

good, humble people who loved God, worked hard, and struggled to make a better life for themselves and their children.

I also saw their needless pain and suffering due to their poverty and lack of healthcare resources.

I vowed at the age of four to become a doctor and serve them.

As a freshman pre-med student at UCLA, I stayed awake at night on the top bunk bed of my tiny dorm room thinking about the difference I would one day make.

After graduating from Harvard's medical, government, and public health schools, I returned home as an emergency medicine physician as promised.

I rolled up my sleeves, organized, and went to trailer parks, rural community parks, and the poorest communities to help.

I saw familiar faces with familiar stories of suffering still living in poverty and resource-poor communities.

That is why I founded the Coachella Valley Healthcare Initiative in 2010, along with my wife, Monica, and our good friend Chauncey Veatch, to address our local healthcare access crisis.

We produced a report and a strategic improvement plan. Our most important solution was the expansion of a healthcare district.

Today, I am very happy to celebrate the passage of Measure BB and the expansion of the Desert Healthcare District to cover all medically underserved communities in the valley.

It is significant, because the district has an annual multimillion dollar budget that funds healthcare and public health programs that improve the public's health.

That means more providers caring for more patients and providing much-needed services like pediatric specialty care, mental health, veterans' health, senior services, and provider pipeline programs.

It is proof that good things happen when good people come together to do good work.

I would like to thank California Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia for answering the call and stepping up to be a champion for the expansion of the district.

He got the bill to put expansion on the ballot passed into law, and together, we helped build local support by putting out fires and persuading others of the big idea.

I also want to thank Riverside County Supervisor Manuel Perez. When the expansion of the healthcare district was under threat, Supervisor Perez and I worked closely to convince other county supervisors how much our communities would gain in both improved health outcomes and increased economic activity.

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in favor of the expansion.

There were many other champions who pulled their weight and got the job done.

Thank you to the leadership of the Desert Healthcare District itself, including the President of the Board of Directors, Dr. Les Zendle, previous CEOs Kathy Greco and Herb Schultz, and Interim CEO Chris Christensen.

Thank you to board members Dr. Jennifer Wortham, Kay Hazen, and Carole Rogers, who voted in favor of expansion, and the many, many other staff members who have helped ensure this advocacy ran smoothly.

Several key healthcare organizations were instrumental in this success.

As the largest provider for the east valley, Tenet Healthcare has been enormously supportive by prioritizing the health of their patients above all else.

Thank you to Borrego Community Health Foundation for your generosity and leadership to help create this victory.

Thank you to Planned Parenthood for your tireless work, and thank you to Building Healthy Communities, Clinicas de Salud Del Pueblo, and Eisenhower Medical Center.

Thank you to James Williamson, who led the campaign.

Thank you to Barbara Fields, Juan Armenta, Mary English, Walter Clark, Oscar Armijo, Richard Meyer, and Jack Marco, whose generosity never wavered throughout this journey.

Thank you to the voters who approved the expansion measure by an incredibly large margin.

Thank you for helping to make the dream I had as a boy from a farm-worker trailer park a reality.

Together, we are improving lives and making a difference.

□ 1045

#### NINETY YEARS A PREACHER

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend and one of the most revered ministers of the gospel that the Chicago metropolitan area has ever known.

Reverend James Bass was born on May 7, 1920, to the late Frank and Hattie Bell Bass in a rural Mississippi town.

James began school at the age of 6 in a little church house near Sunflower River Road, where he attended with his two brothers and one sister. His first teacher, Mr. Lee, taught all of the classes that were in session when the farming seasons were not in force.

As a little boy, James loved playing marbles, pitching horseshoes, and playing church, with him preaching. He also would preach the funeral for any of the animals that died and became known as the boy preacher.

Every Sunday, James attended church with his family in their mule-driven wagon. In 1929, he officially joined church after sitting on the

mourners bench during a revival. He continued to grow and develop, got a job at the church as custodian, and attended and graduated from the Booker T. Washington High School in Ruleville, Mississippi.

In 1938, James revealed his calling and preached his first sermon as a full-fledged minister at the age of 18.

On December 7, 1941, James was drafted into the military and served 3 years in the U.S. Army during World War II. He carried no weapon and continued his ministerial work.

After being discharged, he returned home and enrolled at Tougaloo College in 1948, majoring in history. He attended the Mississippi seminary in Jackson in 1951. He became pastor of the Mt. Israel Baptist Church in Clarksdale, Mississippi, where he sponsored a radio broadcast for senior citizens and those who were sick and shut in.

In December of 1955, James was invited to Detroit to preach a revival at Canaan Baptist Church. On the way back, he stopped in Chicago to visit his brother and sister and was honored to preach at the Greater Open Door Baptist Church.

In August of 1956, Reverend Bass organized a small mission. The mission grew, and the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church was founded in September of 1956.

He returned to Chicago and commuted between Chicago and Mississippi for 6 years, and, after fasting and praying, he decided that his type of ministry really needed to be in a large urban city.

In 1967, Reverend Bass and Helyn Maxine Julius were united in holy matrimony and were blessed with two children, Vincent in 1968 and Vikkeda in 1970.

Under Reverend Bass' leadership, Mt. Olive grew into a substantial Baptist church, with significant influence in the community.

When Dr. Martin Luther King came to Chicago and lived on the West Side, Reverend James Bass was there with him and stood shoulder-to-shoulder when others sneaked away or refused to stand.

Reverend Bass was known as an activist, independent-minded preacher who used his pulpit effectively to foster something called liberation theology. He will be remembered as one who knew that the doors of the church must be open both ways: inside so that people could come and be spiritually nurtured, but also outside so that they could use the information for the benefit of themselves and their communities.

