

IN SUPPORT OF HISTORICALLY
BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, more than one quarter of all undergraduate students in the United States attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions. These schools play a critical role in unlocking higher education opportunities for millions of degree-seekers, including students of color and low-income students, of which many are the first in their family to attend college.

To protect these essential institutions from the threat of closure and financial despair, we must continue to provide them with the resources they need to prepare students for the modern economy.

Title III, Part F of the Higher Education Act authorizes important, mandatory funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority Serving Institutions to educate and prepare students for professions in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, or STEM, fields.

Unfortunately, this critical source of funding expired on September 30, 2019. This lapse jeopardizes the viability of these institutions, as well as the STEM readiness of the students they serve.

At a time when diverse representation is low in the STEM economy, Congress must immediately restore mandatory funding to prevent permanent and irreversible damage to STEM programs at these historic institutions that give students from underserved communities an opportunity to rise above their circumstances.

On September 17, 2019, the House passed the FUTURE Act, an extension of the \$255 million in essential mandatory funding for HBCUs and MSIs. Despite receiving unanimous support in the House, the bill has yet to be considered by the Senate and was not included in the continuing resolution that passed in November.

As Congress considers spending bills for next year, we must restore this vital source of funding that expands opportunities for underrepresented students. It is past time to uphold our promise to support these historic institutions and the students they serve.

STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE
TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL TO INCREASE HUNGER
AND FOOD INSECURITY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I am alarmed and outraged by the Trump Administration's decision to increase hunger and food insecurity for millions of Americans. Governments should strengthen

their people, assist the vulnerable, and improve well-being. Instead, the Trump Administration has advanced a rule change to cut millions of low-income children, families, veterans, people with disabilities, and seniors off their food stamp benefits, or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Trump Administration estimates that at least 3.1 million families would lose their SNAP benefits, including stopping free and reduced school meals for nearly one million children.

In 2017, almost 40 million people, including more than 12.5 million children, experienced food insecurity. In my home state of Illinois, more than 63 percent of SNAP participants are in families with children and almost 30 percent are in families with members who are elderly or disabled. This rule targets the most vulnerable people in my state and across the nation. Even the U.S. Department of Agriculture admits that this Trump policy would exacerbate food insecurity for millions of Americans.

This is unacceptable. Millions of low-income Americans rely on SNAP as the first line of defense against hunger and food insecurity. By imposing this harmful rule, the Trump Administration actually increases hunger and hardship by erecting additional barriers for families and individuals who are trying to meet one of the most basic needs for survival.

I stand in strong opposition to this unnecessary and spiteful rule. The Trump Administration is attempting to impose a policy that Congress has rejected twice in the last two versions of the Farm Bill via bipartisan votes. The policies of this Administration have advantaged the most secure and left working families and our most vulnerable populations behind. As the Trump Administration prioritizes giving trillions of dollars to the most privileged corporations and billionaires, it literally takes food from hungry children. I reject this disgraceful rule and will continue to fight for the people of Chicago and the nation to ensure they receive the food they need. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this proposed rule and demanding that the Trump Administration rescind the rule immediately.

HONORING NATHAN FLETCHER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Fletcher. Nathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan Fletcher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MASTER SERGEANT JAMES
CHAMBERLAIN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sgt. James Chamberlain of La Veta, Colorado who is retiring from the U.S. Air Force after nearly 30 years of service.

Master Sgt. Chamberlain began his active duty service in 1992 shortly after graduating from Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Law Enforcement. Upon completion of his initial training, he went on to serve in numerous duty positions spanning from news broadcasting to military police security. The Air Force sent him to cities around the world such as Los Angeles, California, Azores, Portugal, and Keflavik, Iceland. His courage and service were exemplified during multiple voluntary deployments to the Middle East. During these deployments Master Sgt. Chamberlain earned dozens of awards and recognitions including the Iraq Campaign Medal with a Bronze Star, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Master Sgt. Chamberlain's military career was simultaneously complemented by his time as a police officer. He left active duty service in September 1996 and returned to his family ranch near Walsenburg, Colorado. It was there that he put his GI bill to use and graduated near the top of his class at the Southern Colorado Law Enforcement Training Academy in Trinidad, Colorado. He was hired as a police officer for the city of La Junta, Colorado in August 1997. He continued his service in the Air Force Reserve as part of the 310th Security Forces Squadron at the newly renamed Schriever Air Force Base outside of Colorado Springs, Colorado, an opportunity he was eager to pursue.

