

The welders in my office seemed almost sheepish when I asked how they came to the trade. The common theme was that they didn't do well in school. I'll tell you what I told them: They're amazing. At 22, 29 and 32 they are making more than many graduates of college or even law school. They take the work that's offered, even if it means leaving home at 4:30 a.m. and driving an hour and half. They like their jobs and are good at them.

The policy debates in Washington—over the corporate tax, the income tax, regulatory reform, infrastructure spending—should be centered on creating positions like these. Republicans and Democrats should pledge to work together to create and fill, by 2020, five million new jobs that pay at least \$80,000 a year.

Americans don't need corporate-tax reform simply because companies need more money to buy back stock or increase dividends. They don't need income-tax "simplification" only because the wealthy want bigger paychecks. They don't need regulatory reform because workers and consumers have too many protections. And they don't need a massive infrastructure plan only because America's roads, bridges, sewers, water lines and mass transit systems are in disrepair.

Americans need these things because they will create jobs at home and rebuild the middle class. My welder buddies are losing faith. So are those computer machinists, and millions more like them. You can meet them at any church, bar or ball field. They have a lot to teach Washington, if only it will listen.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 216.

TRIBUTE TO SAM ALLGEIER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sam Allgeier. He was presented with the Excellence in Leadership Award from the Salvation Army at their annual dinner on May 9, 2018.

Mr. Allgeier has coached in the Youth Basketball Program since 1986 and was instrumental in rebooting the program in 2002. He currently is the lead referee and spends many hours recruiting coaches and referees for the program.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Sam Allgeier for receiving this outstanding award and for his continued commitment to making his community better. I am proud to represent him, and Iowans like him, in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Sam Allgeier and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

TO DESIGNATE THE FACILITY AT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE LOCATED AT 1355 NORTH MERIDIAN DRIVE IN HARRISTOWN, ILLINOIS, AS THE "LOGAN S. PALMER POST OFFICE"

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on August 21, 2017, the USS *John McCain* collided with a merchant ship off the coast of Singapore, in an accident that ultimately killed 10 sailors, including a constituent of mine, Petty Officer Logan S. Palmer of Harristown, Illinois.

This was an absolutely terrible tragedy that became a huge story due to many mistakes that were made leading up to it. After the accident, I spent a lot of time talking with Logan Palmer's family, helping them navigate the uncharted waters of dealing with such a tragedy and consoling them.

Palmer survived the initial collision of the USS *McCain*, but kept himself in harm's way in order to help his fellow shipmates. At age 23, he went far too early. His flag-draped casket was carried into the church on the day of his funeral by a Naval honor guard in dress uniform. Navy officers and sailors saluted the casket, which was surrounded by flowers of red, white and blue. The sailors were followed by troops of Boy Scouts who also saluted Palmer's casket, marking the loss of one of their own; Petty Officer Palmer had achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

After the experience, we decided it would be appropriate to introduce legislation in Petty Officer Palmer's honor, naming the Post Office in his hometown after him. The bill would designate the post office located at 1355 North Meridian Road in Harristown, Illinois as the "Logan S. Palmer Post Office." I have built a special bond with the Palmer family and feel that it's only appropriate that we honor the Petty Officer in this unique way that will allow those of us in Illinois to always remember Logan as the hero he was.

A NATION'S TEARS IN HONOR OF THE LOST LOVED ONES OF SANTA FE HIGH

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the eight students and two teachers who were horrifically massacred during the Santa Fe High School shooting. Our prayers go out to them and their families, and the wounded. I include in the RECORD this poem penned in their memory by Albert Carey Caswell.

A NATION'S TEARS
(By Albert Carey Caswell)

A Nation's tears
So lie here
For all those lost loved ones so dear
And their heartbroken families gathered here.

A Nation's tears
As now appear
All in the darkest here
In a parent's worst fears
In what evil has reared
In the darkest of all hearts which appeared.
Young beautiful children with such great futures near

With so many moments up ahead of happiness in the coming years,

Now disappear.

