

helps people get back on their feet. Programs like this are exactly what many of the long-term unemployed need. And while we continue to debate extending the emergency unemployment program, SCSEP is addressing the problem head-on for many of our constituents by offering a solution that is good for employees, businesses, and the economy as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, the Older Americans Act was developed so our country's seniors could age with dignity. Today it continues to provide support to older Americans who are eager to work and live independent lives as they age. The Senate has advanced its own bipartisan Older Americans Act bill, and I am hopeful my colleagues will follow suit and support H.R. 4122.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4192. An act to amend the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia" to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 34 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Don Williams, Maine State Police, Augusta, Maine, offered the following prayer:

I thank You, God, for giving me the opportunity to represent You and the Maine State Police and the people of the great State of Maine. I pray that I represent them well, as should be the desire of this great body as they represent their States.

My dearest Heavenly Father, I come to You today on behalf of this body of Representatives from our great and wonderful United States. As they represent their people, I ask that You give them wisdom and understanding from above.

God, we all need Your wisdom. I thank You for these men and women who have given of themselves to represent their people and make decisions that will affect all the people of this great and wonderful Nation.

God, please give them the character and integrity to rule this Nation. Give them strength to stand true to their beliefs and the courage to stand for what is true and right. Help us to be faithful to Your Word. Lord, I ask for Your blessing to return to our great and wonderful Nation.

In thy Holy Name, I pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILLIAMS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND DON WILLIAMS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Chaplain Donald Williams as today's guest chaplain.

Chaplain Williams is originally from Springfield, Missouri, but he came to Maine in 1985, where he served as pastor of the Fellowship Baptist Church.

Chaplain Williams was sworn in as deputy sheriff and chaplain for the Kennebec County Sheriff's Office in 1987. In addition to serving as chaplain for the Maine State Police and Augusta Police Department, he is involved with the Maine Law Enforcement Chaplain Corps and the State's Criminal Justice Academy.

Chaplain Williams has gone above and beyond in serving the spiritual needs of Maine's police force for over 20 years. His remarkable service was reflected in his nomination for the 2010 National Sheriff's Association Chaplain of the Year award.

He is a true asset to our State and our country. I am proud to stand with him here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ICANN

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, the President recently announced that the U.S. Commerce Department would end its Internet agreement with ICANN, a nonprofit organization who has overseen our databases since 1998.

President Obama's plans could lead to international control and come at a time when nations all over the world are looking for any technological advantage they can gain over the United States.

Both Republicans and Democrats alike agree that the Obama administration's decision to cut ties with ICANN could lead to an uncertain future that hinders free speech and threatens national security.

The United States has always been the most protective country of free speech in the entire world. As other countries and international organizations advocate for a more globalized Web, the trampling of our First Amendment rights and greater censorship will be at an even higher risk.

It is imperative that we closely monitor this situation moving forward to ensure that free speech in any medium is never censored.

In God we trust.

FACES OF THE UNEMPLOYED

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last week, I unveiled the "Faces of the Unemployed," an effort to help put a human face on the unemployment crisis.

Yesterday, out-of-work Americans from all over the country came to Congress to tell their story, and they were shut out of the Capitol Building. They were not allowed to share their experiences inside the building that belongs to them and in front of the people they sent to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, you may have stopped them from sharing their stories inside the Capitol yesterday, but with the "Faces of the Unemployed," their faces and stories will be in the Halls of Congress every single day until you bring this bill to the floor for a vote.

There are 2.5 million Americans without this safety net today, and that number could reach nearly 5 million if Congress does not act to extend unemployment benefits before the end of this year. These are real Americans, many of whom have worked their whole lives until recently and now can't afford basic necessities. They spent all their savings. Some have become homeless, and others are on the verge of losing everything.

Every one of these people deserves a vote, Mr. Speaker. I urge you to bring the Senate bill to the floor for an immediate vote so that we can extend unemployment benefits and help millions of Americans.

CELEBRATING ST. CHARLES' 180TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the city of St. Charles' 180th anniversary this May.

Known as the "Pride of the Fox," St. Charles has earned its reputation, boasting beautiful parks, innovative schools, and unique architecture.

