

change these tragic facts and figures for the betterment of our youth and the improvement of our society.

FREE THE NIGERIAN GIRLS

(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, I think we all understand and believe that our children are our most precious resource.

Over the last couple of weeks, hearts and minds of many around the world have been captured by a heinous thug by the name of Abubakar Shekau, the leader of the Boko Haram, who has been a vile, disgraceful, violent, and uncaring terrorist thug.

Yet we do not know where these girls are.

As women of the United States Congress, yesterday, myself, BARBARA LEE, MARCIA FUDGE, KAREN BASS, and JANICE HAHN went to the Nigerian Embassy to stand and reject the \$12 that Shekau wants to sell these girls for.

We ask that we have a concerted effort on this. We should also establish a victims' fund.

In the meeting, as we spoke to those from Nigeria, we asked President Jonathan to stand up to say they will find these girls and they will bring this terrorist to justice. We ask that today because no one knows where these girls might be.

I close by calling two names: Aisha Ezekial and Nguba Buba. I will be calling these girls' names throughout this week to remind us they must be found now.

LERNER IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American people have known since April 23, 2012, over 2 years ago, by a letter of 63 Members of Congress to the IRS Commissioner, that the IRS has targeted political organizations which question the President.

Congress has the responsibility to the American people to determine the facts and prevent future threats to American families. Sadly, the administration has refused to cooperate with House Republicans to facilitate oversight investigation. Instead of helping to restore the American people's faith in impartial government, key IRS officials remain silent.

Last night, the House voted to hold former IRS employee Lois Lerner in contempt because she refused to tell the truth before Congress. Congress also asked Attorney General Eric Holder to appoint a special counsel to further investigate this scandal.

The administration should take this opportunity to restore accountability,

put politics aside, and help Congress provide citizens and the groups who are unfairly targeted with the answers they deserve.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

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RESPONDING TO THE KIDNAPPINGS IN NIGERIA

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the whole world is watching Nigeria, and the whole world is outraged at the recent kidnappings of over 200 girls from a Nigerian school.

Make no mistake, this is human trafficking. They say they are selling them into marriage. They are selling them into sex slavery, rape, and human bondage.

As cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Human Trafficking, I hope the world will respond to this horrendous human tragedy with the same sense of urgency and compassion and the same level of assistance that was offered in the search for the missing Malaysian aircraft.

The U.S. Africa Command, Departments of Justice and State, and the FBI are offering assistance to the Nigerian Government; and we, as a Congress, should support sanctions against Boko Haram.

Decisive and swift action is needed to bring these young girls home and to prevent future mass kidnappings.

THE CFPB RURAL DESIGNATION PETITION AND CORRECTION ACT

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 2672, the CFPB Rural Designation Petition and Correction Act.

One of the most troubling aspects of the Dodd-Frank Act was its creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which is a new bureaucracy with broad powers that is unaccountable to Congress or the American people.

When I talk to financial institutions in Kansas, one of their main concerns with this agency is that the CFPB will fail to correctly classify rural banks and, possibly, leave them open to overzealous regulation as a result.

I am a proud cosponsor and supporter of this bill, which will allow these financial institutions a way to appeal the CFPB's decisionmaking process and ensure that rural lenders and their communities are not unintentional victims of poor decisionmaking by the CFPB.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stew Adams, who has been recognized by the Illinois Education Association as its 2014 Retired Teacher of the Year.

I am proud to say that Stew is a constituent of mine and has spent years teaching special education in the Rock Island/Milan School District.

In addition to his teaching duties, Stew was a tutor and a mentor to many young students in the Rock Island School District. He also contributed to the Rock Island Safe Schools program and has been an adviser to the Illinois State Board of Higher Education and Special Education and founder of the Western Illinois Retired Educators.

In addition to thanking Stew for his service to our community, I also want to take this opportunity to thank the teachers that I have had and have taught so many of our youngsters across our country during Teacher Appreciation Week. Their hard work and dedication to our children is both awe-inspiring and invaluable.

Our communities simply could not function without our educators, and I want to thank them.

COMMEMORATING MAY AS LET FREEDOM RACE MONTH

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

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate May as Let Freedom Race month at Charlotte Motor Speedway, and thank the folks who have worked hard to honor our brave men and women in uniform with this outstanding celebration.

Speedway Motorsports and Charlotte Motor Speedway are both in my hometown of Concord, North Carolina. While I am incredibly grateful for the impact both have on our local economy, I am also appreciative of their continued support for our Nation's military, veterans, and their families.

This Memorial Day weekend marks the 55th Let Freedom Race celebration, and more than 100,000 fans will gather at the speedway to celebrate and honor our military heroes.

This tradition will, once again, showcase America's military strength, while displaying our pride and appreciation for those we have lost, our veterans, those who continue to serve, and our military families.

