

Finally, beyond her academic contributions, what is more illuminating of Mrs. Howard's character was the way she connected with her students and her friends. She took a personal interest in the scholarship and mentorship of the youth that went far beyond success in the classroom.

This is, indeed, a solemn occasion, but it is also an occasion to celebrate. At 102 years old, Mrs. Sallie B. Howard fought the good fight, served her community, and was a friend and mentor to many.

I am thankful to God that she was able to touch so many lives. May she rest in peace. She now belongs to the ages.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life, work, and legacy of Sallie Baldwin Howard.

SUPPORT TAX REFORM 2.0

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, as I traveled the communities of my congressional district, I witnessed and saw firsthand the evidence of the great American comeback: the amount of jobs, the job growth that was available, the increase in wages, individuals who have left one job for what we call a new job, a better job, higher wages. The economic growth was absolutely incredible and inspiring, the great American comeback.

Since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was passed last December, the results in our economy have been historic. The unemployment rate is at 3.9 percent, the lowest it has been in decades. Job openings are at a record high. 213,000 jobs were added in June alone in this great Nation. In June, there were 6.7 million job openings—most recently reported, we are at 6.9 million job openings—marking the first time since 2000 that there have been more job openings than those who are unemployed.

Over the past 12 months, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has added more than 65,000 new jobs. I witnessed a lot of those in my visits to manufacturers, refineries, and small businesses. It is just incredible, this great American comeback.

Mr. Speaker, after years of struggling to get ahead, the American people are seeing more jobs, opportunity, and optimism come back. Small-business owners are reporting increased employment and higher wages at record levels. Main Streets across America are thriving. People have more money in their paychecks, and the tax cuts are working for the middle class.

Today and Friday, this House will vote on three bills and make the tax cuts permanent, make the great American comeback permanent. We need to double down on the success and pass tax reform 2.0.

Through the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we have doubled the standard deduction and lowered tax rates, which means that 90 percent of Americans are seeing more money in their paychecks this year. Plus, more than 4 million Americans at 642 companies see better wages, bonuses, and expanded retirement options.

In fact, more than half of small businesses have plans to expand and boost hiring or increase employee benefits. This is tremendous news for American families. Too many Americans have been living paycheck to paycheck and have been doing so for way too long. Stagnant wages, growing debt, and the inability to save have plagued so many.

Tax reform 2.0 will create and expand additional programs to help Americans save. For example, it creates a new savings account to offer a fully flexible savings tool that families can use at any time. It expands the 529 education savings accounts. It creates a new baby savings program to help with the birth of a child or an adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I fundamentally believe that Americans should keep more of their hard-earned money. They deserve that. Thanks to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Congress paved the way to create a tax system that is fairer, simpler, and one that establishes an environment where our country can thrive.

We worked hard to do that. On Friday, we will vote to make those tax cuts permanent.

If you support higher wages, if you support lower unemployment, if you support more jobs, if you support bigger paychecks, if you support the American people, then you will support tax reform 2.0.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD SIMON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the tremendous and meaningful work of Howard Simon, executive director of the ACLU of Florida.

Mr. Simon is retiring this year following a distinguished career defending civil rights and civil liberties that lasted longer than that of any other ACLU leader in the country. Prior to his appointment as executive director of the Florida affiliate in 1997, Mr. Simon led the fight to defend civil rights and civil liberties in Michigan, where he served as ACLU director for 23 years.

His 21 years at the ACLU of Florida make him the longest serving ACLU director in the country, and his cumulative 44-year career as a State director is the longest in the ACLU's 98-year history.

As a student at City College of New York in 1965, Mr. Simon joined fellow student leaders to travel to Selma, Alabama, to march for voting rights alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This experience started a decades-long career fighting for the rights guaranteed to all Americans under the United States Constitution.

In his time as executive director at the ACLU of Florida, Mr. Simon oversaw landmark work defending the rights of LGBTQ Floridians, protecting immigrants, reforming our criminal justice system, protecting free speech, preserving women's health, and strengthening the right to vote. The rights that Floridians enjoy would not be the same without the tireless work of this champion of liberty.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Howard Simon my dear friend, and I join my fellow Floridians in thanking him for his thoughtful and compassionate work to safeguard our civil liberties and for helping to make the United States a more perfect union for us all.

RECOGNIZING PAUL AND SWANEE DiMARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on October 2, the Dade County Farm Bureau is proud to honor Paul and Swanee DiMare, an agriculture powerhouse couple hailing from our south Florida community.

For more than 90 years, the DiMare family has graced south Florida by providing some of the best quality produce our Nation has to offer, so much, in fact, that they have earned the title of Mr. and Mrs. Tomato.

But where some may know them for their tasty and nutritious products alone, others know them for their world-class philanthropy and public service. From protecting our beautiful botanical gardens, to advocating for organizations like the Red Cross, Paul and Swanee continue to serve as an inspiration to all those who call our slice of paradise home.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize this extraordinary couple, and I thank Paul and Swanee for their tireless work in our community.

ANNUAL MIAMI WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Alzheimer's Association 2018 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Miami-Dade, being held in my congressional district on November 3.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 5.7 million Americans are battling this brutal condition, 200,000 of whom are under the age of 65.

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Moreover, this disease is the sixth leading cause of death in our Nation. Sadly, Alzheimer's, currently, cannot be cured, cannot be prevented, and cannot be slowed. That is why advocacy and awareness are paramount.

Although scientific and medical advancements to fight the effects of dementia have made significant progress, we must not, and we cannot, rest. That