

longstanding history of extending these benefits, as we saw during the Bush administration. I urge Speaker BOEHNER to look at the faces of these unemployed Americans and hear their stories so we can work together to solve this problem as we have in the past.

These photos and stories will be posted outside my office—and I hope many of my colleagues will do the same—to serve as a reminder that this is about the individuals and the families who are hurting every day because we have not extended this critical lifeline. I hope this will put a face on the real stories of the people who are hurting and it will cause the Speaker to bring a bill to the floor that will extend unemployment so we can answer the call and be sure that we are doing everything we can to help those most in need.

□ 1015

TRIBUTE TO MASTER CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER GARY "DOC"
WELT

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American hero, a quiet legend in the special operations community and in military medicine, Master Chief Petty Officer Gary "Doc" Welt.

Doc Welt passed away on April 8 due to complications of ALS. He passed away in Seminole, Florida, surrounded by his family. He was only 55 years old. He dedicated his life to service—service to his country, to his family, to those in the ALS community, and service to his brotherhood of special operators.

He joined the Navy in 1976, becoming a Navy SEAL in 1980, proudly serving on SEAL Teams 2, 4, and 8. He also served instructor tours at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and the Naval Special Warfare Center. After retiring in 2006 as a USSOCOM senior enlisted medical adviser, Doc continued to serve as a contract specialist, conducting counterterrorism and counter-piracy operations until 2012.

Doc is survived by his loving wife of 17 years, Brenda Ann Thompson Welt; his son, Robert; his daughters, Crystal Lynn Elliott and Sabrina Audell Ranford; his brothers, Robert Welt and Donald Wolford; as well as his four grandchildren, Lillian, Meadow, Andon, and Michael.

Mr. Speaker, two communities gathered at MacDill Air Force Base last week. One was the community of Pinellas County and the Tampa Bay area, who knew and loved Doc. The second community was the special operations community, who loved Doc. It was a fitting tribute to a great man.

Today, we honor his life, his legacy, and his service. We pledge and commit to carry on the fight that Doc fought

against ALS. We commit to not quitting until that fight is won.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to a great man from Seminole, Florida, who had an impact across this world.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as cochairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus in recognition and celebration of the annual observance of the National Day of Prayer.

Each year, we take this opportunity to pause from the hurried pace of our daily lives to reaffirm our Nation's rich spiritual heritage and our commitment to maintaining and strengthening our great country's religious freedom. Throughout more than 200 years of our Nation's history, faith, prayer, and trust in God have played a vital role in strengthening the fabric of our society.

From the dawn of our country, when the first national call to prayer was issued, to that day on April 17, 1952, when President Harry Truman made the annual National Day of Prayer a permanent fixture, to this upcoming Thursday, when we will celebrate the 63rd annual National Day of Prayer in the Cannon Caucus Room right here on Capitol Hill, we have continued to turn to prayer as a guiding compass as we seek God's guidance and wisdom and healing balm for our land. It is from these historic underpinnings that our Nation has grown and thrived.

We stand here today on the shoulders of those Americans who have boldly fought for our rights to be able to assemble, to be able to speak out, and to be able to worship freely. One of our great opportunities as Americans is to be able to come together and say we want to be able to ask God for his blessings and his help upon our Nation so we indeed can be one Nation under God, as we say in our Pledge of Allegiance, and also a Nation that honors our national motto, which is not "e pluribus unum," as some have mistakenly thought, but which is, "In God We Trust."

In fact, for all Members of Congress that would like, we have plaques being made and distributed that say, "In God We Trust," just to reaffirm our national motto.

That is why I have joined with my friend and cochairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, Congressman RANDY FORBES of Virginia, to introduce a bipartisan resolution, H. Res. 547. I hope all of our Members listening today will join us in supporting the National Day of Prayer and urging all Americans to come together to pray and reaffirm the importance that prayer has played in our national heritage.

We hear so much today about partisanship and bickering and asking why don't people get along. The one

thing that I share back home, Mr. Speaker, which usually surprises people, is there is one group on Capitol Hill where all those labels are put to the side, and that happens every Monday night or Tuesday night, depending on the night we go into session, right across the hall in room 219, where there is no agenda except to pray and ask God for wisdom, like Solomon of the Old Testament.

So my hope is that as many Members and your staff—you will allow your staff to join us this Thursday morning to come together as we celebrate the National Day of Prayer.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the true source of power is not found here in the Halls of Congress or in the Oval Office in the West Wing or in the chambers of the Supreme Court. The true source of power is found on our knees before the throne of grace, before almighty God.

It is in that spirit that I rise today to reaffirm this celebration of prayer in our Nation's history for the past, the present, and, God willing, the future.

Indeed, the power of prayer knows no bounds. May we be a Nation that does stand for our motto, "In God We Trust." Indeed, we pray, may God bless America.

NEED ACTION IN THE SENATE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, just a short while ago, one of my colleagues talked about the plight of folks who are unemployed—individuals who are unemployed either short term or those chronically unemployed. He actually failed to mention those who are underemployed in this Nation. It is an issue that needs to be addressed.

I am actually proud to be a part of solutions that have passed out of the House of Representatives but sit in the Senate, waiting for Senator REID to take the leadership to bring those House-passed jobs bills to the Senate floor for action—bills that would provide some immediate opportunities for individuals who are unemployed.

More than anything else, what folks who are unemployed need is a job—a good-paying job with family-sustaining wages.

Mr. Speaker, the House has passed bill after bill to help working middle class Americans get the skills they need, the jobs they desire, and adequate pay to provide for their families. In the Senate, yet another day has passed when Leader REID has chose to deny consideration of these common-sense bills and chose to deny the relief that would come for those who are unemployed.

