tell them that because they are feeling the effects of tax reform every single day. Capital One, Wells Fargo, Waste Management, JetBlue, Comcast, American Airlines, Walmart, BB&T, and Nationwide Mutual Insurance are among the hundreds of businesses, large and small, across this land that have given pay raises and bonuses and 401(k) match increases to their hard-working employees because of the historic tax reform that we were able to achieve.

These bonuses are not going just to a lucky few, because the statistics are in as well. More than 4 million Americans, and counting, have already received tax reform bonuses. Thanks to tax reform, at least 95 utilities have lowered their rates, and that means that some 87 million Americans not only have more money in their pockets, they are paying lower electric bills and gas bills and water bills, and that really matters.

Additionally, unemployment is down and confidence is up. We are looking at 3.8 percent unemployment rate. It is the lowest it has been in nearly 20 years, and 90 percent of Americans are experiencing a higher take-home pay.

According to the Gallup Poll organization, nearly 7 in 10 Americans believe now is a good time to find a quality job, and they were not incorrect in that assumption. There are now more job openings in America than there are Americans seeking jobs. America is back.

For years, the previous administration attempted to control the American economy from Washington, but the results speak for themselves. The free enterprise system inevitably outperforms central planning because it places its confidence in the people instead of in the government.

The economic principles put in place by this Congress have had an immeasurable impact. It is continuing every day, and hardworking Americans are enjoying more of the fruits of their labor, industry is growing, and the Nation is becoming more confident as the economy strengthens.

For the remainder of this hour, Mr. Speaker, a number of Members of this Congress are going to address this same issue, and I would now yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for putting this Special Order together. It is very important.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1980s, it was known for big hair, big bangs—I know my sister had bangs about to here. I made that up. Maybe it was here—parachute pants, mullets, and all sorts of other things that we now recognize were awful ideas.

We have updated our thoughts, but we were still living with a Tax Code

from the 1980s, a Tax Code that was 32 years old, a Tax Code that simply made the United States uncompetitive in regard to other nations.

Mr. Speaker, if you think about it for just a minute, if we served hamburgers right here and, across the street, you had a place that served the exact same product and they sold it for half the price, how long would we be in business? How long would we still have a restaurant right here? It wouldn't exist. It would eventually go out of business because, across the street, they have the same product for half the price.

Mr. Speaker, the Tax Code of the United States was placing that burden, that penalty, or that uncompetitive nature on businesses in the United States. They were able to go out and invest in other countries and pay a fraction of the price that they were paying in the United States.

So we updated the Tax Code in December, as the gentleman, the previous speaker noted. Back in the 1980s, and—excuse me, the 1960s, just to give some metric for comparison—17 of the top global companies had headquarters right here in the United States. Yet, last year, it dropped down to just 6—just 6, because companies were going to other countries where they could get that lower rate.

And, as the gentleman noted, we have seen billions of dollars invested in companies invested in workers. We are seeing the lowest unemployment rate in years for women, for African Americans, for Hispanics—6.6 million jobs available today, one of the highest numbers we have seen in history in available jobs today. This is working.

Mr. Speaker, this is being complemented with regulatory relief. This is being complemented with removing or rescinding old regulations, updating and making it more efficient so we can compete on a global scale with countries around the world. The tax bill is working, and it is extraordinary the success that we are seeing.

For example, back in April, we saw the highest tax surplus in history for that month. I believe it was \$213 billion in surplus revenues collected. It is extraordinary growth we are seeing, and as the previous speaker noted, America is back. We are taking the handcuffs off of American businesses, allowing American employment opportunities to be available, allowing for better wages, better jobs, and better competition here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, back in my home State of Louisiana, we have seen companies like Spillway Sportsman, where I have spoken to Scott, the owner, expanding facilities and offering more services to customers. We have seen LHC Group, a healthcare company, raising wages, providing more in retirement benefits to their employees, and we have seen Gulf South Bank raising their minimum wage and investing in bonuses in their employees to ensure that those employees are reaping the benefits

from these changes in the Tax Code and the increased competitiveness in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I will say this again. The tax bill is working. You can look at black and white metrics. You can look at the statistics. You can look at the fundamental change in economic growth that is happening. And, most importantly, Mr. Speaker, you can see the increased wages. You can see the better employment opportunities that are being offered to American workers as opposed to investments going overseas.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to another gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) of the Third District.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for allowing us to address "We, the people" regarding this very important topic.

