

and heard from more than 80 witnesses on how we can improve the program and work toward the ultimate goal of ending hunger in America.

Mr. Speaker, the House farm bill makes a historic investment in work programs so SNAP recipients have a chance to learn new skills and climb the rungs on the ladder of opportunity and escape poverty once and for all.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING WOODIE RUCKER-HUGHES

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, a passionate educator, a change-maker, and a powerhouse of a woman, that is how the community of Riverside would describe my dear friend, Waudieuer "Woodie" Rucker-Hughes.

As a history teacher at John W. North High School and an administrator for the Riverside Unified School District, Woodie worked to demolish educational barriers and address the needs of all students.

As an activist and leader for the Riverside branch of the NAACP, Woodie challenged injustice and moved our communities forward every single day. As a mother and a friend, she touched my life and the lives of many others with her kindness and her steadfast support and encouragement.

Today, we remember Woodie, her legacy, and everything she stood for. I am going to leave you with Woodie's motto: Good, better, best. Never let them rest until the good becomes better and the better becomes best.

In honor of Woodie, let's keep working to make this country, and the world, an even better place than she left it.

CONGRATULATING CHRISTOPHER EVANS

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise today to honor Christopher Evans, a teacher at Basha High School in my district.

Mr. Evans was one of 52 Americans who received the James Madison Fellowship, which is awarded to one distinguished educator from each State. This award recognizes exceptional teachers of American history and social studies seeking "to strengthen their knowledge of the origins and development of American constitutional government, and to expose our future leaders to the knowledge of the Nation's constitutional heritage."

I congratulate Mr. Evans on this achievement, and I know he has a bright future in my home State of Arizona.

DEFENDING U.S. INTERESTS

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Russia is not our friend; Russia is our adversary.

We witnessed our President side with an autocrat and adversary of our country over his own intelligence community and blame the USA for our relationship with Russia.

From separating families at the southern border to embracing Putin over the protection of U.S. interests, Mr. Trump has thrown out that values that our country is founded on.

Putin may be Mr. Trump's friend, but he is not America's. Our President forgets that the U.S. interests go beyond his own personal interests and relationships. If Putin wants to return to the days with no pushback from the U.S., that is one thing. If our President wants to return to those days, rather than defend America and our allies, that is another.

It shouldn't matter whether you are a Republican or a Democrat. If the President of the United States won't defend our interests before those of our adversaries, Congress must.

LOWYAL'S TRAFFICKING STORY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Lowyal was just like any other teenager across America. When she was 13 years of age and in school, daily bullying started. Then her relationship with her mother became worse. So she dropped out of school, took drugs, and eventually joined a gang.

Eventually, her newfound "friends" introduced her to a "game" where she walked up and down the streets, under the constant watch of her owners. She was the victim of human trafficking, modern-day slavery. These older men manipulated her youth and stole her innocence on the marketplace of sex slavery.

My legislation, the Abolish Human Trafficking Act, will increase prosecutions for perpetrators like the slave traders who trafficked Lowyal and hold them accountable for their crimes of sex slavery.

America must support victims of human traffickers and put their predators where they belong: in the jailhouse. We as a community must rescue victims from this scourge of slavery that is taking place in our country.

And that is just the way it is.

KEEPING THE PRESIDENT IN CHECK

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, this week, we witnessed the weakening of the Presidency due to the actions of this President.

Now, I realize that President Trump is not constrained by customs, norms, or decorum, but his actions this week contravened his oath to preserve, protect, and defend the United States Constitution.

Yes, this President likes to act tough with tweets and trash talk, but he has proven that he is unwilling to get tough with adversaries when he stands face to face.

What is worse is that he is willing to sell out our intelligence agencies in order to suck up to the leader of a nation that has attacked us and continues to attack many democracies around the world.

Hopefully, his actions will motivate this body, our Congress, to act. Let's condemn these comments. Let's protect the special counsel. Let's protect the integrity of our elections. Let's fully implement the Russian sanctions passed last year and pass even harsher ones, if Russia does this again.

By doing anything, we can keep this President in check. When we do that, we restore the credibility of our Presidency. If we do that, we uphold the credibility of this Congress by fulfilling our oath to our democracy, so help us God.

INVASIVE ASIAN CARP

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness about the single greatest threat to Tennessee's lake and river systems. Invasive Asian carp are destroying Tennessee's native fisheries across the State.

If ignored, these fish will decimate recreation, sporting, and tourism industries that rely on more than 60,000 miles of streams and rivers in my State.

For years, the focal point for combating Asian carp has been in the North, particularly the Great Lakes. However, this continued threat has spread through the Southeast. It is time to recognize that this species is invading States like Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama.

Congress needs to take action, or we are going to lose some of the most biologically diverse rivers and bass fishing in the country.

Asian carp have the capacity to destroy the food systems of highly valued recreational and commercial fisheries, which generate \$2 billion in economic impact annually in Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, this issue cannot be ignored, and I implore my colleagues to work with me to combat the invasion of Asian carp in Tennessee and throughout the Southeast.