

binding Accord on Fire and Building Safety.

Nazma said she would have died if she had waited 10 more minutes to jump. She saw the manager locking the gate to the second set of stairs and grabbed him by the collar to stop him, but he ignored her. She cut her arms while trying to get through a window to reach the bamboo scaffolding. She broke her backbone. She can't carry anything or do housework. She has three children. Her stipend went to medical care and to her children's education. Her 14-year-old son has had to leave school to try to find work.

I am grateful that these women had the courage to tell me their stories.

There is widespread agreement that if the Tazreen fire and the Rana Plaza collapse workers had had the right to refuse unsafe work, they would be alive today. Nobody, not even the factory, denied that that's the case; but for too long, the Bangladesh Government has blocked new unions. Only now, in facing the potential loss of trade preferences, the government has opened the door a crack. Twenty-seven new unions have been registered recently, reversing the trend in which only one union per year was registered, and there are 5,000 factories.

I met the leaders of some of these newly formed unions—young and serious workers—but only time will tell if the government lives up to its promise of union rights. In addition, the Obama administration will soon conclude its review of Bangladesh's trade benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences. In my view, these preferences should be suspended.

The one message I have for the American holdouts who won't agree to these safety accords is: listen to the women from Bangladesh.

IN TRIBUTE TO DALE BONE

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, across this country, there are great men and women who answer the call to serve their communities. These folks are blessed with remarkable talents and success and share their success with their communities to improve the places that we all call home.

In North Carolina's 13th Congressional District, that man was Dale Bone. Dale was a man who exemplified the character, commitment, and charity of our district and who left behind a legacy of improving all things that he touched.

Born and raised in rural Nash County, Dale was a proud graduate of NC State University with degrees in agronomy and agricultural economy. After several years farming in his home community, Dale founded Nash Produce in 1977 and, within a decade, had grown it into the largest cucumber producer in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bone was a man of constant and restless energy. He served on countless State and national boards, committees and commissions, including his service as president of the National Council of Agricultural Employers. Dale also delved into his local community with characteristic resolve. He served as a trustee for Barton College, as a board member for the Salvation Army, and on the Arts Council of Wilson, North Carolina.

In addition to all of his honors and activism, Dale was also able to make a direct, personal impact in the lives of his employees and their children. Dale cared deeply for the well-being of all of his employees, many of whom were migrant workers, by providing them with the financial support necessary for them to learn English at the local community college.

Dale and his beloved wife, Genia, were also committed to improving the lives of local children. Dale and Genia endowed the Bone Scholars program at NC State University, which continues to offer significant scholarships to the children of migrant workers. In his later years, Dale was particularly proud of the involvement he and his wife had in creating and promoting Wilson Youth United, which offers direction and guidance to help local youths in the community.

Dale was a man of great ability and, as a result, of great means. He recognized the fact that our country is only as strong as its communities and that the best solutions to our problems usually come from the most local sources.

Across the Nation, members of the agricultural community sent thanks to Dale for his decades of untiring work on their behalf. In equal measure, Dale educated and prepared those around him to face the challenges of their futures. Dale was in all things a humble man, but I do believe that he would take great pride in the legacy that he leaves behind.

Mr. Speaker, America was built by people like Dale Bone; and it's that spirit, not what we do here in Washington, that will rebuild our economy.

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END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this is my 13th End Hunger Now speech this year. Thirteen times I've stood on this floor and talked about hunger in America; 13 times I've come here and defended the anti-hunger safety net, the Federal programs that provide food to 50 million Americans; 13 times I've stood here and talked about hunger as a health issue; 13 times I've said we need to set a goal to end hunger now.

People ask me all the time: Is it even possible to end hunger in America? Mr. Speaker, the answer is a definitive "yes."

The truth is we've done this before. That's right, Mr. Speaker, we nearly eradicated hunger in the 1970s. It wasn't easy, but the concept was simple. The political leadership in Washington made a commitment to end hunger in this country.

In the 1970s, Congress and the President expanded the food stamp program, created the WIC program, and expanded the school meals programs. They found the political courage to do what's right because they believed that it was unacceptable that anyone in America went hungry.

Yet that effort was lost when these programs were slashed in the 1980s. Hunger came back with a vengeance. The number of hungry people skyrocketed. In fact, it's been rising steadily since the Reagan Presidency. These programs weren't just cut; they were demonized. Food assistance became a pejorative to some, and we see the results of those years of demonizing those programs today.

The truth is SNAP works. Food assistance works. People on food assistance are able to feed themselves and their families. They're able to use money they might have had to use for food for other purposes like rent, utilities, medical costs, school supplies for their kids, and transportation costs—just to name a few—in order to be able to buy nutritious food. They didn't have to make the choice between food or rent.

But that's not all. The money spent on food from these programs is spent on food which is produced by our farmers. It is spent in grocery stores. In fact, a recent report showed that approximately \$70 billion was spent in grocery stores just from SNAP alone during our economic downturn. That's a lot of money going to our economy when our economy was damaged and needed the help.

These programs work, Mr. Speaker. But what's the response from the Republican-controlled House? Are they strengthening a program that is already among the least fraudulent and most efficient and effective in terms of our Federal Government? No.

In 2 weeks, this House will consider a farm bill that will cut \$20.5 billion from SNAP. It will take food away from 2 million Americans. It is a bill that will take 210,000 poor kids off free school meal programs. It is a bill that would reduce the monthly SNAP benefit by \$90 for another 850,000 people. And that's on top of the automatic across-the-board cuts to SNAP that will take place in November even if we cut nothing else. That's not only wrong. It is quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, beneath this great country of ours.

I will fight these cuts, and I urge all my colleagues—Democrats and Republicans alike—to stand with me in pushing back on these cuts.

We should be praising this program for keeping people from starving. We should be strengthening it and making it work better, not neutering it and