For more than 90 years, Reverend James Bass preached what he called the gospel. He was an effective messenger, and what a messenger he was. May his soul rest in peace.

#### HONORING JANET WOLF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

California (Mr. CARBAJAL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the prodigious 24-year public service career of supervisor Janet Wolf, and a good friend, in Santa Barbara County of my district.

A southern California native, Janet Wolf earned her bachelor of arts degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, my alma mater as well. She then went on to the University of California, Los Angeles, to earn her master's degree and teaching credential.

In 1983, Janet began working in the field of vocational rehabilitation. In 1987, she opened her own business, with offices both in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, California. She continued her work and leadership in that field for over 20 years.

Janet Wolf began her service as an elected official in 1993, when she was first elected to the Goleta School Board, where she served three terms, equaling 12 years. She went on to be elected to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, where she also served three terms.

During her tenure, her accomplishments were numerous, including initiating the Eastern Goleta Valley Planning Advisory Committee, steering completion of the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan, expanding library funding, and advocating for the construction of a state-of-the-art emergency operations center.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my former colleagues in Santa Barbara County in celebrating the exemplary 24-year career of my former colleague, supervisor Janet Wolf, in her public service. Her leadership and commitment to her constituents has been both exceptional and unprecedented. I congratulate and wish Janet and her family the best in her well-deserved retirement and all future endeavors.

#### REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday night, there was a prime-time television speech from the Oval Office, which appealed to fear, prejudice, and anger. The argument was for a border wall by stereotyping and demonizing people coming to America seeking asylum, safety, and refuge from the violence caused by the war on drugs this administration is escalating in Central and South America.

With provocative anecdotes about violence and fear-mongering rhetoric, he used the word "illegal" 12 times throughout the entire speech, which was undertaken amidst what is shaping up to be the longest government shutdown in the Nation's history. Never once did he mention the Federal workers who won't receive a paycheck this week—not once.

His purpose was to create a state of anxiety about our national security in

an effort to convince Republican Members of Congress and the American people to stay with him on his narcissistic quest for billions of dollars to build his big, beautiful wall that he promised Mexico would pay for, but now he is demanding that the American people pay for it. That doesn't add up, ladies and gentlemen.

What is not understood is that we are not a country that cowers or bends in dread to a hostage taker. To quote President Truman: "America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination, and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand."

The job at hand for this President right now, and for this Congress, is to reopen the government. Then we can all go to work to address skyrocketing drug prices and ensure affordable healthcare.

For the people, we must go to work creating high-wage jobs and fixing our Nation's decaying infrastructure. For our children and our grandchildren, we must build a greener economy and prioritize protecting our planet. These are meaningful and worthy goals. Our job is not to waste billions on an ineffective border wall while spreading xenophobic lies.

Numerous disingenuous statistics were used the other night to back up his claims of a crisis. Here are some statistics, based on facts, to clarify the falsehoods perpetuated on the American people in that Oval Office speech:

One, the truth is that immigration from the southern border has significantly decreased in the last 10 years, disproving what was said. This gentleman wants us to think that this Nation is being overrun. In 2006, there were more than 1 million unauthorized immigrants apprehended at the southern border, but, in 2018, there were less than 400,000.

Two, immigration does not strain our economy and public resources. In fact, immigrants added an estimated \$2 trillion to the United States GDP in 2016. Additionally, unauthorized immigrants contributed significantly to Medicare and Social Security. From 2000 to 2011, they contributed \$35.1 billion more to Medicare than they withdrew.

Finally, of the 361,993 unauthorized immigrants apprehended by September of fiscal year 2018, less than 1 percent had a violent criminal record. Studies have also proven that immigrants do not increase local crime rates, and they are less likely to cause crime or be incarcerated as our citizens.

President Trump's border wall concept was not created by law enforcement specialists, and his justification for wasting taxpayer money on a wall is not based on sound argument. This idea began where most of the President's ideas are born, and that is on the campaign trail. It is an idea unworthy of consideration from Congress. Our constituents and our country deserve better.

Trump has built his political career by demonizing and stereotyping many

different groups of people. His speech Tuesday night was no different.

We, as Americans, cannot fall prey to his fear-mongering, and we cannot allow President Trump to hold Federal workers hostage. Let's go to work and reopen this government now.

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

#### COAST GUARD SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with some very, very sad news. On Tuesday night, the *Mary B II*, a crab boat out of Newport, Oregon, capsized while crossing the Yaquina Bay bar.

Members of the U.S. Coast Guard responded heroically to assist the boat, battling seas that were 12 to 14 feet in height. Unfortunately, the crew of three died.

It was actually to be Josh Porter's last trip on that boat. He had a different job.

□ 1100

Mr. Speaker, I want to convey my deepest condolences to the crews, the family, the friends, and, frankly, the community for their immense loss. The tragedy illustrates the courageous and perilous work that our Coast Guard members perform daily and how vital their services are for these communities.

I am proud to lend my support to legislative efforts that make sure these men and women actually receive their pay for this dangerous work that they perform on our behalf.

As we enter almost 3 weeks under a partial shutdown of the government, I know, for many of our valuable public servants, their resources are stretched thin. They will start missing paychecks because of the failures of the Federal Government. They continue to admirably serve throughout this shutdown, and we must ensure they don't suffer because of our failures.

Mr. Speaker, I implore the President and Congress to take up the bills the Senate and House have passed and reopen the United States Government.

#### COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly deliver my first floor speech as the new Representative for Texas' 16th Congressional District.

Born and raised in El Paso, Texas, a resilient, beautiful community along the U.S.-Mexico border, I am a proud fronteriza and know firsthand the realities of the border.

That is why I have been profoundly disturbed by the rhetoric and policies