In Walsenburg, the community he has most recently been serving, Master Sgt. Chamberlain was named Distinguished Officer of the Year for the Colorado Police Protective Association and received the Distinguished Service Award by the city. Additionally, he earned the Police Medal of Honor and the Rescuer Award for Valor by Southern Colorado Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Council. This past year, he was even recognized by La Veta Schools on Veterans Day for his service as an Air Force veteran, a testament to what his sacrifices mean to his fellow community members.

Madam Speaker, Master Sgt. Chamberlain's service to his country and enduring work-ethic will continue to have a positive impact on the community for years to come. It is my privilege to recognize him today, and express heartfelt gratitude for the important work he has done throughout his life. I wish him a happy retirement from military service and sincerely hope that he knows how proud his community, the state of Colorado, and the entire country is of his sacrifice and service both as an Airman and a police officer.

HONORING VERA JUENGER

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vera Juenger of Millstadt, Illinois on her upcoming 102nd birthday. Known for her outgoing and active lifestyle, Vera is also recognized for her popular pecans, which she sells to loyal customers who come back year after year.

Born on December 31, 1917, Vera still lives in the home that she and her husband, Albert, built on a large farm in 1962. You can find Vera tending to her pecan trees or driving herself to Ott's fish stand, where she enjoys dinner and a beer with her family every Friday. Her impact on the community was exemplified by the turnout of over 200 people who attended her 100th birthday celebration. This year on her birthday, she plans to go to her favorite sports bar to celebrate with her friends and family.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Vera Juenger on a life that continues to be well-lived. On behalf of Southern Illinois, happy birthday.

HONORING BRIAN JOSEPH KELLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brian Joseph Keller. Brian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Brian has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brian Joseph Keller for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN MEMORY OF GARY MAZZONE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to observe and mourn the passing of retired Police Captain Gary Mazzone of East Windsor, Connecticut. Sadly, Gary's death was the result of a tragic plane accident that occurred on October 2, 2019 at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

Gary's full and productive life touched thousands of his fellow citizens. First, as a police

officer in the town of Vernon, Connecticut where I reside, later as an inspector in the office of Chief State's Attorney, the highest office in the Connecticut criminal justice system, and eventually as the lead inspector in the office of the Litchfield State's Attorney. Altogether his service in the police and court systems of Connecticut totaled 42 years of diligent, competent, ethical professionalism. As a lawyer in practice in Vernon before entering Congress, I personally witnessed Gary's relentless work ethic, as well as his commitment to upholding the laws and Constitution of the state of Connecticut and the United States. His exemplary service and friendliness made him a natural role model to young officers who served under him as he rose to the rank of Captain. Despite his high rank and the extensive powers that go with it, Gary never "put on airs" and always kept a very grounded perspective on life. He had a great sense of humor and was always willing to listen to an opposing view point with respect and consideration. He was the quintessential American police officer—tough but fair, fearless but human.

As the many accolades and reminiscences poured forth in statewide media and in North Central Connecticut in response to the heart-breaking news, stories abounded not only of his work in public safety, but also of his volunteerism in the town of East Windsor, his support of the special Olympics, and his devotion to honoring our country's veterans.

Madam Speaker, perhaps most powerfully, his family shared with the people of Connecticut stories of his abiding love for his wife Joan, their children Daniel, Brian, Maureen, Kim, and Stacey, and his father Pasquale. He took an active and enthusiastic interest in all their pursuits and successes. In particular, the Hartford Courant sports page published a wonderful story describing his passionate love of high school football, particularly the Stafford/Somers/East Windsor Bulldog high school team that his son Brian coaches. He attended all their games and was always there to positively help his son and the players succeed. Three days after the crash, Brian summoned his father's memory to find the strength to coach the Bulldogs to an emotional victory against rival Valley Regional/Old Lyme. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD, the Courant's story by Mr. Shawn McFarland dated October 6, 2019 which captures so well the essence of Gary's lively spirit, family devotion, and deep impact he made on all who knew him.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me in expressing our profound admiration for Gary Mazzone's lifetime of public service and deepest condolences to his family for their loss.

