

NATIONAL TEACHERS WEEK

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand in support of our National Teachers Week.

As the husband of a teacher, the brother of a teacher, and the lucky student of great teachers in the Jefferson County Public School system and the University of Colorado, I hold this profession in very hard regard.

Our Nation's teachers work tirelessly to provide education, resources, and a bright future for all of American students.

Colorado is blessed with a dedicated community of teachers in both K-12 and higher education. Teachers provide an invaluable service to our country, while earning salaries that do not reflect the importance of their jobs.

Every day, I hear about teachers striving to improve their schools and outcomes for their students. America's students now face one of the most competitive economies in our history.

Strong teachers are the key to the successful education of our children, and those same children are key to a prosperous, healthy, and successful future for our country and for the planet.

Thank you to all the teachers in my life, the Seventh Congressional District, and the State of Colorado.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, teachers are remarkable people. These dedicated professionals work hard to ensure that our children have the skills necessary to succeed and achieve the American Dream.

They get up early and stay up late, often sacrificing their own time and money, so our children have a fair shot at future success.

They don't do it for fame; though glory, they should receive. They don't do it for fortune; though riches, they do deserve. They do it because they love their jobs and care about their students. It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of our Nation's teachers to our country's strength and prosperity.

One of those teachers is my sister-in-law, Mandy Messer, who teaches elementary school at North Decatur Elementary.

A day should not pass that we don't thank teachers for their service on behalf of our children and our country.

Today, during Teacher Appreciation Week, I say thank to you my former teachers who played such an important role in my own life, and I express my gratitude to all the teachers throughout my congressional district who are doing such wonderful work.

SEEKING MAXIMUM PARTISANSHIP

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, last night, Republicans and Democrats on our House Armed Services Committee came together to pass a defense bill that all of us—I mean all of us—all of us on the committee could support. That is something remarkable, considering what is on the House floor this week.

Instead of debating the minimum wage, we are getting maximum partisanship. Instead of creating a select committee on job creation, we are voting to create a select committee on Benghazi, shamefully playing politics with a terrible tragedy.

The only person whose job the majority seems to care about is the former Secretary of State's. The national climate assessment released this week laid bare the consequences of climate change, but sadly, instead of reducing our carbon footprint, we get a climate of dysfunction and hot air.

Enough is enough. House leadership should follow the example of the House Armed Services Committee. Put the partisanship aside and get to work on the things that really matter to the American people.

WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, career and technical education is critical to our economy.

I have a great program in my district, the Warren County Career Center, in Lebanon, Ohio. I have had the opportunity to tour the program a number of times. They do a great job.

Two success stories—Karie Lacy and Nick Cornett—both completed programs at the Warren County Career Center. Karie now owns her own salon and employs others; and Nick is working at a local robotics company, while working towards a degree in electrical engineering.

There are others like Karie and Nick across America who deserve access to programs that will prepare them for the workforce and lay the foundation for a successful career.

As we work together to strengthen our economy, we should support institutions like the Warren County Career Center. Programs like this, we should support all across America.

THE KIDNAPPINGS IN NIGERIA

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the tragic and shocking turn of events in Nigeria, where as many as 300 young girls have

been abducted by a terrorist organization known as Boko Haram.

As a father, I can't imagine the anguish that these parents must be feeling as they wonder about what happened to their young girls.

I stand in solidarity with the people of Nigeria in this difficult time and condemn the violence against innocent people committed by Boko Haram and urge that all possible actions be taken and that President Jonathan finally do something about the terrorists and the thugs that seem to be ruling the country.

Too often, women and young girls are tragically persecuted, victimized, or denied education opportunities and a voice, particularly in these countries, based only on their gender. The violence and discrimination has no place in our world today.

Today, I will be joining my fellow colleagues and urging them to sign on to House Resolution 573, to condemn this heinous abduction, and supporting all efforts to find these girls and bring them home.

HONORING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF EAST BERLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor East Berlin, Pennsylvania, on its 250th anniversary. The borough was founded on May 8, 1764, by John Frankenberg, a Prussian, who purchased 200 acres of land from Thomas and Richard Penn.

John laid out a town with 85 lots, one main street, four cross streets, and five alleys. He named the town "Berlin" after his native town in Prussia. East was added to the name in 1827, when the town post office was established.

Today, East Berlin is a thriving community of over 1,400 residents in Adams County. I am proud to congratulate East Berlin on this momentous day and wish the borough another successful 250 years.

SOLVENCY OF THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my continued concerns about the highway trust fund, which is projected to reach a critically low level in July, right in the middle of the busy summer construction season.

This funding is essential to projects in New Hampshire, and we simply cannot let the highway trust fund run out of money. It would cost us jobs, jeopardize public safety, and hurt our economy.

That is why I am introducing a bill to ensure that the highway trust fund

remains solvent for the remainder of this fiscal year. This will provide certainty to our States and businesses and allow Congress time to pass a full 6-year reauthorization of surface transportation programs.

My bill, the DRIVE Now Act, will do this, while increasing efficiencies in the government and reducing the deficit. Congress must invest in infrastructure and pass a long-term reauthorization of transportation programs.

