

known for her civil rights work to eliminate racial barriers, stop immigrant abuse, and improve education in the State of Texas.

During her dedication of an elementary school named after her in Dallas last year, Adelfa told the audience:

Only through education will we make the world a better place than we found it.

May her commitment to improving education and her legacy of working on behalf of a better Texas continue through her family and all of those lives she has touched throughout the decades.

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the tragedy of human sex trafficking cannot be fully realized until one sees the pain of hopelessness in the victims' eyes.

On a recent trip to Honduras, I visited two shelters for sex trafficking victims: La Alianza and El Refugio Shelters. Some of these victims were as young as 12 years of age. They had been raped, drugged, abused, and exploited. These shelters are helping them to regain their lives, their dignity and, yes, their hope.

But don't be fooled into thinking that this vile crime of sex trafficking only happens somewhere else. It happens in the United States as well. The average age of girls trafficked in the United States is between 12 and 14 years of age.

Like Honduras, our country lacks shelters for these girls. There are about 5,000 shelters for animals throughout the country, according to the ASPCA, but there are only 226 beds available for domestic minor sex trafficking victims, according to Shared Hope.

This has got to change, Mr. Speaker. It is time for us to rescue the child victims of sex slavery and then put the traffickers and the child abusers in the jailhouse where they belong.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1915

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVID ALAN MILLER AND THE ALBANY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize and congratulate the Albany Symphony Orchestra and conductor David Alan Miller for winning a coveted Grammy Award last night for Best Classical Instrumental Solo.

It is the first accomplishment of its kind for this orchestra. The composition, "Conjurer," was recorded at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, also in

New York's 20th Congressional District, and it gave our area yet another reason to be proud of the Capital Region arts and cultural scene. For 84 years, the Albany Symphony Orchestra has been giving a voice to beautifully written pieces of music and enriching our lives in the Capital Region.

I again congratulate David Alan Miller and the Albany Symphony Orchestra for their accomplishments and their victory last night at the 56th annual Grammy Awards.

INCOME INEQUALITY

(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, in a few minutes, I will join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to discuss a very important topic that has long been one of our crucial issues proliferating now across America and around the world—income inequality—but I wanted to rise as I understand the farm bill is now prepared to go to the Rules Committee, and now will be on the floor of the House this week.

In an Associated Press article on "The New Face of Food Stamps—Working-Age Americans," now, in 2013–2014, 50 percent of those receiving food stamps are working Americans, such as the young lady pictured here, who is 25 years old, with a 3-year-old son, who, yes, was in the United States Army.

When are we going to realize that even though the economy is churning and that the jobs being created are low-wage jobs that the working and middle class need our help? It is not a handout. It is not a way to be able to close the deficit and the debt, which is closing by breaking the backs of hard-working Americans. What a shame that a farm bill would come forward as it has never come forward before, and it takes away a lifeline for hard-working Americans.

SIGN THE KEYSTONE PIPELINE PERMIT

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have seen reports that the President is going to come to this Chamber tomorrow and talk about avoiding dealing with Congress. He is going to pick up his pen and sign executive orders without coming to this institution and following our Constitution.

Mr. President, if you are that willing to pick up your pen, then pick it up and sign the Keystone pipeline permit so that we can start creating jobs in this country and get 40,000 people off the unemployment rolls and into good-paying jobs that are careers.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus, I urge my Republican colleagues to lift their heads from the sand so that they can see the effects of climate change throughout our country.

Scientists agree that climate change is causing the extreme weather that is devastating our citizens and our economy. The Republican response has been to deny the science. Year after year, Republicans in Congress not only refuse to do something about climate change, but they insist on policies that actually make things worse. Because Republicans are determined to ignore the threats posed by climate change, the President has no choice but to use executive authority to protect the American people.

I look forward to hearing the President's proposals tomorrow at the State of the Union address. Hopefully, Congress can begin to show some leadership on this issue before it is too late.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, at manufacturing plants in the district I represent, employers are having a hard time finding the skilled workers they need, and many other employers can't find low-skilled workers to fill openings. At colleges across the country, gifted students face the reality that, after graduation, they will have to leave this country to achieve their dreams elsewhere.

These are but some of the faces of immigration reform. Their stories underscore the urgent need to fix our broken system. At an immigration roundtable I hosted last year, a DREAMer, Estefania Garcia, told her story and didn't leave a dry eye in the room. I invited Estefania as my guest to the State of the Union tomorrow night in order to personify the need for comprehensive reform. Estefania's story is moving, but it is in no way unique.

With comprehensive immigration reforms, the world's most gifted STEM minds will help us achieve 21st century success; our economy will be injected with the talent and skills it needs to thrive; 11 million people will pay taxes and become fully engaged in our democracy for the first time.

I rise in strong support of comprehensive immigration reform. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

MONAHANS, TEXAS

(Mr. GALLEG0 asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GALLEGU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about the 23rd District in 1 minute—23 in 1 today. I want to talk about Monahans, Texas, the home of the Lobos.

Monahans High School is known not only for their athletic programs, with several State championships in women's volleyball, for example, but also on the academic side as the host of one of the preeminent—one of the biggest—speech and debate tournaments in west Texas.

