

But this year, according to NASA, is going to be the hottest year on record ever since the 1880s, when we started keeping records. Each of the first 6 months of the year have been the hottest months in history, according to NASA.

Global warming is real, and we are going to be wearing these seersucker suits into October, and we will be starting to wear them in April, probably around the first of April to coincide with April Fool's Day, because for those people who don't think there is global warming, all they have got to do is go out in the weather before Memorial Day or after Labor Day in something other than seersucker and they will realize that global warming is real.

Climate change is with us. The oceans will rise; land will disappear. Miami Beach is too nice.

RECOGNIZING JAMES DAVIS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in August I was proud to recognize someone from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District who made a big contribution to the Commonwealth's largest industry—agriculture. James Davis was the recipient of the Huntingdon County Pomona Grange #6 Community Service Award.

Mr. Davis has been a strong advocate for agriculture over the past 50 years. As a child, he attended a one-room schoolhouse before graduating from Juniata Valley High School and later earning a degree in agricultural sciences from Penn State University and a master of arts degree from West Virginia University.

He dedicated his life to agriculture education, teaching in Butler, Lebanon, Fulton, and Franklin Counties. He also taught agriculture, science, math, social studies, and English in Juniata Valley School District, later becoming an elementary principal.

Along with his brother, he has operated the Peaceful Terrain Farm, which has been in the Davis family since 1832.

Jim continues to serve as a volunteer in his community and is an enthusiastic mentor for countless youth across Huntingdon County.

Congratulations, Jim. You have earned it.

ACTION TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, during this summer's historically long 53-day recess, I heard from many in New York's capital region about Congress' failure to pass commonsense gun violence prevention measures.

They wonder why nothing will be done after 93 days, the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day, where we witnessed unfathomable horrors like the worst mass shooting in modern American history in Orlando, law enforcement's deadliest day since 9/11 in Dallas, and a gun homicide death toll of 4,100 Americans around the country. This is way beyond unacceptable.

Each new report of a shooting, regardless of its scale, begs the question: What will it take for the House leadership to finally bring legislation to the floor that addresses the root cause of these tragedies?

With more than 90 percent of Americans demanding congressional action to reduce gun violence, I am certain my colleagues on the other side heard similar requests from their constituents last month, imploring all of us to take a stand against the national gun lobby and to fight to make all of our communities safer places in which to live.

I urge my colleagues to listen to these voices and to join House Democrats in debating and ultimately passing legislation that will prevent dangerous individuals from purchasing firearms.

INDIANA BICENTENNIAL TORCH RELAY

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

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay, which will kick off in Indiana this Friday. 2016 marks two centuries of statehood for my great State, and this relay will see the bicentennial torch—designed, by the way, by the Fourth District's own Purdue University engineering students—carried through every one of our 92 counties.

Along with other Hoosiers, I will have the honor of carrying the torch on Wednesday, October 12, in Fountain County. I am excited for the chance to be involved in this unique and privileged event. This relay will last for over a month, with the route ending at the statehouse on October 15, just in time for the dedication of Bicentennial Plaza, a brand-new public space for both Hoosiers and visitors to enjoy year round.

I want to thank the Bicentennial Commission and each member's great leadership for all they have done to make our State's bicentennial year memorable for generations to come.

IT IS TIME WE LISTEN AND ACT

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, before heading to the airport earlier today, I met with a group of mothers from the

Massachusetts chapter of Moms Demand Action.

Even in a State with some of the strictest gun laws in the country, headlines of lives lost or forever altered by gun violence are commonplace: "Boston shooting gravely injures man"; "Two dead, two injured overnight in Boston shootings"; "11-year-old boy shot in the face in Abington home"—all these from the last 2 weeks alone.

In the time since we have last voted in this Chamber, guns have taken the lives of thousands of Americans in every corner of this country; and in the weeks to come, they will take thousands more.

You cannot tell me we are powerless as men, women, and children carry the wounds of our inaction. You cannot tell me that the answer to this bloodshed is more guns capable of causing greater damage with less regulation; and you cannot tell grieving families that they are just in our thoughts and prayers, but that their memories are just not strong enough to spur action that could prevent another gun from falling into the wrong hands.

Mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, friends and colleagues are crying out for this body to address this Nation's epidemic of gun violence. It is time we listen and act.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CALEB SCHWAB

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. I would like to honor the memory of Caleb Schwab, who tragically died last month in an accident at a water park in my district. Just 10 years old, Caleb was the amazing son of my good friends Michele and Scott Schwab, whom I have known for years, and Scott and I served together in the Kansas Legislature.

Words cannot express how heartbroken I am for them and their boys in this time of devastation. There may be no greater loss in life than a parent losing a child. Children are supposed to bury their parents, and no parent should ever have to bury their own child.

Caleb will always be remembered for his love of sports, kindness toward others, and the joy he received from his deep love of the Lord. His parents and brothers will always remember the same question that came out of Caleb's mouth every day: "Can I go out and play?"

Caleb, we will love life to the fullest in your memory, and we know you are playing in heaven.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless Scott, Michele, and their family, and may everyone please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

LET'S STOP PLAYING POLITICS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over the August work recess, I met with many constituents, but I also met with my regional Zika task force that included health professionals from the public and private sector who recognize the devastation of the Zika virus.