To ensure that the highway trust fund doesn't run dry this summer, I urge the House to pass my common-sense legislation.

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LIFE IS NOT ABOUT DISTANCE

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, our justice system gave us a new definition for life. Convicted murderer Kermit Gosnell, the abortionist who for decades worked in Philadelphia, who personally killed hundreds of children in the womb, who personally kept body parts in bags and bottles that were scattered all around his clinic, he was not tried for that. Those things were all permitted.

One year ago this week that court clarified their definition of "life." It wasn't about conception. It wasn't about age. It wasn't about ability to survive. It was about distance. "Life" was defined by distance for them.

Kermit Gosnell had the audacity to induce the labor of pregnant women and then take the child outside the womb, move them about 3 feet away, whether on his hands or set them on a table, and cut their spinal cord, sitting on the table, where they would die either on his hands or on the table. He moved them 3 feet. What tortured logic is that to say it is not a child in the womb, but it is a child if you move them 3 feet?

This is the United States of America. Life is not about distance. Life is about children. Let's choose life.

LONG ISLAND'S TOP TEACHER

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Teacher Appreciation Week to honor a top teacher in the Third Congressional District of New York, John Motchkavitz, or "Motch" as he is called by his students.

John is the head of the business technology department at Great Neck South High School. He was named as a top five finalist on Live! with Kelly and Michael's top teachers search contest, and he will appear on the morning show next week when the winner will be announced.

In the 12 years that he has taught in Great Neck, he has helped lead the school's robotics team to the national competition. He coaches lacrosse; he builds sets for school plays; and four times a year, Mr. Speaker, he brings students to New York City to distribute food and supplies to the homeless. He also lives the lessons he teaches inside the classroom in his life outside the school. As a volunteer with the Great Neck Alert Fire Company, he was one of the first to respond to the September 11 terrorist attacks.

I am so proud of the contributions that John has made to Great Neck, to my congressional district, to Long Island, and to the Nation. I congratulate him. He is an example for teachers everywhere.

THE BOSS LIFT PROGRAM

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a unique program organized through the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or ESGR, called "Boss Lift," which is designed to help businesses gain a better understanding of the responsibilities of our National Guard and Army Reserve.

In my home State, the Pennsylvania National Guard is doing a tremendous job with the Boss Lift program by providing local employers with a new perspective on the sacrifices and the challenges these soldiers and airmen face and a firsthand look at the work being performed by these citizen soldiers.

This past weekend, I had the opportunity to visit Fort Indiantown Gap and the Pennsylvania National Guard and met with the incredible citizen soldiers who help make this program possible, all while remaining ready to defend our country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank ESGR, the Army Reserve, and the Pennsylvania National Guard for their outreach efforts through the Boss Lift program and helping to remind us all of the vital role our Reserve and Guard components play in our national security and local communities.

UNEMPLOYMENT

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, the failure of the majority to bring the extension of unemployment insurance benefits up for a vote by December 28 of last year has left many without a lifeline. Let's review these figures. On December 28, 1.3 million were immediately cut with no benefits; 1.9 million will be added by the end of the first 6 months of 2014.

Let's look at it another way. It means 72,000 every week. It also means one person every eight seconds in this

country, the greatest country in this world. 200,000 of them are veterans. The loss of this benefit also means that our economy lost \$5 billion in the first 3 months of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, two-thirds of America's people support the extension of unemployment benefits. The Democrats have signed a discharge petition. Please bring the extension to the floor. Remember, they are unemployed through no fault of their own. That is why they are entitled to these benefits.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN AND FORMER POW, SERGEANT GEORGE THURSBY

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant George Thursby.

Sergeant Thursby, who I met last week, is a resident of New Florence, Pennsylvania. He was a B-24 gunner in the Army Air Forces during World War II.

Sergeant Thursby was forced to land and was taken prisoner of war after his aircraft was hit while bombing Munich. He attempted to escape but was arrested and returned to the POW camp. Conditions were abysmal, and Sergeant Thursby was skinny as a rail. He attempted to escape again and reached American lines in France.

When Sergeant Thursby returned home, he had a long and productive career working at U.S. Steel's Homestead Works and retired in 1983.

Last week, almost 70 years after his successful escape, Sergeant Thursby finally received his long overdue and well-deserved recognition in a ceremony at the Pentagon. He was awarded the Prisoner of War Medal.

Sergeant Thursby's bravery, strength, and spirit serves as an inspiration to all Americans. It is fitting that we honor him on Victory in Europe Day. Let us all take time to thank World War II veterans like Sergeant Thursby today for their service and sacrifice.

FOSTER YOUTH MONTH

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Foster Youth Month.

Every child deserves a healthy, safe, and stable home, yet too many continue to go without these basic needs that so many of us take for granted. This May, we recognize more than 400,000 American children in foster care who are waiting for their forever family.

The theme of this year's Foster Month is "Building Blocks Toward Permanent Families," an issue that is near to my heart. My parents took in several foster children when I was