

than themselves. In order to see results, we must continue to fight, further their legacy and their work each and every day.

On a personal note, it is never lost on me that I get to walk the Halls of Congress today because four little Black girls lost their lives, so they can't.

□ 1015

It is humbling and inspiring to know that my very presence in this institution was because of the personal sacrifice of others. I was honored that my first bill to pass Congress was to pay tribute to Addie Mae Collins, to Carole, to Cynthia, and to Denise posthumously, when the Congress of the United States gave a Congressional Gold Medal in 2013 on the 50th anniversary of their deaths.

I want to thank Pastor Price and the amazing congregation of 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, who tirelessly keep the flame and memory of this tragic incident alive and preserves this historic church for future generations.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Seventh Congressional District and the State of Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the 55th observance of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing and in honoring the life and legacy of four little girls, Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Morris Wesley.

The events 55 years ago shaped the future of our Nation and continues to have a lasting impact on our quest for equal justice and our pursuit for a more perfect union.

#### RECOGNIZING ABE AND TRISH HARPSTER AS 2018 ANGELS IN ADOPTION HONOREES

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Abe and Trish Harpster of Spruce Creek, Pennsylvania.

Abe and Trish were recently chosen as the Congressional Coalition on Adoption's 2018 Angels in Adoption Honorees for their extraordinary contributions to adoption.

I proudly nominated the Harpsters for this honor because they truly are generous and selfless individuals.

The Harpsters have successfully adopted three of their children: Logan, Riley, and Teagan. Trish works in sales and Abe runs his family's dairy farm in Huntingdon County. Both feel extraordinarily blessed and lucky to be parents of these three great kids.

Having attempted several adoptions, Abe and Trish like to share their adoption stories and act as a resource for parents beginning the process. They are passionate about improving Federal laws and regulations to ensure more children are connected with a permanent, loving family.

Every year the Harpsters host a fly-fishing tournament on their family farm. The money raised from this event goes directly to the Centre County Youth Services Bureau.

This nonprofit organization has been strengthening children and families since 1968. They work to provide every child with the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Last year's fishing event raised more than \$60,000 for the Youth Services Bureau, and in the coming years, the Harpsters hope to raise even more for this great organization.

Later this month, Angels in Adoption honorees from across the country will arrive in Washington, D.C., to be celebrated for their great contributions.

I look forward to meeting Abe and Trish to congratulate them on this outstanding honor and discuss child welfare issues as well as their own personal experiences with the adoption process.

For the past 20 years, Angels in Adoption has celebrated individuals, couples, and organizations from across the country that have made an extraordinary contribution on behalf of children in need: everyday heroes, or in this case angels, like the Harpsters, who never seek recognition but wholeheartedly deserve it.

I look forward to congratulating Abe and Trish in person.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to note that this past Sunday was National Grandparents Day. In honor of this special day, we must not forget the outstanding work being done by the foster grandparents across the country.

The Foster Grandparent Program is a part of the Senior Corps of the Cooperation for National and Community Service.

This program provides a way for volunteers age 55 and over to serve as role models, mentors, and friends to children with exceptional needs.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, there are more than 10,000 Senior Corps volunteers. These volunteers have touched the lives of so many children by tutoring more than 4,000 young people in Pennsylvania alone. And, Madam Speaker, these foster grandparents provide the kind of guidance and love that set children on the path towards a successful future.

I look forward to celebrating Abe and Trish Harpster, and want to recognize all those who play an important role in the lives of young people. There is no greater gift to give than time, love, and support to a child in need.

#### RECOGNIZING NOTHING BUT NETS FOR WORK AGAINST MALARIA

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, recently I met with a constituent who works with the grassroots organization Nothing But Nets, which raises awareness in the fight against malaria.

As you may know, malaria is transmitted to people through mosquitoes carrying the disease. In 2016, there

were 216 million new cases of malaria worldwide and 445,000 deaths, 70 percent of which were children under five. Malaria takes the life of a child every 2 minutes.

Most malaria cases and deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa, but Southeast Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East are also at risk.

Malaria is a treatable, preventable disease, but half the world's population lives in danger of contracting the parasite from a simple mosquito bite.

U.S. leadership is critical to the elimination of malaria around the world and we have helped to create and expand lifesaving interventions like long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor residual spray, and rapid diagnostic tests.

Our continued leadership is critical in finally eliminating malaria around the world. I look forward to the day when we can eradicate malaria once and for all.

#### INVESTMENTS IN OUR NATION'S WATER SYSTEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support much needed investments in our Nation's water systems.

Earlier this year, EPA estimated some \$472 billion is needed to maintain the Nation's drinking water infrastructure over the next 20 years.

We have woefully underinvested in drinking water for far too long, and now crumbling pipes and failing systems pose a serious threat to public health and public safety.

Later today, the House is expected to vote on S. 3021, America's Water Infrastructure Act, the latest iteration of WRDA.

It is a good bill, the result of bipartisan and bicameral negotiations.

I am incredibly proud of the work done by both majority and minority members of the Energy and Commerce Committee on H.R. 3387, the Drinking Water System Improvement Act, which was reported out of committee unanimously in July of 2017. Nearly all of that bill has been incorporated into S. 3021.

I would like to highlight a number of the provisions that I am pleased were included in the final package.

Since 2014, I have introduced legislation to reauthorize the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, the primary source of Federal funding for our water systems. Since its creation, the program has never been reauthorized, and funding has been flat, despite the growing needs in our communities.

S. 3021 would increase the authorization from \$1 billion annually until it reaches a \$1.95 billion level in fiscal year 2021.

In addition to providing significantly increased funding through the SRF, I want to mention a number of other provisions.