The House has acted on more than one occasion to advance completion of the longstanding Keystone XL pipeline. This decision has again been delayed by the Obama administration.

The House recently passed the Save American Workers Act, which would restore hourly wages cut by ObamaCare's 30-hour workweek rule. This bill remains stalled in the Senate's legislative graveyard.

The House has passed bipartisan legislation that would renew the Federal Government's commitment to actively and adequately manage our Federal forests. Where we have well-managed Federal forests that are managed in a healthy way, we have healthy rural economic communities where we grow jobs. Today, that bill is gathering dust on the Senate Leader's desk, awaiting action.

Mr. Speaker, we were elected to solve problems. It is about time we got about the people's business. Hardworking Americans deserve as much.

INEQUALITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, when I think of most Americans, I know that one of the major components of our work ethic is that we believe in working hard. We are not standing in line for government subsidies or handouts. We simply want to be able to have an opportunity.

Last evening, I was on the floor speaking of the unfortunate circumstances of this past week, such as the mischaracterization of what affirmative action really means, which is an opportunity for all of our students to go to institutions of higher learning with a diverse student body that embodies and reflects America, responding to the decrease in numbers of African Americans since the dismantling of affirmative action at schools like the University of Michigan, Berkeley, and others.

We then follow that decision with untimely and unfortunate comments, first by an owner of a national basketball team. It baffles me when the owner indicates that he does not want to see Black people at his stadium. It amazes me because if he looks out onto the playing floor, he might see a lot of them. We find that sports is something that brings us all together, from all walks of life.

Then we have an individual that represents himself as one of the true traditions of America, a rancher—and much of that is done in Texas—who wants to suggest that African Americans would be better off picking cotton and having gardens and chickens.

The reason I raise these issues today is because we have parts of our society that reflect those injustices. We have parts of society that ignore the ills that befall those who are more impoverished than others.

Many people don't realize that even though slavery ended in the 1800s, the 20th century found itself with individuals or segments of the population being treated unequally for more than

half a century. Even when those laws changed, like with the 1964 Civil Rights Act, minds and hearts did not change. And so the inequities followed people of color: language minorities, like Hispanics, and African Americans in particular.

I have a document that reflects that inequity right in the city of Houston and the district that I represent.

Yesterday, we came out with the Children at Risk research on the level of high schools that were not functioning. They list North Forest High School, Madison High School, Jones High School, Wheatley High School, Sterling High School, Kashmere High School, and Worthing High School at the bottom of the list. Why? They are all in inner city areas. The investment in people is not there.

And so this wealth inequality is not about someone who wants to get a handout; it is to reflect what is happening.

The highest unemployment is among Latinos and African Americans, which are the red and purple bars. Because of the barriers to access to credit, the lowest number of business ownership in this country is with African Americans. It has the lowest number of business owners. When we faced the recession and mortgage collapse, the highest number of bankruptcy filings were among Latinos and African Americans.

No, they are not looking for a handout. We are looking for policies that in fact will invest in education and make sure that when we invest in people, we overcome the barriers that deal with race and racism.

When we lost all of the home equity, which was one of the greatest assets of African Americans, the decline in home equity and ownership fell upon many of us in a high number, from Asians to Whites to Latinos and African Americans. And when I say this, I speak of those who are White and equally face obstacles.

Many know that one of the major movements of Senator Robert F. Kennedy was his visit to Appalachia and other places.

So my question to my colleagues today is how we can come together to look at a way of empowering those impoverished and making sure that the educational system, regardless of your level of income, has the ability to treat you equally so that the school that you attend every day—your parents pay taxes and send you there—is not giving you the bottom rank in opportunity and that your family is not in the category with no assets or retirement, no ability to help you go to college. Highest number, 62 percent for African Americans; Latinos, 69 percent, which is partly due to the fact that many Latinos live in a "shadow society," many of them because we have not passed comprehensive immigration reform.

So, Mr. Speaker, rather than to accuse individuals and call people names and use racist categories, it is time for

us to come together and be united to lift the boats of all Americans.

□ 1030

TRIBUTE TO A PATRIOT

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

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute, to honor, to remember, and to celebrate the life of an outstanding American patriot whom I greatly admired, Marine General Carl E. Mundy, Jr.

It is not often, I would think, that a former sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserves becomes friends with a Four-Star General and a former Commandant of the Marine Corps, but such was my good fortune.

I met General Mundy—he served as our 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps—through my father, Ike. They lived in the same retirement community in Florida and shared the special bond that binds one generation of American marines to the next.

It is a connection that transcends grade and rank, officer and enlisted, and that my father fought in the battle for Iwo Jima, which is a sacred memory for all marines, made their friendship and their mutual respect that much deeper.

It was at my dad's encouragement that I reached out to General Mundy when I sought this office. When I met him, he was 73 years old, yet he exuded, without effort and without pretense, the dignity and the military bearing that we would expect of a Marine Commandant.

It was his humble spirit, however, that I truly found myself pondering and admiring long after our meetings and conversations had ended. Though the general always encouraged me to call him Carl, I never could. He was always, of course, General Mundy.

Always a leader, the general encouraged me in this effort to, again, serve my country, not in uniform, but through public service; and I suspect he lent his good name and reputation to help me more out of respect for my dad than for me.

Of the many endorsements I was so fortunate to receive, the general's meant the most. I believe all who favored me with their endorsement—and I think especially those who served in our United States military—will understand why the Commandant's endorsement was particularly meaningful.

Not long after General Mundy lost his wife of 56 years, Linda Sloan Mundy, the general was diagnosed with cancer. My parents passed him in the neighborhood 1 day when he was still well enough to take his afternoon walks.

Dad shared with me the account of how, when the general saw my parents coming and he recognized my father, he stopped, he came to full attention, and offered a respectful hand salute to