

confidence and showcase their academic abilities, skills that are key to their future success.

Elliot's achievements in the Scripps National Spelling Bee represent the future of San Diego and the 52nd District. Please join me in congratulating Elliot here at home and on the national stage.

“NOW YOU ARE TWO”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a special poem that was written by Harold Renwick, Jr. to his daughter, Penny, on her second birthday.

Harold Renwick never delivered the poem as he was killed in action during the Vietnam war. The poem was discovered by Captain Bennet and mailed by a friend of Harold Renwick's, Major Charles King. It was mailed to Harold Renwick's wife, Penny's mother, on March 22, 1968.

The poem is titled: “Now You Are Two.”

Rejoice and be happy this fine day.
Have fun in all the games you play.
Run, sing, be happy and gay,
For you are 2, my daughter, today.
Of all the wonderful days of the year,
Today especially I wish I could be near
To hold you, to hug you and share your world

Of being a year older and being a girl.
But alas, my child, with you I cannot be
Because there is a need to keep the world free.

A need that was created many years ago,
When a people's thirst for freedom began to grow.

You do not know these people; they are strangers to us.

And you may ask, “Daddy, why all the fuss
For a people who live in a land far away?
Daddy, why can't you be with me on my birthday?”

As you grow older, my child, you will learn
That in men's hearts a spark will burn.
A spark so intense that it cannot be denied,
So strong it is that men have died
Fighting for what they believe is true;
Fighting for freedom the way all men do.
We have watched enough television to know
That in this world bad people will go
And try to hurt and harm the good guys.
Cheat, steal, and tell all kind of lies,
These are some of the things these bad guys do.

This is the reason that your daddy flew
Across the oceans to a land far away
To help other daddies with their children to play.

To help these daddies see their struggle through

So they can say, “Happy birthday, my daughter, now you are 2.”

Don't weep, my child, for this birthday I'll miss.

Go to your mommy and she'll give you a kiss
From me, to remind you I've not forgot.
You see, my child, I do love you a lot.
So much, in fact, that to you I do pledge
That a world of freedom shall be your heritage.

Sleep, my child, the night is here.
Sleep, my child, and wake without fear.

Grow, my child, be happy and free,
For these are the dreams I have for thee.

This poem was written in 1968, over 51 years ago, and I submit to you that now is the time for America to heed these words of this poem written by a father who voluntarily made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, 50 years have passed since the historic Stonewall riots in New York City which brought us one step closer to full equality for all Americans. But as we wrap up Pride Month and celebrate all we have accomplished over the last five decades, I want to take this time to raise the issue of hunger in the LGBTQ community.

A study by the Williams Institute at UCLA found that more than one in four LGBTQ adults did not have enough money to buy food for themselves or their families in the past year. That is an alarming number. It is more than double the national food insecurity rate.

The average SNAP benefit only provides about \$1.40 per person per meal. That only covers a fraction of an individual's meals. While many households go to food pantries to fill the SNAP gap, some of these food banks and pantries are affiliated with groups that may not accept people for who they are. That is because discrimination due to sexual orientation and gender identity is everywhere. In more than half of the country, there are no explicit Statewide laws that protect people from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

This type of discrimination has real consequences. LGBTQ Americans are much more likely to end up homeless, particularly as kids and teens, and are more likely to live in a food desert where they have trouble purchasing nutritious food nearby.

As if this weren't bad enough, these numbers are even more devastating across racial demographics. For example, in the LGBTQ community, a staggering 42 percent of African Americans, 33 percent of Hispanics, and 32 percent of Native Americans reported being food insecure. That is unconscionable, and it is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, this is not some abstract problem. These are our friends, these are our family members, our neighbors, our classmates, and our co-workers. We should be uplifting and supporting them, but the numbers don't lie. Our country is facing a full-blown hunger crisis and the LGBTQ community—and, in particular, communities of color within of it—are bearing the brunt of that crisis. We cannot allow their stories to be erased or muted.

We must work together to address interconnected issues like housing and hunger by gathering more data on how to specifically respond to these problems. We must increase outreach to these communities so that everyone who qualifies for hunger assistance programs can access benefits.

Sadly, instead of working to solve this problem, this President and his administration have tried to roll back the clock on equality. Whether it is blocking questions related to sexual orientation or pushing half-baked rule changes to enact a definition of gender, which would essentially erase people from our official population counts, they are working overtime to threaten the rights of Americans.

But we are working overtime to stop them. Last month the House passed the Equality Act which aims to extend civil rights protections to all Americans, regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation. Passing this bill into law would play a key role in addressing hunger in the LGBTQ community. I am proud that the House has taken action, and I urge the Senate to do the same.

This is Pride Month. As we celebrate the progress that our country has made, let us also remember all of the work we have to do to end hunger now.

THE TIMELINE OF JACIFUSEN

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate being recognized to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

I rise today to honor Jaci Hermstad. She has given me so much inspiration.

I want to start, though, with the early, sad part of this story. This is a sad story with a happy part in the middle of it right now, Mr. Speaker.

Jaci's identical twin sister, Alex, was diagnosed with a very severe and aggressive form of ALS. That took place in 2005. Then, by 2010 and 2011, my staff and, especially, Sandy Hanlon in our Sioux City office, were working with the Hermstads to do those things we could do, in a limited fashion, admittedly.

On St. Valentine's Day of 2011, sadly, Jaci's identical twin sister, Alex, passed away at age 17. Now, that is 8 years ago. About 2015 or so, Jaci and her mother, Lori, came to my office to talk with me about ALS, this dreaded Lou Gehrig's disease, that always ends up fatal. It always ends up in a sad, tragic ending. They had experienced that with Jaci's identical twin sister.

Even more sadly, there was news that symptoms showed up in Jaci late last fall, around the holiday time. By Christmas she couldn't get up the stairs any longer, and again, on St. Valentine's Day of this year, Jaci was diagnosed with the aggressive form of ALS that her identical twin sister had passed away from.