In the continental United States, there are over 2,000 cases. Over 600 pregnant mothers have been impacted by the Zika virus with yet unborn children, and then there are about 30-plus cases of transmission right here in the United States. And yet tonight the other body failed to pass the Zika funding. Now is the time.

My committee was very constructive. Dr. Persse from the city of Houston talked about surveillance of those coming into their clinics to determine whether they have been impacted by fever and a rash. We have talked about the vaccine and also a Zika act to be able to give information to those who are in need of knowing how to prevent it.

Yet the funding is not here. Why? Because we cannot pass a clean Zika funding, emergency funding, without riders.

Let's stop playing politics. Pass the Zika funding. The health professionals insist on it. People are dying.

REMOVING REDUNDANT RED TAPE

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

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, there are millions of Americans across our country who are frustrated that Republicans and Democrats are not working together to get things done. Well, I can tell you that is not the case, Mr. Speaker, in the great State of Maine.

During the past 6 months, I have worked very hard with Congresswoman CHELLIE PINGREE, a Democrat, who represents our First District in Maine. I am a Republican representing our Second District. Together we have ushered through a very important bill, Mr. Speaker, that removes redundant and harmful red tape from being imposed upon 650 hardworking Mainers who harvest and process sea urchins and cucumbers from the ocean floor.

Now, unlike lobsters, Mr. Speaker, that are caught in traps up in Maine, sea urchins and cucumbers are collected on the bottom of the sea floor by those who dive in the cold, dark waters. It is a very dangerous job, and the product is a delicacy in the Far East, but it is very perishable.

Now already, Mr. Speaker, Maine officials inspect sea cucumbers and urchins before they leave the State, but the last couple years, U.S. Fish and Wildlife folks down in New York are imposing additional red tape before they can get on cargo planes.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I am proud of the Maine commonsense, bipartisan bill that removes this redundant red tape from 650 people who work as hard as anyone you can find.

JUDGE POE IS CONFIDENT HE
WILL BEAT CANCER

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, while most of us have been working around in our districts trying to assist others in their lives, one of our number, who is one of the most dedicated public servants in the world, has been fighting leukemia. That is our friend Judge TED POE. He sends this message:

"This summer, while Congress has been out of session, I have undergone treatment here in Houston for leukemia. Fortunately, just 8 weeks into treatment, I am feeling like myself again and am confident I will beat cancer. Incredible progress has been made so far thanks to the good Lord and the world-class team physicians at MD Anderson.

"Tomorrow I will return to Washington for votes and then be present for as much of the fall session as my treatment schedule will allow. The support I have received during this difficult time has been overwhelming."

He goes on to say: "Thank you for your continued thoughts and prayers. This September, during Leukemia Awareness Month, I intend to keep fighting the disease with all that I have while fighting for Texans in the House of Representatives just as I always have.

"And that is just the way it is."

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STOP THE SLAUGHTER OF
CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here today, let us remember that the slaughter of Christians in the Middle East continues. The slaughter by radical Islamic terrorists continues as we do our business as usual. We have a President who is even unable to use the words "radical Islamic terrorists," which could have something to do with the fact that we have had policies that have failed to stop this historic slaughter of Christians in the Middle East.

This group has declared jihad on the West and has begun their gruesome bloodletting by targeting Christians in the Middle East for genocide. Again, this administration has failed to do anything to stop the slaughter. Those people who have been permitted into our country from that part of the world, overwhelmingly, have been Muslims and not Christians.

It is time for Congress to act. We have not done our job. We have failed

as well. We need to pass legislation. I have submitted such legislation that says that, from now on, in that part of the world where Christians have been targeted for genocide, they will be given preference for any refugee status or immigration status into the United States. At the very least, we can do this to stop this slaughter of Christians in the Middle East.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, as I was flying to Washington from California today, I recalled conversations I had over the weekend with a group of students who are headed back to school at the universities in California and other parts of the Nation.

To an individual, I asked them: "How are you financing it? What are you going to do? Are your parents taking care of you; your grandparents?"

In some cases, they said: "Well, they are helping a little bit, but I am going to do this with a student loan."

All across this Nation, young men and women and maybe some that are not so young are going back to school to continue their education, to begin it, and, in some cases, learn new skills, and they are taking out student loans. This is an incredible, incredible way in which we have now begun the financing of our higher education system.

What does it amount to?

Well, let me show you what it amounts to. It amounts to a whopping amount of debt. Among Americans, no other loan program exceeds the amount of student debt, except for home mortgages. It is well over a trillion dollars in 2014, and probably approaching a trillion and a quarter dollars.

It is a burden on not just current students, but students from yesterday and from the decades before, still carrying that burden of debt, unable to begin what used to be the normal process of a family, a car, a house, participating in the economic activities of America. But, rather, they are burdened by an extraordinary debt. And here we are in Congress, really not even paying attention to this fundamental American issue. It is an economic issue for the large economy. It is macroeconomic. It is also very, very much a personal issue.

Is there one of you out there in America that doesn't have a son, a daughter, or maybe even yourself that is burdened by this student debt?

You are paying interest rates that are 5, 6, 7, 8 percent and you are wondering why, if you are able to refinance your home, why you are not able to refinance your student debt.

That is a reasonable question and one that I asked my staff and others: Why