Mr. Speaker, over the course of the past 500 days, this Congress has worked with President Trump to pass historic tax cuts and regulatory reform. As a result, this is the strongest economy we have seen in two decades.

Many of my colleagues across the aisle, whom I respect, continue to posture otherwise, ignoring the facts. They have dismissed our efforts as Armageddon. But outside of this Chamber, outside of the small bubble that is D.C., the real America exists and real Americans who get it.

People concerned with earning an honest living and providing for their families, because of tax reform, those families are seeing new jobs created. They are seeing real wage growth. They are seeing new investments in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I travel throughout the district that I represent. I speak directly to the citizens that I serve. In Lafayette, Abbeville, New Iberia, Lake Charles, everywhere we go, there are real people telling real stories about how tax cuts are improving their lives.

Americans that I represent, they have shared their stories about how they are using their tax cut to pay bills, to save for retirement, or to buy new school clothes for the kids. Small business owners across south Louisiana have shared how they are expanding operations and investing in their employees. That is the real impact on families in Louisiana and across America.

This body spent months debating the merits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. I and many of my colleagues projected more jobs, more investment, and a stronger economy. We were right. Those projections have become reality: nearly 3 million new jobs since President Trump was elected; 1 million new jobs since we passed historic tax cuts; unemployment at its lowest point in half a century; consumer confidence at a 17-year high; small business optimism at an all-time high; and real GDP growth projected at over 4 percent for 2018.

Let me share that I have read the Book of Revelation. This is no Armageddon. This is a historically strong economy fueled by tax cuts and regulatory reform.

Mr. Speaker, America is back. We are open for business, and Americans will continue to benefit from the pro-growth conservative policies of President Trump and this Republican Congress.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I yield to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS).

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and thank him for his leadership in leading this discussion tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this evening to discuss the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. As a CPA, I knew that reforming our broken Tax Code would make us competitive in a global economy and would lead us to jobs and prosperity for the American people. I saw firsthand the old Tax Code was a nightmare to comply with, adding excessive time for companies and individuals alike to file.

□ 1945

Doubling the standard deduction and streamlining the alternative minimum tax are just two examples within the legislation to simplify the taxpayer experience for millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the rhetoric around here and in the press can get out of hand at times, so let's take a look back at some of the biggest claims about the bill and what the reality is.

One of the most common claims I have heard as a Representative from Kansas was that this act was simply the Kansas tax plan on steroids, but that was never the case. Where Kansas eliminated income taxes on certain businesses, the Federal act simply reduced taxes on all businesses at a comparable rate to other businesses. With the new Federal rates, all businesses, regardless of size, continue to pay Federal income taxes, just at a lower rate. In fact, the truth is, instead of breaking the bank, thanks to this bill, the State of Kansas is seeing new revenue to the tune of nearly \$140 million or more a year.

Mr. Speaker, another one of the most egregious claims was the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act would raise taxes on the middle class. Not only was this claim debunked by fact checkers, here is what the reality is in my district.

A typical family of four in my district is seeing a Federal income tax cut of just over \$2,200. This is on top of bonuses paid and utility companies, like Westar Energy and Kansas City Power and Light Company, announcing they would lower utility rates as a result of this tax reform.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, there were claims made that companies would keep the benefits of tax reform and not use it to grow jobs or wages. I would like to share with you an example from

my district, which sets the record straight on this notion.

The Lawrence Paper Company, which employs hundreds of workers across three locations in Kansas and Nebraska, has recently committed to increasing their post-tax reform investment to \$13 million in equipment. The company's president attributes this increased investment as a direct result of the lower taxes and favorable business climate generated by the recently enacted tax reform.

Couple that fact with the same company's employees receiving hundreds of large bonuses that went toward recovering holiday expenses, paying down bills, or reinvesting in their local community, and my point is even more clear.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is putting more money in Kansans' pockets and creating a system that allows our businesses to compete in a global marketplace. I could not be more pleased that Kansans and Kansas businesses are doing their part to get my State and the national economy moving again.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her expertise and testimony.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD).

