

mourn their loss, pray for them, but we feel very strengthened as a country because of the blessing of Lane Evans' life to us.

So again I thank Congresswoman CHERI BUSTOS for bringing us together to honor this great man. It is my privilege to join the members of the Illinois delegation and other Members who will be on the floor to honor Lane.

He was a proud son of Illinois, that is for sure. I remember seeing him in Moline just so proud, so proud of his district, of his constituents, and they were all, in turn, as we are, proud of him.

Thank you, Congresswoman BUSTOS.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. CLEMENT ALEXANDER PRICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Clement Alexander Price, a shining figure in New Jersey society and culture, a respected professor and historian, and a beloved family member and friend, who died last week and leaves behind an extraordinarily distinguished record of public service.

Dr. Price was a true ambassador for his beloved Newark, our State's largest city. He was a widely respected public intellectual whose eloquence and wisdom helped heal a city at a crossroads, educate the next generation of civic leaders, and shape the decisions that have advanced New Jersey.

A native of the then-segregated Washington, D.C., Dr. Price rose to receive degrees from the University of Bridgeport and from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and spent his life in helping to transform America to a brighter, fairer, integrated society.

As a Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor at Rutgers Newark, Dr. Price's gifts as a teacher were valued by hundreds of students who sought him out as a mentor and by faculty and administration who respected his expertise and energy.

Dr. Price was an accomplished author and the State's foremost authority on African American history.

He wrote "Freedom Not Far Distant, A Documentary History of Afro-Americans in New Jersey," and other works that explored the history of race and culture in Newark and in New Jersey. He most recently coauthored "Slave Culture: A Documentary Collection of the Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project."

Dr. Price was also a major presence on the civic stage. President Obama appointed him as chair of his transition team for the National Endowment for the Humanities and as vice chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. He was Newark's official historian. He chaired the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. He was a trustee of the Fund for New Jersey, the Newark Public Library, the Geraldine R.

Dodge Foundation, the Newark Education Trust, and the Save Ellis Island Foundation.

He was chief historical consultant for the Jewish Museum's Exhibition, "Bridges and Boundaries: African Americans and American Jews." He co-founded the Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series, the oldest, largest, and most prestigious Black History Month event in the State. He was a member of the Scholarly Advisory Committee to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, which is currently being built here on The Mall in Washington.

Dr. Price is survived by his wife, Mary Sue Sweeney Price, who is widely respected for her outstanding leadership for almost a generation as director and CEO of the Newark Museum, our State's greatest museum.

My wife, Heidi, and I are grateful to have known Clement Price. We and the people of our State mourn his untimely passing. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mary Sue and to his legions of friends and admirers in Newark, in New Jersey, and across the United States.

When he last visited me on Capitol Hill several months ago, he was, as usual, filled with optimism and good cheer. On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I celebrate the distinguished life of Dr. Clement Alexander Price in service to the Nation.

WAITING FOR CONGRESS TO TAKE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, we have not been back in D.C. for a full 24 hours and the immigration shenanigans have already begun.

Republicans, even a few unhelpful Democrats, have been saying the President should not take executive action on immigration and should not act yet, as if his intention to use his executive power under existing law is a surprise.

David Axelrod, safe in the confines of the University of Chicago, has no sense of urgency because none of his family members or neighbors are facing deportation. But it is a little different on my side of Chicago, where people live in nearly constant fear that a loved one or a friend will be detained and then strapped into an airplane for deportation.

My Chicagoans have been waiting for the Congress to act and take action for over a decade. Polish, Ukrainian, Irish, and Mexican have been waiting, Jamaicans and Filipinos. They have been waiting for family members to get visas in backlogs that stretch to 20 years because Congress refuses to act. They have been heartbroken by laws that say, on the other hand, they can apply for a green card because they are married to a U.S. citizen, but, on the other hand, they must wait in exile outside the country, away from their husband or wife, their loved one, for 10 years in order to get that green card.

Two hundred thousand, 300,000, 400,000 deportations a year. These statistics represent people, people disappearing from their churches, from their kitchen tables, from parent-teacher conferences. Why? Because Congress is doing nothing to make it stop or make any progress towards an immigration system based in reality and common sense, where people come legally with visas rather than smugglers.

Now the GOP Conference in the House is saying, after a decade of delay, a decade of defying the American people, and a decade of demonizing immigrants, that they are so anxious to work on immigration reform. But there is just one thing stopping them: the President. The one thing preventing Republicans from taking action, they say, is that the President may also take action to keep families together and address the destructive nature of the deportation.

But here is how one commentator in Atlantic magazine described it: "Boehner's effort to hold congressional immigration reform hostage if Obama acts unilaterally is so absurd. Boehner killed the hostage long ago. Now he's hoping that if he pretends it's still alive no one will notice the corpse lying on the floor."

To put it another way, it is a little late for the mayor of Chernobyl to say he is worried about someone poisoning the well.

The President stood right there and said that if this Congress failed to act on important national priorities, he will use his pen and phone within current law to do so. Republicans heard him just as well as I did. Republicans had more than 2 years to address the bill and a year to schedule a vote on the Senate bill. I do not see one scheduled today, tomorrow, or next week. I doubt before this Congress expires will we see a bill scheduled.

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Let's just look at the record. Republicans said we can't do immigration unless it is done piecemeal; we can't do immigration unless people are denied citizenship; or, we need more border security spending; we need a parole officer assigned to each immigrant who gets to stay and work. And every Democrat, from the President of the United States on down, all the way to me, said, "Yes, yes, and yes. Compromise and progress are more important than gridlock and making every Democratic constituency happy."

Governing means when Democrats say "yes" to Republican demands, Republicans actually move forward and we work together. But none of that happened, despite the door being open, the table being set, and Democrats saying, in effect, Republicans can order anything off the menu. And yet here we are with no action, no vote, and the Republicans threatening to double down on no action if the President, acting within the letter and spirit of the