Our children are but the very hope of the world so very clear,

To hold in our arms and hearts to endear
And those teachers so here,
Whose whole life was dedicated to teaching the ones we hold dear.

Now, with all the families left in tears,
With the kind of pain only Heaven can heal.
When, united once again as Angels in arms they feel

As we will remember their beautiful faces,
to warm our hearts in all those cold places
And remember their smiles and try not to cry for a while

And may all the wounded bind up their wounds,

and for their fellow lost students and teachers ever shoot for the moon.

A Nation's tears

Trying somehow to make sense of all this here,

As one things stands clear,

There is darkness

And there is light

All in this battle from the beginning in sight,

Of Good versus Evil,

Of Dark versus Light,

In hearts let us remember the darkness is no match for the light,

The kind which in those lost students and teacher which burned bright.

Let us find peace

Let us find rest

By keeping them in our hearts,

and by leading the lives of the best.

To make a difference with our light in the time we have left,

And now we lay them down to rest.

We pray our Lord their souls to bless,

And their loved one's pain ease no less.

But, take heart for these,

live now as Angel's in the Army of our Lord in peace

And they will watch over you day and night, and in your sleep

And when there comes a gentle,

their tears shall wash down you to ease your pain

Until, up in Heaven you meet again and you won't have to cry no more.

CONGRATULATING THE TOWN OF HOPE ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 200th anniversary of the Town of Hope.

While formally founded in 1818, the Town of Hope traces its roots back to the 1700s. The Town of Hope was originally part of the Town of Wells, which formed from a 1772 purchase of land in the central Adirondack region from a Native American tribe. It was not until 1818 that Hope seceded from the Town of Wells and formally became a town. Hope quickly grew into a booming center for agriculture and the lumber market.

Over time, Hope's population dropped, and the area was overtaken by the glistening lakes and streams, rolling hills, and peaceful valleys surrounding it. This natural sanctuary appealed to outdoorsmen, fishermen, hunters, hikers, and those seeking a tranquil, friendly place to live, much as it did in the 1700's. Today, the town stands as a proud and cordial community of good neighbors.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate the Town of Hope on its 200th anniversary. I wish all its residents the best as they celebrate this important milestone.

GEOPOLITICS OF U.S. OIL AND GAS COMPETITIVENESS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America's oil and gas industry is a force multiplier for U.S. influence around the world. For decades, many of the planet's great energy producers have been tyrannical regimes who leveraged their oil wealth to oppress their own people and pursue evil foreign policies. However, thanks to American ingenuity, the United States has unleashed its own energy potential—now becoming a major player in the global market.

In large part, America's revival as an energy superpower is a result of the shale revolution. Through the process of hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," we are now able to reach oil and gas deep within the earth, where they were previously unreachable. With this new technology the U.S. has gone from the world's largest oil importer, to one of the world's largest energy exporters. Just a decade ago, the U.S. was importing 12.5 million barrels per day of crude oil and fuel. Today, it's just 4 million barrels per day. Between 2010 and 2017, U.S. oil production rose from 5.5 million barrels per day to 10 million barrels per day—approaching a record last set in 1970. This has allowed for a dramatic reduction of our dependence on foreign oil which ultimately strengthens our national security.

In the nearly three years since Congress ended the restrictions on exporting crude oil, the U.S. has beat market expectations and surged its exports to a record 2.6 million barrels per day. By 2022 we will export more oil than we import. But the good news isn't limited to just our oil production. U.S. natural gas production has been setting new records almost every year since the year 2000.

Again, thanks to innovations in liquefied natural gas—commonly known as LNG—we can ship this growing resource anywhere in the world. In the last year, we have become a net exporter of natural gas for the first time in 60 years. In the coming years it will only improve as the market of natural gas consumers grows and more exporting facilities come online.

