

as it relates to funding for FEMA and California's wildfires, as well as the funding for the United States Department of Agriculture in terms of where those moneys go for forestry, is wrong. It is wrong; it is punitive; and it is painful.

For the fires in California, 60 percent are on U.S. forestry land. Therefore, to be responsible, the United States needs to do its part when these horrific fires take place.

We do the same with hurricanes. We do the same with tornadoes. We do the same with floods. So it seems to me that the President ought to reconsider his actions toward California.

We are partners in trying to manage both State and Federal lands not only in California but around the country. Therefore, the President's actions should be reconsidered.

It should not be punitive toward California because, through no fault of our own, we have had to deal with these horrific circumstances, just like other regions of the country have to deal with natural disasters that are through no fault of their own.

Let's reconsider, Mr. President. Let's not be punitive toward California because of the tremendous devastation that these fires have created.

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN THIS MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this weekend marks one of our most solemn occasions, Memorial Day, where we mourn those we have lost in the defense of this Nation.

Many in this House will attend ceremonies throughout the weekend and on Memorial Day, which is observed annually on the last Monday of May.

The traditional Memorial Day dates back to 1864 in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, my home county, where three ladies decorated the graves of fallen Civil War soldiers. The custom has continued every year since then. Boalsburg still puts on a traditional Memorial Day celebration, complete with a parade, a community walk to the cemetery, speeches, military reenactments, and much more.

We must never forget the unthinkable pain for the families whose loved ones have not returned home, and this includes those missing in action and prisoners of war. Currently, there are more than 83,000 American servicemembers who remain unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean war, and Vietnam.

While several nations have worked to assist the United States in search and recovery efforts, many challenges still exist when it comes to negotiations and operations. That is why today I will introduce the Keeping Our Promise to MIAs/POWs resolution that expresses a sense of Congress that any

nation seeking to potentially enter into a mutually beneficial trade agreement with the United States should provide reasonable access and cooperation to help us recover our unaccounted-for servicemembers.

This resolution sends a message that this Nation will uphold its eternal promise to our Armed Forces to always work to bring our men and women home, no matter the circumstances we face, no matter the time that has passed.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, especially in advance of Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Speaker, America will gather this weekend with family members, friends, and neighbors to remember those whom we have lost. As we raise the Stars and Stripes, as we lay wreaths at monuments and memorials and cemeteries, as we march in parades and attend services, let us remember that our freedom is thanks to those who died in sacrifice.

May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

HONORING ALICE RIVLIN

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

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of one of the greatest public servants of any age, the indomitable Alice Rivlin, who died of cancer last week.

An intellectual giant with Midwestern sensibilities, she had a resume that would never be matched: Assistant Secretary for Policy and Evaluation at HEW, founding Director of the Congressional Budget Office, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, president of the American Economic Association, and Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve.

In between her government service, she sat on a high perch at the Brookings Institution, producing rigorous, centrist, and insightful books and articles on a wide range of Federal policies.

In her spare time, she was credited with saving D.C. from bankruptcy. She never forgot her responsibility to her adopted hometown.

Alice was deeply respected and beloved by her peers and politicians of both parties. She was one of the first recipients of a MacArthur Foundation genius award, a tribute to her skill in building one of the most important public institutions of our lifetime, the CBO.

Her sustained contributions to public policy analysis have fundamentally shaped our thinking about the impact of public programs and the budget.

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She also constantly reminded us that when we refuse to use evidence in making policy decisions, we do so at our country's peril.

Alice Rivlin was my dear friend. I met her here in D.C. as a newly minted

Ph.D. She was already famous for her classic book, "Systematic Thinking for Social Action."

She was funny, warm, generous, and welcoming. She wanted all of us newcomers to love her adopted city as much as she did.

When I returned to Washington to join the Clinton Cabinet, Alice, along with her friend Meg Greenfield, the powerhouse editorial page editor of the Post, and Post publisher Katherine Graham, formed the Smart Women's Club. They invited me to join them in hilarious dinners with interesting guests, a high point in my career.

One of my fondest memories of Alice took place on a day in the 1980s when I was still in New York. She called me and asked if I could take a month off to go to Kashmir to trek in the Himalayas. What an adventure, the beginning of decades of trekking in some of the most interesting places on Earth with friends and her patient husband, Sid Winter, himself a world-class economist.

You learn a lot about people when you share a narrow ledge in a rainstorm on some of the highest mountains in the world. Alice was tenacious, brave, cheerful, and the kindest and nicest person I have ever known.

She was a legend, renowned for mentoring younger colleagues and helping people of all walks of life with their challenges.

Hers was more than a life well lived. She was a patriot who loved her country and her city, and she served both with extraordinary skill and passion.

HONORING 320TH BARRAGE BALLOON BATTALION

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Memorial Day and the upcoming 75th anniversary of D-day to recognize and raise awareness about the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion. It was an all-Black battalion that made considerable contributions during D-day.

Until recently, the 320th battalion's sacrifices and bravery have been virtually unrecognized. Until the recent book "Forgotten: The Untold Story of D-Day's Black Heroes, at Home and at War" by Linda Hervieux, the story had really gone untold. People didn't really know about it.

It is notable that one of the soldiers who is featured in the book—his name is Wilson Monk—his quote to the author when she called him was, "I've been waiting for this call for over 50 years."

When we look back at the social injustices of the 1940s during Jim Crow, it is clear that the social discrimination created momentum for the civil rights protests in the 1950s and 1960s. The lunch counter sit-ins in Montgomery and the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, the social injustices that