[From the Hartford Courant, Oct. 6, 2019]

THREE DAYS AFTER HIS FATHER DIED IN THE B-17 CRASH AT BRADLEY AIRPORT, BRIAN MAZZONE IS BACK ON THE SIDELINE COACHING

After each Stafford/Somers/East Windsor football game, Gary Mazzone would be the first to greet his son, Brian, the team's head coach, with a hug. Those close to the team say that Gary never missed a game.

Gary Mazzone, 66, a retired police inspector in the Litchfield State's Attorney's office, was one of seven killed in Wednesday's B-17 crash at Bradley International Airport. Boarding the World War II era bomber was described as a "bucket list" type event for Gary Mazzone, who had a passion for history.

Saturday was Brian Mazzone's first game coaching without his father; the first game in which he wouldn't receive the traditional hug and "post game report," as Stafford assistant Bob Grant described.

As the final seconds ticked off in the Bulldogs' 21-7 win over Valley Regional/Old Lyme, one by one, Stafford players surrounded Brian Mazzone until the entire team had formed one giant hug around their coach. The final whistle blew, and Mazzone—who had remained composed for the entire game—broke into tears.

"I never used to cry, ever," Mazzone said. "My mom died 10 years ago. Once my mom died, you say 'hi' to me and I start crying now. When someone grabs you and hugs you . . . there's a lot of emotion in that."

Mazzone was a walking tribute to his father during the game. He wore Gary's Stafford football hoodie, which Brian picked up early Saturday morning at his father's home in Vernon. He wore a camouflage Bulldog hat, an homage to his father's love for hunting. Mazzone said he had gotten the hat for his father as a Christmas gift years back, and ironically enough, Gary Mazzone had requested a normal Bulldog cap instead. Brian Mazzone then went and got a camouflage hat for himself.

"He went to every game," Grant said. "Big Gar was something special. We'd go down and sit in the coach's room, and he'd sit with us. He was one of a kind."

Prior to kickoff, a "moment of celebration" was held in lieu of a standard moment of silence. All in attendance applauded Gary Mazzone's life, as Brian broke down in tears and was consoled by Grant. Brian Mazzone said his dad would have loved it.

"We've been crying a lot, and we've been watching the news," Mazzone said. "[Gary Mazzone] would be patting his chest, going, 'See me on the news? I was on CBS nightly news. You see that? I'm on the front page of the paper.' Every time, even back when he was working, he'd be, 'I'm in the news today. I'm in the news today.' He would eat up the attention. I'm very similar to him."

Mazzone described his dad as "funny as hell" and as a man who was full of life and loved having fun. He was known for his famous prank calls, where he would call a business and apply for an internship, and then never show up. In the days since Gary's passing, Brian has had many reach out to pass along their condolences. Almost all of them have had a new Gary Mazzone prank story to share, too.

Like Gary, Brian is lively. When his team forced a fumble early in the first quarter, Mazzone sprinted onto the field, pumping a fist and pounding his chest. When senior Tyler Ouellette connected with junior Trent Kology on an 84-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter, Mazzone sprinted the length of the field celebrating, nearly stride-for-stride with Kology.

"They always make fun of me when we watch the film and I'm jumping around and running," Mazzone said with a laugh. "If you notice, I run like an idiot. I've got my chest out like this. I don't know who taught me to run."

There was never a doubt for Mazzone that he would coach Saturday's game, though he said it had less to do with his father and more so to do with the fact that he didn't want to rearrange the schedule. The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference granted the team permission to move Saturday's game to a later date, though Mazzone didn't want to force his players to sit through back-to-back bye weeks.

That was to be expected of Mazzone, as his assistants, current and former players will tell you. In the face of an unbearable tragedy, his motives were for his team.