Monahans is in Ward County in the Permian Basin, located off of I-20. The economy is booming with high-paying jobs and with an active, full service Chamber of Commerce—one of the more active in the region. If you are looking for recreation, the Monahans Sandhills State Park has sand dunes that are 70-feet high, with sand boarding, sand football, sand surfing, sand tobogganing, hiking, and even horseback riding.

If you go there in the spring, for example, the Rattlesnake Army Airbase will be a new museum. It was one of the largest bomber training bases of World War II, and it was the temporary home of the Enola Gay, which dropped the atomic bomb on Japan in World War II. It is scheduled to open in March.

Nearly 24 percent of Texas is in one district, in the 23rd District. It is an incredible stretch. I am so proud to have the opportunity to represent Monahans, Texas, in Ward County.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS: INCOME INEQUALITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to once again have this opportunity to come to the floor of the House of Representatives and to anchor—along with my good friend and colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Nevada, Representative STEVEN HORSFORD—the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order, where for the next 60 minutes we have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people about an issue of great significance for the communities that we represent as well as for the entire country.

Income inequality is an issue that is of increasing concern to working families, to low-income Americans, to mid-

dle class folks, to those who aspire to be part of the middle class. We know that at this moment in time in 2014 income inequality is the worst that it has been in America since the Great Depression.

Now, we live in the wealthiest country in the world. Yet we know that all across America there are people who are struggling to put food on their tables, clothing on their backs or to provide shelter for their families. That is an unacceptable situation, and we know that things have gotten worse over the last 5 years since the collapse of the economy. The recovery, while progress has been made, has been uneven, inconsistent and schizophrenic in many ways. Some have benefited, particularly those amongst the wealthiest 5 to 10 percent of Americans, but others have fallen behind.

So, today, the Congressional Black Caucus will speak to the issue of income inequality, but it will also propose why it is something that needs to be addressed and what some of the things are that Congress can do, in working with the President, to deal with this pressing issue in America.

We have been joined by several distinguished members of the Congressional Black Caucus. It is now my honor and privilege to yield some time to the dean of New York's congressional delegation, a legendary Member of the House of Representatives, the Lion of Lenox Avenue, the distinguished gentleman from New York, Representative CHARLES B. RANGEL.

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Let me thank my friend and my colleague from New York for bringing this important issue to the attention of our Congress and the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is a strange thing about those Americans who have been raised in poor communities. That is, as they grow older, it seems that God has blessed them to remember just the good things that they have enjoyed, and the misery and the pain somehow fades away; but I think that the most important thing that comes out of this is the hope for the future. Very few Americans have not witnessed in their families devastating economic impacts, but that was more than compensated for because they knew, if they had to be in any country in the world in which some of these problems could be resolved through opportunity, they would be in the United States of America.

The tragic thing that we have today is that this dream appears to be fading for the poor as well as for the middle class. When that happens, I think what makes America different from so many other countries is that it is possible to have classes that are locked in frigid concrete, as used to be the case in Europe—that is dramatically changing to be more fluid as it relates to upward mobility—while it appears to us that

today, if you were born in poverty, you are almost destined to remain in poverty. What a sinful, historic condition that would make. What a tragic example it would set for the rest of the world that has used us as an example as to what human beings can do.

What is it that the economists don't see? Poverty is not only painful; it destroys the very fiber of our economic productivity. Sick people, poor people are not productive people. There are inclinations for them to cost more in terms of dollars and cents than if we provided them with the tools for them to acquire decent jobs with decent living wages. People are talking about equality in wages, but I am not comfortable with that expression because I don't want some of my friends on the other side of the aisle thinking that I think everyone should have the same income in terms of equality; but when it comes to the equality of opportunity—when it comes to making certain that you can tell your kids that you are doing pretty good but that you know that they can do better—and then when it comes to those dreams being hurt because of examples that we find in this country, then it hurts the whole idea of manufacturers wanting to have their workers be in a position to buy the things that they are manufacturing or the services they are providing.

So I am glad that we have this time tonight to go beyond the pain of poverty and to talk about the hopes and the dreams that people have in coming to this country. They come here not to remain poor. They don't come here to get rich. They come here because of the opportunity we have—and poverty is a poison that can get into any economy and make it impossible for poor folks to get out of it.

Thank you so much for constantly reminding this great country that we can't afford to lose that greatness, because a lot of it was in God we trust. I do hope, as a result of our voices, that we hear from some of the people who hear directly from God—our ministers and our rabbis—to be able to understand that Jesus may have said that the meek shall inherit the Earth, but he sure didn't mean that the meek should suffer while the rich just get richer. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

□ 1930

Mr. JEFFRIES. I certainly thank the distinguished gentleman from New York for his eloquent, as always, observations.

It is an honor and privilege to be joined by the Representative from Texas, who has been a fighter on behalf of these issues—a voice for the voiceless and someone who is always on the front lines trying to deal with socioeconomic inequality wherever it might be found in America, but certainly in her home district anchored in Houston, Texas. Let me now yield to Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE.