

ECONOMIC OPTIMISM

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, recent polling shows great optimism about our country, as Americans believe they are better off today than they were before President Trump's conservative economic policies were enacted.

According to a Gallup poll released on February 5, almost 60 percent of Americans say they are better off financially now than last year, and close to 75 percent say that they expect to be even better off financially in 1 year. This is the highest level on record.

Strong, conservative principles have created historically low levels of unemployment for Americans regardless of their race, age, religion, or gender.

Our Nation was built by Americans working to create a better future for their children and their grandchildren. Both Democrats and Republicans must fight the growing calls for socialism and instead support the proven conservative policies implemented by this administration that allow our economy to grow and help build a brighter future for generations to come.

TURNING THE TIDE IN THE YOUTH TOBACCO CRISIS

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is in the middle of a youth tobacco epidemic driven by the increasing popularity of flavored e-cigarettes. In my home State of New York, youth e-cigarette use rose by 160 percent between 2014 and 2018.

I want to commend Chairman FRANK PALLONE for his work on H.R. 2339 which will help turn the tide in this crisis. I would also like to thank the chairman for including my provisions in section 107 which update youth tobacco prevention awareness campaigns to include programming for Americans between the ages of 18 and 21.

My provisions will help ensure that this group of young Americans is not left out and receives the support and education they need to avoid starting dangerous tobacco products.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support Chairman PALLONE's legislation and help pave the way for the first generation of tobacco-free Americans.

RECOGNIZING EAGLE SCOUT WILLIAM ARDIS

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize William Ardis on his achievement of the rank of

Eagle Scout. William is with Troop 4 in Millville in South Jersey.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. It is a prestigious honor bestowed upon only the most worthy and most qualified individuals. Only 4 percent of all Boys Scouts ever achieve this prestigious recognition. Eagle Scouts are much more likely to dedicate their lives to service, becoming future leaders in the military, in business, and in politics.

My office was proud to be at William's ceremony to celebrate this achievement earlier this week. I could not be prouder of William's accomplishments, and I look forward to big and bold things from him in the future.

As Americans we all look for heroes. We look to celebrities—God help us; we look to Washington—equally God help us—but I want to say: God bless you and your family, William.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF KATHERINE JOHNSON

(Mr. PALMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and incredible accomplishments of Katherine Johnson, a brilliant mathematician whose trailblazing work was instrumental in America's space exploration.

Ms. Johnson passed away earlier this week at the age of 101 leaving behind a legacy not only of genius and dedication, but also of vitally important advancement in STEM fields for women and African Americans.

Ms. Johnson's affinity for numbers was evident from an early age. She graduated from high school early and went on to study math and French at West Virginia State College. Later, she became the first African American woman to attend graduate school at West Virginia University.

In 1953, Katherine Johnson accepted her first computing job with the agency that would become NASA. Despite intense discrimination throughout her years at NASA, she remained committed to advancing America's space program and broke barriers where she could. Eventually, she hand-calculated the flight path for America's first crewed space mission in 1961 and also helped calculate the trajectory for the famed Moon landing.

When astronaut John Glenn prepared for his orbit around the Earth in 1962, he asked for Johnson to verify the calculations in NASA's new computer tracking system. He said: "If she says the computer is right, I will take it."

The impact of Katherine Johnson's groundbreaking work in math and science can hardly be overstated. American space exploration reached many of its milestones when it did due to her genius and commitment. Her perseverance also opened doors for women and African Americans in work fields previously closed to them.

I stand with my colleagues in the House and countless Americans in gratitude to Ms. Johnson's hard work and pioneering spirit that have undoubtedly made America a better place.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF BARB BAKER

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of my Jacksonville office director, Barb Baker, who suddenly passed away earlier this month.

Hired in 2002 by then-Congressman Ray LaHood, Barb epitomized what it means to be a public servant working for the constituents of Illinois' 18th Congressional District for the last 18 years. She was an incredible asset to our constituents and a constant presence in the Jacksonville community. She helped and assisted so many people in Jacksonville and throughout central Illinois.

Barb was also the past president of the Sunrise Rotary Club, receiving the Paul Harris Fellowship Award. She was past president of the Pilot Club, the Morgan County Republican Women's Club, the Illinois Association of Court Clerks, and had served as treasurer for the City of Jacksonville Park System Board.

Barb blessed the Jacksonville community and our office with a spirit of warmth and decency few could rival. She leaves behind an indelible mark on Jacksonville and central Illinois as a selfless person deeply committed to her family, her faith, and her community.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, Barb was an incredible daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother.

We will miss Barb dearly, and I ask you to continue to keep her and her family in your prayers.

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CALLING FOR BIPARTISAN CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, recent news has indicated that an individual in the United States has been designated with the coronavirus who has not been assessed to have traveled in any of the countries that have been listed for travel advisories and has not been listed as having had any of the normal processes or patterns of getting this particular virus.

With that in mind, I think it is extremely important that Congress plays a major role, in addition to its role of discerning the kind of funding.

With that in mind, we will be organizing a coronavirus task force that is bipartisan and that will assess how we