

Does anyone actually believe that? Just a few months ago, the Director of National Intelligence brazenly lied to Congress when he denied the program existed at all. Just a few weeks ago, we learned that this administration has taken confidential tax information belonging to its political opponents and leaked it to its political supporters. Is there anyone so naive as to believe the same thing won't be done with phone and Internet records if it suits the designs of powerful officials?

A free society does not depend on a police state that tracks the behavior of every citizen for its security. A free society depends instead on principles of law that protect liberty while meting out stern punishment to those who abuse it. It doesn't mean we catch every criminal or terrorist. It means that those we do catch are brought to justice as a warning to others. This is true whether we are enforcing the laws of our Nation or the Law of Nations.

Indeed, if we had responded to the attack on September 11 with the same seriousness as we responded to Pearl Harbor, terrorism would not be the threat that it is today.

Ours is not the first civilization to be seduced by the siren song of a benevolent all-powerful government. But without a single exception, every civilization that has succumbed to this lie has awakened one morning to find that the benevolence is gone and the all-powerful government is still there.

Mr. Speaker, this is our generation's wake-up call, and we ignore it at extreme peril to our liberty.

#### ARLETA HIGH SCHOOL, SUN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, AND SAN FERNANDO HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, it's with great pride today that I rise to recognize the great achievements of three high schools in my district, District 29 in California.

I want to begin by congratulating Arleta High School for achieving a 92 percent graduation rate and setting the gold standard for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Opening in 2006, this school achieved this enormous feat in just 7 years. The Arleta Mustangs have the highest graduation rate of any traditional high school in all of LA Unified School District. This is a testament to all the hard work and support this community has invested in its children and their future.

I would also like to recognize departing Principal Dr. Linda Calvo for her unrelenting vision. She will be dearly missed, and I hope that her successor will continue the tremendous strides made on this campus and the surrounding neighborhoods.

I would also like to recognize LA Unified School District board member

Nury Martinez, who actually went to one of the high schools that I'm going to recognize in just a minute. She's been a strong and tireless advocate for this community as a school board member for the last 4 years.

I commend the teachers for their commitment and dedication to their students; the parents for their love, support and involvement in their children's lives; and the students who have risen to the challenge and proved it is possible to reach your dreams.

Bragging rights are not limited to just Arleta High School. Located less than 4 miles away, the Sun Valley High School Wildcats can also be proud. I'd like to congratulate and commend the Sun Valley High School Robotics Team for being named the national champions of the 2013 Mini-Urban Challenge Competition. Sponsored by the United States Air Force Research Laboratory, this challenge requires high school students to design and operate a robotic car to autonomously navigate a model city. One June 1, the Sun Valley Robotics Team competed against nine regional champions in Washington, D.C., and became the national champions.

I want to recognize also Principal Paul Del Rosario for his leadership and continuous support of the team; Mr. Hicks and Ms. Yamagata for guiding and assisting the team through the project and to the victory; the volunteers who invested their own time and money to help the teams, as well; and the students for their perseverance and creativity.

The success of California's 29th District high schools doesn't end there, and it doesn't end just in the classroom.

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I would also like to congratulate San Fernando High School's baseball team on winning their second city championship in 3 years. On June 1, San Fernando defeated Cleveland High School 2-1 in Dodger Stadium to claim their championship for a second year in a row.

Under the leadership of Coach Armando Gomez, the Tigers have done a phenomenal job of playing as a team and putting in the extra work to build a successful program at San Fernando High School.

All of these students are a great source of pride to our community, and prove that hard work, sacrifice, and commitment pay off. They are the future of our country and also of the San Fernando Valley.

I think it is important for us to understand that today I stand not only to congratulate the young people, but to congratulate all of the adults that surround them who've given of themselves and gone the extra mile to make sure we bring out the best in our children.

I also would like to take a point of personal privilege to welcome our little ambassador who's here to talk to me and other Members about children's hospitals. You might know him as Lil

Vader, as he was in a commercial during the Super Bowl game. He's with me today as a young ambassador, showing leadership at his young age. I think it's important for us to recognize at moments like this that our young people, our young Americans, our teenagers, or maybe they're little kids, but you too can be a leader at any age. You don't have to wait until you're a little older, like us.

#### FLAWS IDENTIFIED IN CMS COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROGRAM

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, at a time when bipartisanship is rare in Washington, this past week a bipartisan majority of Members of the United States House of Representatives together called upon the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to delay further implementation of the competitive bidding program for Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies.

A growing number of flaws have been identified in the bidding program, which is being used to procure these goods and services for those facing life-changing disease and disability. We do not oppose competitive bidding. In fact, we want to ensure that true competition takes place and Medicare plays by the rules they set for the program.

Today, I stand beside 226 of my colleagues here in the people's House and urge the administrator of CMS to do the right thing and use her authority under current law to delay implementation in order to fix these abuses before moving forward in 100 areas nationwide on July 1.

Mr. Speaker, Administrator Tavenner has to know the clock is ticking, and if unchecked, the failure of this program will be on her watch.

#### TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE RUDOLPH "RUDY" CLAY

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man and a friend of mine who spent most of his adult life being actively engaged in the processes of social advocacy and public policy decisionmaking, and who ultimately became the mayor of Gary, Indiana, and a national progressive political leader.

Rudy Clay was born in Alabama, and after the death of his mother was brought to Gary, Indiana, where he was raised by his two aunts, Ms. Lucy Hunter and Ms. Daisy Washington, who started him attending church, which he did for the rest of his life. He graduated from the Gary Roosevelt High School