America's comeback as an energy superpower has wide-ranging geopolitical implications. First, it is an obvious benefit for Americans and the U.S. economy, reducing our trade balance and creating new well-paying jobs. In turn, this generates more revenue making us an even stronger nation. Second, it means a lot less money is going to repressive regimes around the world who we were pre-

viously dependent on for oil. And since energy is more abundant, the price of oil is decreasing. Overall the result is less money for Putin's Russia, the Ayatollah's Iran, and Madura's Venezuela. With the low price of oil, international sanctions, and their own economic mismanagement, these regimes who could rely on their oil wealth to fund their evil activities are instead seeing their economies tank. Now their people are in the streets demanding accountability.

Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states have long been important U.S. strategic partners because we needed their oil and their leverage in stabilizing global oil prices. But now we can redefine our relationship, making it less about maintaining oil access and more about other strategic US interests. With growing energy independence, we can pick our allies rather than have them picked for us by the necessity of access to oil. This does not mean we should become isolationists or abandon our traditional partners. Instead we should do the opposite. With our oil and gas advantage we are more empowered to argue that our allies must be more responsible, including improving their human rights records.

Our increased oil and gas competitiveness allows our friends abroad to be more secure and less dependent on bad actors. For far too long, our European allies have been vulnerable to energy blackmail from Russia—particularly through the supply of Russian natural gas. But with American LNG alternatives, European states can stand up to Putin's bad behavior without suffering retaliation through their gas supply.

Lastly, U.S. oil and gas exports reinforces the importance of free trade. This includes NAFTA. About 60 percent of U.S. gas exports now go to Mexico, providing a major boost to our trade balance. Canada has become a major importer of American refined fuels. Together, the U.S., Mexico, and Canada represent 20 percent of global oil and gas supply. Our integrated energy network makes North America a rock of stability and prosperity in the world.

Overall, the increased competitiveness of U.S. oil and gas production is good for America and good for the world.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL LEADERS

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two high school students who were chosen by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent the State of Colorado as Delegates at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders. These students are Shayla Cooper and Arianna Sanchez.

The Congress is an honors-only program for top students in our country who aspire to be physicians or medical scientists. These students are nominated by their teachers or the Academy based on their leadership ability, academic achievement, and dedication. This program is designed to inspire young people to go into medical research fields or be physi-

cians, and provides a path, plan, and mentoring resources to help them reach their goal. During the Congress, the students will have the chance to learn from leaders in the medical field as well as government officials, top medical school deans, leaders from the private sector, and even Nobel laureates.

These students' acceptance to this prestigious program is an incredible feat, and it is my honor to rise today and recognize the outstanding accomplishment of this future leader. Our nation greatly benefits from the achievements of physicians and medical scientists, and it is important that we continue to inspire younger generations to pursue careers in the medical field.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my congratulations to these students and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EL AMISTAD

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 50th anniversary of El Amistad, a non-profit civic organization dedicated to inspiring the leaders of tomorrow. Through a half century of remarkable work, El Amistad has helped make Central Texas a great place to live and work.

Founded in my home town of Round Rock, TX, El Amistad is dedicated to education, community service, recognition of veterans, and promotion of Hispanic cultural awareness. By utilizing the talents and skills of its diverse membership, it has supported various youth development activities throughout Central Texas. Since its inception, El Amistad has awarded millions in scholarships to thousands of high school graduates seeking to take the next steps in their educational development.

Honoring our brave warriors remains a driving force among El Amistad members. The organization led the charge to dedicate Veterans Memorial Park in Round Rock, TX to Robert P. Hernandez, who died in the line of duty while serving in Vietnam. It's the devotion of committed activists like El Amistad members that help remind all of the invaluable and lasting contributions veterans make to keep our nation safe and free.

Fifty years after its creation, El Amistad has touched countless lives for the better, and continues to make positive impacts on those it's dedicated to serve. I celebrate its half century of dedicated civic involvement and join all Central Texas in wishing this great organization nothing but the best in the decades to come.

TRIBUTE TO JIM KLINSTIVER

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Klinstiver, a great Hoosier and friend who passed away on May 20th. Jim