

We ignore the long-term costs of budget programs for weapons, preferring to put that off to a future administration and future Congresses.

In so doing, we are playing fast and loose with the integrity of the Pentagon with the resources and the materials that are necessary to support our troops now and in the future.

It is not too late for this Congress to demand a spending plan, cost accountability, kill the new cruise missile program, and put us on a path of fiscal stability and sanity while we have appropriate priorities for the military strength and defense of our country.

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE COLLINS JEFFREYS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Goldsboro's own George Collins Jeffreys, who passed away on January 20.

Born over 90 years ago, in 1925, George lived a long and full life. The eldest of four children, he attended St. Mary's School and Oak Ridge Military Academy in Oak Ridge, North Carolina. During the Second World War, George served in the Pacific.

After the war, George returned home to work in the family business, which was originally established back in the 1890s by two prominent North Carolina families to market local produce, chickens, seed, and eggs. The business was successful.

In the 1920s, George's father and uncle took over the business, renaming it Jeffreys and Sons. The two brothers began offering beverage distribution. After the end of prohibition, they became a licensed distributor for Anheuser-Busch products.

It wasn't long before the company had grown so big that it was divided into separate seed, beverage, and cabinet companies. It continued growing and expanding in Goldsboro, Greenville, and other communities.

Today, R.A. Jeffreys Distributing Company is the oldest Anheuser-Busch distributor in North Carolina as well as one of the oldest family-owned distributors in the United States.

R.A. Jeffreys Distributing Company services almost every grocery store, convenience store, and restaurant in the area, supplying 36 counties in North Carolina.

Now, George Jeffreys was not only respected as a business leader. He was a thoughtful and generous member of his community, volunteering and contributing to local schools, Scout troops, churches, and community programs.

In addition to his company being recognized multiple times as an outstanding wholesaler by Anheuser-Busch, receiving the Dimensions of Excellence Award, George also received the Distinguished Service Award from

the Tuscarora Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

His dedication to business and to his community were certainly highlights of his long and full life. But the true foundation of George Jeffreys' life was his family.

His wife Lucy and his three children—his daughters, Leigh and Ellen, and his son Robert—and seven grandchildren will all remember him with love.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call George Jeffreys a friend.

I pray for God's blessings and God's peace to his family.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last week during our district work period, I spent the night at the Interfaith Hospitality Network, a family homeless shelter in Worcester, Massachusetts. This was my second time spending a night there in recent years.

It was a wonderful opportunity to hear firsthand the stories of families who are facing tough times and to see the incredible support provided by groups like IHN.

In today's media environment, where every development in the Presidential campaign gets a breaking news banner, it is easy to lose sight of the real issues impacting real families, and homelessness is one of those real issues.

In 2015, more than 500,000 Americans were homeless on any given night. Of that number, more than 200,000 were people and families and nearly 50,000 were veterans.

Even in Massachusetts, which is one of the richest States in the Nation, homelessness continues to be a challenge in many of our communities.

In recent years, State budget cuts have led to a record number of homeless children in Massachusetts, and the overall uptick in homelessness has led to overcrowding in shelters, with thousands of families being turned away.

In the richest country on the planet, it is simply astonishing that anyone is homeless, but the fact is this continues to be a persistent problem. Fortunately, there are amazing organizations like the Interfaith Hospitality Network that are making a difference.

IHN works in partnership with the faith community to provide shelter and assistance to families with children who are homeless. Their primary goals are to assist families by increasing their income and to help them secure permanent housing while providing critical support services necessary for them to succeed.

It is a community bed shelter that provides private bedrooms and shared quality living areas for six families at a time who are homeless, but don't qualify for State-funded shelters.

One of the points that the people I met made very eloquently was that

sometimes life is very complicated and sometimes things don't work out as you expect them to.

Many of the families that I met during my stay included at least one working parent, but they had fallen into the gap where they earned too little to make ends meet, but too much to qualify for other housing assistance programs.

Some of the residents included college-educated parents with families that fell on hard times. Maybe a parent is sick or a child is sick or a parent got laid off from a job. Those families are not there because they made poor choices. There were a series of events that led to this.

One thing parents at the shelter have in common is that they love their kids more than anything and they are working tirelessly to get back on their feet.

The families at IHN are not charged rent and work with a caseworker to budget and save money for their own apartments. The caseworker also helps families access necessary health care or counseling, learn job skills, enroll in job training or educational classes, and assists them with other life issues.

Mr. Speaker, IHN is a very special place. It is a home. It is comfortable. It is safe. Families prepare and eat dinner together. Children do their homework together, color in coloring books, and play games. IHN provides a sense of normalcy during these times of turmoil and uncertainty for these families.

With each visit to the IHN shelter in Worcester, I am inspired to see that within our community there are so many wonderful people who care about their neighbors who are going through difficult times and who want to get back on their feet.

The volunteers and staff are incredible people. Places like IHN represent the best of our community. There is a real need for places like this.

Too often in this Chamber I have heard colleagues demonize and disparage America's poorest families, but those who are homeless don't fit into a stereotype.

Every family faces different challenges. It is hard work to be poor in America. The families I met are working hard for a better life for their kids.

We should be helping them get back on their feet, not kicking them while they are down. Certainly we should not be indifferent to their struggles.

To help more of these families get ahead, we must do more at the national level to strengthen the social safety net and to better address homelessness, food insecurity, poverty, and many other issues which deserve to be front and center.

Looking at the big picture, we need to be talking about how we can make sure that work pays enough so that all working families can afford rent and a place to live and be able to put food on the table for their kids.

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We might start by increasing, at long last, the Federal minimum wage so