First, WRDA makes numerous important changes to the SRF program, including extending the length of loans from 20 to 30 years, and up to 40 years for disadvantaged communities, while increasing the set-aside for these communities by raising the maximum and, importantly, instituting a minimum amount of assistance.

It provides \$125 million annually to support State water offices through the Public Water Systems Supervision grant program.

It seeks to improve the availability of compliance data submitted by water systems and States.

It promotes better asset management practices, improves consumer confidence reports, and reauthorizes the Source Water Petition Program.

It includes funding for EPA to review methods and technologies to prevent and detect leakage, contamination, and other problems.

It requires Buy America standards for SRF projects through fiscal year 2023 and prevailing wage standards to ensure that American workers are benefiting from these investments.

It provides funding for systems to conduct risk assessments of their resilience to extreme weather.

It establishes a grant program to help schools and daycare centers replace water fountains containing lead components.

Also related to lead, it requires future EPA needs assessments to include the cost of replacing lead service lines.

I know a number of communities are dealing with emerging contaminants, such as PFOA and PFOS. Currently, only systems serving more than 10,000 people are required to test for unregulated contaminants. This bill requires water systems serving over 3,300 people to monitor for these contaminants, empowering local residents to take action to mitigate serious health threats that they may not have known existed otherwise.

This would mean that thousands of communities, communities like Hoosick Falls, New York, and similarly sized systems would no longer have emerging contaminants go undetected, potentially threatening their residents for years.

Finally, while not included in the committee-passed bill, WRDA authorizes \$100 million for areas hit by natural disasters to repair their water systems, enabling post-Maria Puerto Rico to access funds without the financial burden of State matching requirements.

This is not an exhaustive list of provisions in this title, but it gives a sense of the breadth of policies that were included to improve the Safe Drinking Water Act.

This bill is not a clean water silver bullet, but it will put us on the path to end the decades of neglect of our water infrastructure and make the investments needed to maintain and upgrade our systems in order to protect public health.

I want to thank my colleagues, Representative HARPER, Chair SHIMKUS, Chair WALDEN, and their staffs for working with our side of the aisle on this legislation. I want to acknowledge the contributions of our ranking member Representative FRANK PALLONE, Jackie Cohen, Jean Fruci, and Rick Kessler, and other members of the Energy and Commerce minority staff for their hard work.

I always say that every life and every job in this country depends on access to safe drinking water. The needs are great and the cost of inaction is high.

Today, Congress has the opportunity to act. I urge my colleagues to support America's Water Infrastructure Act and for the Senate to take it up immediately.

#### HONORING LOGAN S. PALMER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to re-member Petty Officer Logan Palmer of Harristown, Illinois, who was tragically lost in the accident last August aboard USS *John S. McCain*.

Logan knew early that he wanted to serve his country. After he graduated from Sangamon Valley High School and Richland Community College, he enlisted in the Navy as an interior communications electrician.

Petty Officer Logan Palmer died serving and protecting our country, and for that, we remain eternally grateful.

Today, the House will vote on a bill to designate Harristown's post office in Logan's hometown of Harristown, Illinois, a small rural community in Macon County, Illinois, as the Logan S. Palmer Post Office.

Although I never had the honor of meeting Logan, I have since come to know his parents, Theresa and Sid, and I was honored they were able to join me when I introduced this bill earlier this year. While they sat in the gallery, I was able to drop that piece of paper in the box to introduce this bill to the floor of the House, and I am honored today to ask my colleagues to join me in passing this important legislation to honor one of America's heroes.

Designating this post office will not only honor Logan's service, but serve as a grave reminder of the risks that our servicemembers take on each day and the responsibilities we have to them as a country.

It is my privilege to be able to honor Logan today, but, again, it is not why we are here. Many times this chamber will be criticized for naming post offices, naming public buildings, but, again, let us remember the sacrifices that many of those who those buildings are named after made for the freedoms and the liberties that many of us in this country take for granted every day.

When Logan joined the Navy, no one in his hometown, let alone his family, thought that he would sacrifice so much for the freedom and liberty of our great country.

It is my honor to honor Logan S. Palmer with this bill today, and his name will live forever on his local post office.

□ 1030

#### DEMOCRATIC VISION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, once again, the do-nothing Republican Congress has outdone itself.

Here in America, we have a wage stagnation problem, an underemployment problem, an infrastructure problem, a retirement insecurity problem, and a corruption problem right here in Washington, D.C.

What is the House Republicans' response to these challenges facing the American people? They want to get out of town before sundown.

Why don't we remain here in Washington, doing the people's business week after week, month after month until we get something done on these issues, improve the lives of working families, middle-class folks, senior citizens, the poor, the sick, and the afflicted?

They want to get out of town before sundown.

There are two very different visions for the American people. Republicans control the House, the Senate, and the Presidency. What has that brought to the American people? Chaos, crisis, confusion, the culture of corruption.

Part two, the sequel, and the signature piece of legislation is the Republican tax scam, where 83 percent of the benefits went to the wealthiest 1 percent in this country simply to subsidize the lifestyles of the rich and shameless. That is their signature accomplishment?

The Democratic vision is very different. Democrats here in the House are fighting for the people. We are fighting to lower healthcare costs, fighting to strengthen the Affordable Care Act, fighting to protect people with preexisting conditions, fighting to dramatically lower the high cost of prescription drugs, fighting to increase pay for everyday Americans so that folks can provide a comfortable living for themselves and for their families, fighting for a real infrastructure plan that invests \$1 trillion in fixing our Nation's crumbling bridges, roads, and tunnels and will create 16 million good-paying jobs.

Democrats here in the House of Representatives are fighting to clean up corruption in Washington to make government work for everyday Americans. We are fighting to end, once and for all, the era of Citizens United.

That is the House Democratic vision: lower healthcare costs, increased pay,