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to speak this evening about the positive effect the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has had back in Arkansas' First District. Major industries, businesses, and families are already experiencing financial relief and enjoy having a few more dollars in their pockets.

Agriculture is the number one industry in my district and in the State, adding around \$16 billion to the Arkansas economy each year. Considering this, it was imperative that we pass a tax reform package that brings relief to farmers and ensures the next generation will be able to transition into the industry. The old adage that farmers die land rich but cash poor presented a serious problem under the previous estate tax exemption.

Farming families often struggled to pass the business from one generation to the next. However, by doubling the estate tax exemption in H.R. 1, we are able to bring much-needed support to farming families as they cope with the loss of a loved one and a new generation takes over the farm.

Businesses in my district have also experienced savings from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that they passed along to their customers and employees. Because of the lowered corporate tax rate, Entergy Arkansas, which provides electricity to all of the counties in my district, reduced rates for residential and business customers.

Ryder truck rental, which has locations in Jonesboro and Stuttgart, provided a one-time bonus to eligible employees. In February, Walmart, which has several locations throughout the State, increased the starting wage rate

for all employees to \$11 an hour, expanded maternity and parental leave benefits, and provided a one-time cash bonus to eligible employees of up to \$1,000.

Most important are the savings Arkansas families will see from taking home more of their hard-earned paychecks. A middle-income family of four in Arkansas will see a tax cut of \$1,900. That is almost \$2,000 extra to spend at businesses throughout the State. I am proud to go home to my district and tell my constituents that I voted "yes" on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act because Arkansas farmers, businesses, and families are already benefiting from this legislation.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Louisiana for the opportunity to speak tonight in the House Chamber on what the benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has had across our country and, particularly, in the Second Congressional District of Arkansas.

Like for most Americans, Arkansans are actively benefiting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, signed by President Trump at the end of last year, through lower withholding rates—all Americans should check your check and look at the difference in withholding this year versus last year—a streamlined tax filing process, a doubled child tax credit, a doubled standard deduction, Mr. Speaker, that now says 9 out of 10 Arkansans living in the Second District can file a simple tax reform and not have to go through the paperwork of itemizing, and flexibility in tax advantaged savings for their kid's education has expanded to K through elementary and high school. This helps our families, Mr. Speaker.

I hear numerous examples from Arkansans and business people across the district of how they are seeing that benefit manifested besides the changes in their paycheck.

My friend, Mr. CRAWFORD, referenced Entergy Arkansas. All C corps that are utilities in this country are required to share the benefits of our tax cut directly with the households in their electricity bills and their gas bills. Those rates are falling directly proportionate with the reduction in tax cut rates to the point that Arkansans will save about \$20 a month on a typical electrical bill.

I had a woman write me just a few months ago, right after the law passed, saying that she checked her check in February on withholding, and she found that the change in withholding now paid for the health insurance premium that she is covering for her daughter. These are not crumbs, as alleged by certain leaders in Washington. These are dollars our families get to spend in a way that benefits them.

A local banker in my district announced \$500 bonuses for each of their 800 employees, Mr. Speaker. That is

real money, in addition to the tax savings. That executive at the bank said:

The tax reform has created the opportunity for us to reward our employees who are working hard each day to both serve our customers and enrich relationships in our communities.

Those are not crumbs, Mr. Speaker.

And to make a statement like calling you keeping more of your money crumbs, that just shows you how out of touch some political leaders are up here in the beltway.

Real families in Arkansas and across our country want to have more income for our families. Our businesses want more money to invest because if we invest money, we grow our companies faster. We add employees, and we boost the GDP. We are part of that American Dream that we are witnessing with the lowest unemployment rates in decades, the highest optimism in decades.

Arkansans and Americans should know that House Republicans are working hard on policies to complement the tax reform package to help them keep more of what they earn.

I commend my colleagues for the work that we have done to bring American families and businesses tax relief. For years to come, there will be benefits from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. It was a long wait for 30 years to get this change, but it is reminiscent, back in 1963, of President John Kennedy when he argued for tax cuts, stating the goal is to achieve the most prosperous, expanding economy. Exactly right, President Kennedy. House Republicans share that vision, and we have set a foundation for communities across the country to reap the benefits of their hard work and their contributions to our Nation.

