

take a moment and recognize the tremendous contributions of Hispanic Americans who have made our communities a great country.

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing one of the most diverse congressional districts in the country. Our diversity has always been our strength, and Hispanic Americans are sewn into the very fabric of what makes our slice of Nevada special.

To honor the history, culture, and contributions of Latinos to the United States, I am pleased to join my colleague from California, Congressman TONY CÁRDENAS, as the original cosponsor of his resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month.

So, whether it is the innovative entrepreneurs who are starting businesses and creating jobs, the ambitious students studying to become tomorrow's leaders, or the brave men and women who serve our country in uniform, the story of Hispanic Americans is the story of all Americans.

GREATEST COMMON GOOD

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, Members will leave this week behind physically but not mentally and not without a sense of joy and, certainly, questions. Many things have happened this week, and more will come in terms of further explanations about our leadership and about our direction, but one thing we know that occurred is a mighty statement of balanced injustice. I will paraphrase the words of Pope Francis, when he said to us that politics requires more than divisiveness; and he said "the greatest common good: that of a community which sacrifices particular interests in order to share, in justice and peace, its goods, its interests, its social life"—an instruction on the goodness of our Members, no matter what their party.

So in these next couple of weeks, I would ask that we look collectively together about working to pass a budget that is fair and just and that helps the needy: comprehensive immigration reform, helping the homeless, and helping veterans who have suffered, Mr. Speaker, some hundreds of thousands who died waiting for hospital services.

I think we can do better. Get rid of sequester. Pass a budget for America.

CONGRATULATING GENERAL MARTIN DEMPSEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, after 41 years in uniform, General Martin Dempsey, the Chairman of the

Joint Chiefs of Staff and the highest-ranking military officer in the land, retires today.

More than once this year, we on the Armed Services Committee have expressed our gratitude for his service and bid General Dempsey farewell as he testified before our committee for what we expected would be his final hearing; but, time and time again, world events brought him back to us.

That underscores what a consequential job General Dempsey has had. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the senior military adviser to both the legislative and executive branches of government. I am personally very grateful for his willingness to spend time, formally and informally, with members of our committee discussing our country's security, providing his best military advice on an unprecedented spectrum of serious and diverse threats during an era of declining resources and when Congress and the President have very different views on national security policy. All of that has been a tremendous challenge.

In his four decades of dedicated service, General Dempsey has led our forces against threats far different from those we faced when he left his native New Jersey to become a West Point cadet. Instead of Soviets in the Fulda Gap, General Dempsey has had to confront a newly aggressive Russia, an expanding China, Iranian-backed instability in the Middle East, as well as ISIS and al Qaeda.

And those are just some of the threats we can see. General Dempsey has also had to face increasing cyber attacks on our military and our country, the threat posed by diseases like Ebola in an increasingly mobile world, and a tremendous amount of change within the military, itself.

In honoring him and his service, we also honor, through him, those who have served under him. To meet the challenges that the United States faces around the world and to meet our sacred obligations to our servicemembers and their families requires a commitment to service and sacrifice that separates America from the rest of the world and separates those who serve in the military from much of our own population. It takes something special.

For having that "something special" and for serving our Nation with honor and distinction for 41 years, I know I speak for my colleagues in thanking General Martin Dempsey and his wife, Deanie, for their service to our country as they move into the next phase of their life together.

Mr. Speaker, I will now extend my remarks with further discussion of the career of General Martin Dempsey.

General Dempsey's career has been a lesson in dedication to country and selfless service.

A career armor officer, he has commanded at every level—from Platoon Leader to Combatant Commander—and his assignments have carried him and his family across the United States and around the world.

As a company grade officer, he served with the 2nd Cavalry in Europe and the 10th Cavalry at Fort Carson. Following troop command, he earned his Masters of Arts in English from Duke University and was assigned to the English Department at West Point. He subsequently earned additional advanced degrees from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the National War College.

In 1991, General Dempsey deployed with the Third Armored Division in support of Operation Desert Storm. He later commanded a battalion in Germany and then served as the Army's "senior scout" as the 67th Colonel of the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment—the Brave Rifles—before reporting to the Joint Staff as an assistant deputy director in the J-5 and later as a Special Assistant to the 14th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In 2003, General Dempsey commanded the 1st Armored Division in Baghdad and returned to Iraq in 2005 as the Commanding General of the Multi-National Security Transition Command—Iraq. From 2007 to 2008, he was the Deputy Commander and then Acting Commander of U.S. Central Command, and from 2008 to 2011, he commanded U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

Appointed to serve as the Army's 37th Chief of Staff, General Dempsey led his beloved Army a short 149 days before being tapped to serve as the 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In that capacity, and as the Nation's highest-ranking military officer, he has served as the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, and Congress.

General Dempsey's job has required him to coordinate and build consensus among the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the Services, and the Combatant Commands. He has also developed important relationships with military leaders in other nations.

He has guided the Joint Force in executing an extraordinary range of global responsibilities, from counter-terrorism and crisis response, to supporting our allies, building partner capacity, and humanitarian assistance. His efforts to strengthen key alliances, bolster new partnerships, and more closely integrate the military with other tools of national power and influence are commendable.

General Dempsey's tenure as Chairman has been marked by significant transitions in military operations and personnel in an increasingly dynamic and unpredictable security environment.

A firm believer in constantly learning and growing, General Dempsey guided the Joint Force to study, learn, and incorporate lessons learned over the past 14 years. In addition, recognizing the shifting nature of the security environment and our ability to respond to it, General Dempsey led a paradigm shift in how we posture and employ this Joint team around the world.

At the same time, the past few years have witnessed exponential growth of the cyber threat against our Nation, and General Dempsey has pushed the expansion of our cyber capabilities in response. He has championed the rapid development of our cyber forces, and implemented the Joint Information Environment to optimize and better defend our military's information technology infrastructure. These initiatives will be critical to the future security of our Nation.

As principle steward of the military profession, he renewed an internal commitment to