We are so fortunate to have heroes who stand committed to serving in our Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the work done by the racing community to honor our veterans, and I join them and other North Carolinians to salute our warfighters who paid the ultimate price to protect our freedom.

NATIONAL TEACHERS WEEK

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand in support of our National Teachers Week.

As the husband of a teacher, the brother of a teacher, and the lucky student of great teachers in the Jefferson County Public School system and the University of Colorado, I hold this profession in very hard regard.

Our Nation's teachers work tirelessly to provide education, resources, and a bright future for all of American students.

Colorado is blessed with a dedicated community of teachers in both K-12 and higher education. Teachers provide an invaluable service to our country, while earning salaries that do not reflect the importance of their jobs.

Every day, I hear about teachers striving to improve their schools and outcomes for their students. America's students now face one of the most competitive economies in our history.

Strong teachers are the key to the successful education of our children, and those same children are key to a prosperous, healthy, and successful future for our country and for the planet.

Thank you to all the teachers in my life, the Seventh Congressional District, and the State of Colorado.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, teachers are remarkable people. These dedicated professionals work hard to ensure that our children have the skills necessary to succeed and achieve the American Dream.

They get up early and stay up late, often sacrificing their own time and money, so our children have a fair shot at future success.

They don't do it for fame; though glory, they should receive. They don't do it for fortune; though riches, they do deserve. They do it because they love their jobs and care about their students. It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of our Nation's teachers to our country's strength and prosperity.

One of those teachers is my sister-in-law, Mandy Messer, who teaches elementary school at North Decatur Elementary.

A day should not pass that we don't thank teachers for their service on behalf of our children and our country.

Today, during Teacher Appreciation Week, I say thank to you my former teachers who played such an important role in my own life, and I express my gratitude to all the teachers throughout my congressional district who are doing such wonderful work.

SEEKING MAXIMUM PARTISANSHIP

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, last night, Republicans and Democrats on our House Armed Services Committee came together to pass a defense bill that all of us—I mean all of us—all of us on the committee could support. That is something remarkable, considering what is on the House floor this week.

Instead of debating the minimum wage, we are getting maximum partisanship. Instead of creating a select committee on job creation, we are voting to create a select committee on Benghazi, shamefully playing politics with a terrible tragedy.

The only person whose job the majority seems to care about is the former Secretary of State's. The national climate assessment released this week laid bare the consequences of climate change, but sadly, instead of reducing our carbon footprint, we get a climate of dysfunction and hot air.

Enough is enough. House leadership should follow the example of the House Armed Services Committee. Put the partisanship aside and get to work on the things that really matter to the American people.

WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, career and technical education is critical to our economy.

I have a great program in my district, the Warren County Career Center, in Lebanon, Ohio. I have had the opportunity to tour the program a number of times. They do a great job.

Two success stories—Karie Lacy and Nick Cornett—both completed programs at the Warren County Career Center. Karie now owns her own salon and employs others; and Nick is working at a local robotics company, while working towards a degree in electrical engineering.

There are others like Karie and Nick across America who deserve access to programs that will prepare them for the workforce and lay the foundation for a successful career.

As we work together to strengthen our economy, we should support institutions like the Warren County Career Center. Programs like this, we should support all across America.

THE KIDNAPPINGS IN NIGERIA

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the tragic and shocking turn of events in Nigeria, where as many as 300 young girls have

been abducted by a terrorist organization known as Boko Haram.

As a father, I can't imagine the anguish that these parents must be feeling as they wonder about what happened to their young girls.

I stand in solidarity with the people of Nigeria in this difficult time and condemn the violence against innocent people committed by Boko Haram and urge that all possible actions be taken and that President Jonathan finally do something about the terrorists and the thugs that seem to be ruling the country.

Too often, women and young girls are tragically persecuted, victimized, or denied education opportunities and a voice, particularly in these countries, based only on their gender. The violence and discrimination has no place in our world today.

Today, I will be joining my fellow colleagues and urging them to sign on to House Resolution 573, to condemn this heinous abduction, and supporting all efforts to find these girls and bring them home.

HONORING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF EAST BERLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor East Berlin, Pennsylvania, on its 250th anniversary. The borough was founded on May 8, 1764, by John Frankenberg, a Prussian, who purchased 200 acres of land from Thomas and Richard Penn.

John laid out a town with 85 lots, one main street, four cross streets, and five alleys. He named the town "Berlin" after his native town in Prussia. East was added to the name in 1827, when the town post office was established.

Today, East Berlin is a thriving community of over 1,400 residents in Adams County. I am proud to congratulate East Berlin on this momentous day and wish the borough another successful 250 years.

SOLVENCY OF THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my continued concerns about the highway trust fund, which is projected to reach a critically low level in July, right in the middle of the busy summer construction season.

This funding is essential to projects in New Hampshire, and we simply cannot let the highway trust fund run out of money. It would cost us jobs, jeopardize public safety, and hurt our economy.

That is why I am introducing a bill to ensure that the highway trust fund