

What this Congress has done, and it has done it over and over again, is tried to repeal the law containing the reforms I fought for over many years to better enable our miners stricken with black lung—and their spouses and widows—to get the benefits they are owed.

I believe that the fight for the coal miner should not end when a miner retires. That has been the long-time policy of our government—during both Republican and Democratic Administrations going all the way back to Harry Truman and Franklin Roosevelt. But this Congress seems utterly indifferent and ignorant of that commitment.

This Congress is bent on cutting budgets for the agencies that help to provide medical care and monthly benefit payments to miners stricken with black lung. It seems content to allow black lung victims to languish for years in a legal limbo, waiting for review of their claims.

This Congress is bent on cutting funds for the health and safety protections that ensure miners return home after every shift.

This Congress, which boasts about its commitment to the future of coal, is bent on cutting funds for the research and development of new technologies critical to ensuring coal's place in our Nation's long-term energy portfolio.

This Congress, in the worst and most callous way, has been utterly indifferent to the plight of retired miners whose health and retirement benefits are stripped away in bankruptcy proceedings.

The closure of the mine research facility in Pennsylvania, the rewrite of grant guidelines for black lung clinics, the denial of sufficient funding for long-time organizations providing essential mine rescue team training required by Federal and State laws—these are all priorities that have fallen by the wayside in the bureaucracy of this Administration and, apparently, in this uncaring and indifferent Congress.

I have always felt that fighting for our miners meant fighting for a decent wage, fighting to ensure that they could retire with dignity, fighting to ensure that they had access to medical care, and that their children had access to the opportunities afforded by a college education.

But the leadership in this House is blocking an increase in the minimum wage. It is promoting cuts to Medicare and is prepared to put Social Security on the chopping block. It is axing worker training and college grants. It is refusing to close the loopholes that allow unscrupulous operators to walk away from the health and retirement benefits promised to their workers.

Where is all the anger when it comes to the coal miner now? Where is all the rage?

There is much more to defending coal country than fighting against the EPA.

I say to all my colleagues who regularly come to this floor and raise the roof in defense of coal, we must recommit ourselves not just fighting the anti-coal zealots of this Administration, but also to the intense and long-term battle for the well-being of America's coal miners.

We should start by moving meaningful mine health and safety legislation that honors the memories of the 29 miners who perished in the Upper Big Branch Mine on April 5th, 2010. Our obligation to them is long overdue.

RESTORATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with the Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Committee and my colleagues to call for the immediate passage of legislation in the House concur with the Senate in the restoration of unemployment benefits to the more than 2.2 million Americans who have been cut off extended unemployment insurance because Republicans continue to block extension of the program.

It is inconceivable that as a government and as a nation, we would leave all of these people hanging, many of them since December of 28 of last year 2013. Nationally, nearly 72,000 people are losing unemployment insurance on average every week, adding to the 202 million people who have already lost their benefits.

The Department of Labor estimated that the bipartisan Senate agreement to extend the emergency unemployment insurance program would benefit nearly 2.8 million people.

Illinois, my state of Illinois is estimated to have lost 296,763,435 just under 300 million dollars in unemployment dollars in unemployment benefits during the first three months of 2014 due to the Republican shutdown of the Federal benefits program. 153,400 Illinoisans would benefit from extending emergency unemployment benefits. And let's do it now.

SECOND ANNUAL TURQUOISE ART AND LANGUAGE CONTEST

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, The Chicagoland area is proud to host the Second Annual Turquoise Art and Language Contest, organized by the Turkish American Society, to be held at the Rosemont Theater in Rosemont, Illinois on April 12, 2014; and

Whereas, The Turquoise Art and Language Contest is held annually to promote intercultural understanding, friendship, and dialogue; and

Whereas, The contestants will demonstrate diverse talents such as folk dancing, singing and poetry recitation, in a multitude of languages including English, Spanish, and Turkish; and

Whereas, The Turkish American Society began operating in 2005 in the city of Mount Prospect, Illinois to facilitate and encourage cross-cultural experiences and interfaith cooperation; and

Whereas, The Turkish American Society is involved in generous philanthropic ventures and projects benefiting the people of the State of Illinois while addressing the social and cultural needs of the Turkish-American community living in the Chicago area; creating a welcoming environment for new immigrants adjusting to life in the United States; providing communities with educational services; intro-

ducing Turkish culture to the Chicago area; uniting the Turkish-American community; and establishing dialogue between diverse communities with the goal of leading to global peace; and

Whereas, The Turkish American Society's efforts to forge a stronger bond amongst all Illinoisans and spread the wonders of Turkish culture are worthy of the greatest respect; now therefore be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the United States of America, that best wishes are extended to the participants of the Turkish American Society's Second Annual Turquoise Art and Language Contest, and the Turkish American Society is honored and commended for its wonderful work.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2014 HEFLIN TAEKWONDO TIGER PRIDE DEMO TEAM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to pay special tribute to a group of young people in my Congressional district from Heflin, Alabama. These boys and girls, the Heflin Taekwondo Tiger Pride Demo Team, recently traveled to Jackson, Mississippi to compete in a National Taekwondo competition. They were awarded with the 2014 Taekwondo United Demo Team National Championship, the highest honor.

The Tiger Pride team consists of 14 kids that range in age from 8 to 15. These students have shown tremendous dedication as they have practiced over the past 10 months to perfect a six-minute routine they performed at the competition. The Tiger Pride team competed against four other teams from California, Texas, Louisiana and North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this team for their extraordinary efforts that led to their National Championship title.

HAJJI SALEEM AAKHIR MUHAMMAD

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the very distinguished Hajji Saleem Aakhir Muhammad for his service in our armed forces.

Mr. Muhammad of Elizabeth, New Jersey, departed this life on January 6, 2012, at the age of 83. He served in the United States Army Air Force and was a decorated World War II veteran. Mr. Muhammad was also an original member of the 332nd Fighters Group Squadron, an all Black unit known as the Tuskegee Airmen, for which he received Congress' highest and most distinguished civilian award, the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor. Following his service, Mr. Muhammad was a small business owner and entrepreneur in New Jersey.

Last week the City of Elizabeth saluted a legend and honored the life of Mr. Muhammad