These reforms are not only good for our families, they are necessary for faster economic growth.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK).

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Louisiana for hosting this very important discussion about the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. As has been mentioned many times in the last several presentations, there is no question that the tax reform plan passed in this Chamber and in the Senate and signed into law by President Trump is working.

Because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the economy is taking a turn for a brighter and much more prosperous future. Americans are getting to keep more of their hard-earned paychecks. More jobs are being created, and wages are on the rise.

Since tax reform was signed into law, the good news keeps coming for hard-working Americans. American businesses are more empowered to invest in their workforces, expand their operations, and simply give back to their communities. In fact, more than 500 businesses, and counting, have increased wages, improved employee benefits, or awarded bonuses.

In Arkansas, the impact is very tangible. My friend from the Second District, FRENCH HILL, talked about what Entergy Arkansas has been able to do by providing energy customers across our State with \$466 million in credits towards the cost of heating and cooling their homes.

Families in my district—Arkansas' Third—are seeing their taxes go down by nearly \$2,000 on average, and Third District companies are benefiting Americans nationwide.

My friend from Arkansas, Mr. CRAWFORD, talked about Walmart. Walmart is headquartered in my district. It increased its starting hourly wage to \$11 for more than 1.5 million U.S. associates. The company also expanded parental leave benefits, provided a one-time cash bonus for eligible employees of up to \$1,000, and is now empowering its employees to obtain a college education. All of this made possible by something as simple as allowing companies, businesses, and individuals to keep a little more of their hard-earned money.

Tyson Foods in my district, America's market leader in protein production, headquartered in Springdale, is also using this bill to invest in its people. Tyson Foods provided a one-time bonus to more than 100,000 team members of between \$500 and \$1,000.

So you can see, Mr. Speaker, thanks to tax reform, there is, indeed, a greater optimism about the Nation's economic future.

This fact was confirmed by the Congressional Budget Office's annual baseline, which echoed this apparent optimism. As a direct result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, CBO expects that employment will rise, wages and income levels will increase, and potential output will grow. Now, who can be opposed to that?

Even more good news. Unemployment, as has been mentioned, is at an 18-year low, and CBO expects businesses will continue to invest in the economy and, over the next 11 years, create nearly 1 million new jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I was a proud supporter of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and I am proud of the benefits it has brought to the American people. I look forward to witnessing its long-lasting benefits for America.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for hosting this. Also, it is an honor to follow my three colleagues from Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, specifically in the Fourth District of Arkansas.

One of the greatest advantages that H.R. 1 provides residents of Arkansas' Fourth District is an increased standard deduction of \$12,000 for single filers and \$24,000 for joint filers.

In my district, 81.5 percent of residents choose the standard deduction

when filing their taxes, and they will now be taxed on a smaller portion of their income. In addition, the child tax credit has been doubled to \$2,000 and made partially refundable, a boost for low-income families. Those who itemize their deductions will find most of their previous options still available, including the interest deduction for most mortgages, capital gains deductions, and deductions for charitable contributions.

An overwhelming number of low- and middle-income Arkansans have benefited from the first major tax reform in 36 years. At the same time, these changes have simplified our complex tax laws and encouraged businesses of all sizes to invest in their communities.

□ 2000

Many have committed to increasing wages, paying bonuses to employees, and reinvesting in American jobs and infrastructure, as my colleagues have previously mentioned.

Businesses in Arkansas are thriving, and the biggest concern that I hear right now are where do they find labor. We have got a low unemployment rate and there is a huge competition for labor in my district.

H.R. 1 also maintained the Federal historic tax credit that was originally championed by Ronald Reagan. Cities, like my hometown of Hot Springs, have relied on the historic tax credit to revitalize downtowns and create jobs.

This tax credit has been used to refurbish, revitalize, and reinvigorate properties and communities across the Fourth District of Arkansas and across the country. This not only brings economic prosperity back to these towns and back to these historic areas, but it allows us to keep our history alive for future generations.

Passage of tax cuts and the continuation of the Historic Tax Credit will continue to propel the economy of Arkansas and the country forward. I am proud to have supported it and proud to stand up with my colleagues from The Natural State and around the country to praise its benefits.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for putting this together tonight.

Mr. Speaker, Iowa's economy is humming, paychecks are growing, employers are hiring and investing, unemployment is low.

Not too long ago, during National Small Business Week, I visited with the Urbandale Chamber of Commerce to talk about the benefits of the new Tax Code. A small businessowner told me: "When the new income tax calculations came out, my employees all asked why their paychecks were bigger."

The businessowner told them it was because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. They thought there was a mistake.

But, no, this is real, and workers are feeling the benefits of the tax relief law.

A constituent from the Des Moines metro area called the office one day to share with us that his monthly income had gone up \$300 because of tax relief. That is real money to Iowans.

A resident of Council Bluffs shared he was receiving over \$100 more in each paycheck, which he and his wife are using to make their car payments. It is helping Iowans.

A small brewery in Glenwood, Iowa, in Mills County called Keg Creek is expanding their operations and investing in new equipment as they grow.

A manager at Jethro's BBQ in western Des Moines said: "Our employees are bringing home more money. Everyone across the board is taking home more money. I can't be more clear about that."

He continued: "It is helping the people that work for us."

Mr. Speaker, the new tax law is helping people across the Third District, throughout all of Iowa, and the country. We see this reflected in data and we just heard it through testimonials.

Since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was passed, 1 million jobs, we have heard, have been created; unemployment is at the lowest rate in 50 years; and for the first time in 17 years, two-thirds of Americans say it is a good time to find a quality job.

Consumer confidence is the highest it has been in nearly 2 decades. Compensation increases for workers at small businesses are at the highest level in 20 years. Average hourly and weekly earnings are 3.4 percent higher than this time a year ago.

We hear the statistics, because the evidence is clear, and we hear the voices of our constituents telling us this as well.

Our pro-growth policies, tax relief, and commonsense regulatory reform are working. I look forward to seeing our economy continue to grow and flourish and to see American workers and their families continue to thrive.

Allowing workers to keep more of their hard-earned dollars is simply the right thing. And when you do the right thing, good things happen. Good things are happening in Iowa because of this tax relief.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES).

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my friend from Louisiana, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is helping families and businesses in my home State of Kansas and throughout our country.

Since Republicans in Congress and the President enacted tax reform, 400 companies have announced \$4 billion in bonuses and investments, impacting 4 million workers.

In my community, Spirit AeroSystems announced new invest-

ments in training and technology. Fidelity Bank announced \$1,500 bonuses for its 400 Wichita area employees. Cox Communications announced up to \$2,000 bonuses for its 900 area employees.

Recently, small businessowner Bob Aldrich of railroad car parts supplier, Wichita Railway Services, gave his employees \$3,000 to \$6,000 bonuses, the largest in the country, thanks to the new law.

In addition to the bonuses and the new jobs being created, 90 percent of Americans began seeing more monthly take-home pay in February.

For Kansans, that meant a middle class family of four will see a tax cut of nearly \$2,300.

These numbers are not crumbs. No, they are not crumbs at all for millions of families across the country. And despite those doomsday predictions, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is already boosting our economy.

Just last week, the unemployment rate fell again to 3.8 percent, the lowest in 18 years. And when families and businesses file next year under the new Tax Code, hardworking Americans will keep even more of their money.

In fact, Wichita tax accountant Archie Macias analyzed his clients' 2017 tax returns and found that approximately 95 percent of his clients will pay less in taxes next year due to the new law.

These numbers are staggering. But behind all of these statistics are people. Whether it is a small general aviation parts manufacturer in Newton or a wheat farmer in Pratt, Kansans from all backgrounds and in all sectors are seeing growth in our economy once again.

Republicans are delivering on our promise to cut taxes and cut regulations, and I look forward to continuing our pro-growth agenda to help American workers and their families.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and all my colleagues who have participated tonight in this Special Order.

I have spoken quite a bit, we all have, about the national benefits of tax reform, because I think the wage increases and the job creation and the business investment and the consumer confidence should not be ignored, and I am so grateful that has been highlighted tonight. But I also want to talk about what tax reform means to our folks back home in Louisiana and in my Fourth Congressional District.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce predicted that enacting the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act would lead to the creation of more than 13,000 jobs in Louisiana and effectively give middle class families in our State a raise of roughly \$2,000. But I would like to highlight the benefits the U.S. Chamber specifically predicted for my constituents in the 15 parishes, or counties as they are known everywhere else in the country, in northwestern and west Louisiana. That is my district.

We have over 53,000 taxpayers in the Fourth District of Louisiana that will be able to claim a larger child tax credit, just by one example. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act increased the child tax credit from \$1,000 per child to \$1,600 per child.

Nearly 50,000 taxpayers in the Fourth Congressional District derive their income from small businesses, and we know the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reduces taxes for small businessowners. Everyone ultimately will benefit from that.

For small businessowners, tax reform implements a new, lower, 9 percent tax rate on the first \$75,000 of net business income for owners earning less than \$150,000. Tax reform reduces taxes on small business investment overall by creating a new 25 percent small business tax rate.

Over 4,000 taxpayers that used to have to pay the alternative minimum tax will no longer have to do that. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, as we know, eliminated the AMT.

Even the stress that comes from filing taxes is now going to be reduced. What used to take many, many hours for most Americans has now been reduced substantially.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act doubled the standard deduction, meaning that many taxpayers will have much simpler returns to fill out now every year and could potentially even file their returns on a document the size of a postcard. Yes, it is true.

And 6 months after enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the good news just keeps coming in. We can scarcely keep up with all the happy headlines that have come out of this. That is exactly what we hoped, exactly what we predicted, and it is all coming to pass.

But rather than just talking about the sum of the benefits, I would like to talk about a specific success story, because when we relate this to real people and what it means to real, average, everyday, hardworking Americans, that is where we understand the real benefit.

I want to talk about the success story of Canal Coffee shops, owned and operated by Bossier City native Rodrick James.

Starting in 2016, Mr. James and Priscilla Mayfield opened their anchor store in downtown Kinder, Louisiana, and quickly saw success in the coffee shop and light lunch business model.

Remarkably, Mr. James built his business from the ground up without taking a small business loan.

He expanded his business to include shops in Oberlin and Shreveport, Louisiana. And now with the implementation of pro-growth policies, Mr. James has announced that he plans to open a fourth and then a fifth store in the very near future.

The self-described entrepreneur is anxious to make a difference, and he said: "The latest tax reform bill will definitely be good for me. I am growing"—my business is growing—"and

this tax relief will help me continue that growth.”

He continued: “I pay my employees well already, but there is a lot I can do to grow faster with the extra money.”

See, our district is full of small businessowners like Rodrick James. They are working long hours. They are sacrificing. They are playing by the rules. They are giving their all to achieve their own version of the American Dream.

In fact, that is how we define the American Dream. If you are willing to sacrifice, you are willing to work hard, you are willing to play by the rules, you ought to be able to make a better life for yourself and your family, for your children that come after you, and now we are enabling that again.

This Congress has delivered a fairer, simpler Tax Code that has allowed small businessowners, just like Rodrick, to keep more of their hard-earned dollars and reinvest in their employees, businesses, and community.

Mr. James served our Nation in the U.S. Army for 8 years before becoming a businessowner, and now he strives to remain community-focused. He has donated over \$7,000 to students in our area, and as his business continues to grow, we are certain he is going to continue to sow those good seeds back into the community.

His story is truly inspiring. It embodies the essence of what it means to be an American. I am proud to represent him and his business right here in this Congress.

All around the Fourth District, throughout Louisiana, and every corner of our great Nation, you can find remarkable people who share Mr. James’ experience. Their dreams, that they work hard every day to achieve, can become even bigger with tax reform. This is a big thing for the country.

As my colleagues have said and reiterated here tonight, Mr. Speaker, America is back, and we are humbled to have been a part of it.

I am grateful to all my colleagues who participated in this Special Order this evening. For all the reasons we have articulated, we just want to highlight, once again, that this is an important and proud moment for our Nation, and we are all truly grateful to have been a part of this history.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, so we hear today from the Mueller investigation, as he was appointed by a man named Rosenstein that we now know was completely disqualified from being able to select or name a special counsel

for a number of reasons. For one thing, he would be a witness, because one of the issues was did President Trump obstruct justice when he fired Comey. And the President relied totally, or largely, on the memo that was prepared by Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein. He would be a material witness.

You can’t be involved in an investigation if you are a material witness.

Rosenstein, as it would happen, also had worked with a guy named Mueller and Weissman when they were working on an investigation into Russia’s illegal efforts to get U.S. uranium. And, in fact, they kind of had to jointly and severally put the quash on information about that investigation, because if they didn’t, then the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., CFIUS, including Hillary Clinton, would not have been able to vote to allow the sale of uranium that would end up in Russia’s hands. And if that sale hadn’t gone through, there is no question all those stockholders that benefitted would not have been so anxious to put \$145 million in the Clinton Foundation and probably Russia wouldn’t have been as quick to pay \$500,000 for a speech from former President Clinton.

□ 2015

But there are all kinds of implications there. Of course, we know from previous special counsels from the Department of Justice, all of them, until Rosenstein and Mueller, made a thorough effort to select lawyers and investigating officers who appeared to have no political bias going in.

What did Mueller do? He specifically went for the people that loved Hillary Clinton and hated Donald Trump, went out of his way to do that.

Some have complained, well, Weissmann has a history of putting innocent people out of work, destroying lives, not only making them unemployed, but making them unemployable and, as the Supreme Court has said, all for things that were not even crimes. That doesn’t seem to deter him, just as it has never deterred Robert Mueller from destroying people’s lives, people of integrity, honest, upstanding people, whether it was Ted Stevens—heck, Colin Powell, one of the previous Cabinet members, decorated military man, had nothing but just accolades to say about Ted Stevens and what an honorable, honest, upright man he was.

And the Mueller FBI framed him. They hid information that not only would have raised a reasonable doubt that showed unequivocally he was not guilty of having a gift of hundreds of thousands of dollars of addition to his cabin because not only did he pay for it, he paid about 20 percent more than the value because, as he had said before: I have to go above and beyond just to keep people at bay who might want to come after me. I have got to keep my nose so clean.

Yet I guess it could be argued, well, maybe Mueller didn’t know that the FBI framed Ted Stevens and convicted him immediately before his election. Well, there is no question he would have known about it as the FBI agent who was singled out by another FBI agent as having engaged in the malicious prosecution, the hiding of evidence, the failure to produce evidence that they had that was exculpatory.

Well, we know that the FBI agent that signed the whistleblowing affidavit, he was driven out of the FBI; and the one that there is evidence under oath that she framed Ted Stevens, she continued to work in the Mueller FBI, which is kind of like Mueller when he was in Boston.

As far as I know, there is no direct evidence that Mueller knew that his FBI agents in Boston were framing Whitey Bulger’s competition, but he certainly had to have known that those four people were innocent when he kept putting pressure on the parole board not to release those innocent people, which I guess is another reason it cost taxpayers \$100 million to the two individuals and then the two families of the two people who died in prison.

Or Curt Weldon, that was the Mueller FBI. I kept wondering my freshman term, Curt would come to this microphone right here—and maybe that should be a warning to me: if you make Mueller mad, he destroys your life. But somebody’s got to stand up to a mean-spirited bully like Robert Mueller. If everybody is afraid of a guy like that, then, I mean, we are Third World governments.

But I kept thinking, you know, Curt Weldon keeps saying the FBI had information before 9/11, they could have done things to stop it, and he kept raising serious questions. I thought Mueller has surely got to answer these. And, yes, I know he had only come to the FBI right before 9/11, so chances are he was not implicated because of his recent arrival as FBI Director before 9/11. But surely he has got to respond somehow. These are serious allegations Curt Weldon was making.

Well, he ultimately did respond. The FBI did a raid on Curt Weldon’s adult daughter’s lawyer office before, I think it was around 6 a.m., and, amazingly, the only people who knew were FBI; and yet all of the media was there to witness the raid, on television, newspaper, radio. They all showed up.

And they are not the only ones to whom it was leaked, because protestors showed up immediately at Curt Weldon’s office accusing him of crimes, caught red-handed, stuff like that. That was 2 weeks before his election that he narrowly lost.

Apparently, that is how Mueller responds.

You know, with all the complaints about bullies these days, you would think that adults in Congress would say: Do you know what? We don’t want adult bullies either. We don’t want to