Formerly known as Charleston, the city was incorporated 3 years before the city of Chicago. In 2011, St. Charles was named the number one city nationwide in which to raise a family by Family Circle magazine.

From RiverFest to the nationally acclaimed Scarecrow Festival, from Hotel Baker to high schools that graduate an average of 95 percent of seniors each year, St. Charles has been an ideal center of commerce, family, fun, and rest. The city leads by example in Illinois, and I am proud to celebrate its many years of prosperity.

As we celebrate this 180th anniversary, I would also like to give special recognition to someone's 18th anniversary—of birth, that is. My daughter Kylie, who is my princess, turns 18 today. I wish I could be with you today, Kylie, but happy birthday.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Teacher Appreciation Week.

We know that a good education is critical for today's youth to have a successful future. We owe our thanks to the teachers who dedicate themselves to providing this.

The need for education begins early, setting children on a positive path for learning at a young age. And, as students get older, it is essential to provide them with the skills, especially math and science education, that will give them the ability to compete in a globalized economy.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should use this week to recommit ourselves to fund and support programs that improve education for our children. Education is the most powerful tool we have to fight poverty in our neighborhoods, improve opportunities for our youth, build stronger communities, and create a more successful tomorrow.

SUPPORTING THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the establishment of the select committee on Benghazi.

Constituents in my district demand to know what really happened on Sep-

tember 11, 2012, in Libya. Almost 2 years have passed, and Congress continues to get stonewalled by the administration. The most serious of these offenses is that the terrorists who are responsible for this action have not yet been brought to justice.

The creation of a House select committee is a serious matter. We owe this to the families and loved ones that were lost. This is the best way forward to uncover what actually happened. Under the leadership of Congressman TREY GOWDY, I am confident we will get to the bottom of this.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the creation of the select committee on Benghazi.

BRING THEM HOME

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from New York just recently talked about education and why it is so important and what a great tool it is to fight poverty and provide for the future of our young people, which is why what I am going to say is even more serious.

In the middle of the night on April 15, hundreds of girls were abducted from their beds in a school in Nigeria. The militant terrorist group Boko Haram is now planning to sell these young women into sex slavery for just \$12 a girl.

I have just gotten back from the Nigerian Embassy. My colleagues and I met with Nigerian officials for updates on this ongoing tragedy and to stand in unity behind strengthened efforts to bring these girls back home to their families.

As a mother and a grandmother, I cannot imagine the pain the parents of these girls are experiencing. Many of these parents are terrified to speak to the media for fear of what might happen to their daughters.

I appreciate our President's new commitment to help the Nigerian Government bring these girls home. These girls were pursuing their education, despite threats from a terrorist group bent on preventing the education of women.

We cannot stand idly by while fear and violence oppress the freedom and dreams of women around the world.

MEDIA IDENTIFY AS DEMOCRATS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are lots of reasons why the national media leans liberal. Surely, reporters' political party affiliation explains some of their bias.

A new study of the media by two Indiana University professors found that among journalists who choose a side, Democrats outnumber Republicans by

four to one. Maybe that explains why the liberal national media have largely ignored the IRS and Benghazi scandals, dismissed climate change skeptics, and sugarcoated ObamaCare.

It shouldn't surprise us that journalists have removed from their code of ethics the requirement that their "news reports should be free of opinion or bias and represent all sides of the issue."

Isn't it incredible that it has been removed from the journalists' code of ethics?

The media should give the American people the facts, not tell them what to think.

STOP THE GAMES

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, while the Democrats are working hard to address the needs of working Americans, over 2.5 million having been left out in the cold since the Republicans refused to bring up a bill, which is paid for, to extend unemployment insurance. Republicans are busy with yet another partisan, political exploitation of the tragedy in Benghazi.

Yesterday, citizens had to go to the steps of the Capitol to talk about how they have lost their jobs and their unemployment insurance, and now they are at their wits' end and at the end of the family's budget. They need a responsive government to step up. Yet Republicans are announcing a select committee on Benghazi, despite already having had 13 hearings, 25,000 pages of document requests, and 50 briefings.

This is an exploitation of a serious tragedy. We know what happened. But, you know what? It is politics.

Unfortunately, the American people need a responsive government to help them, like the 2.5 million people who are desperately in need of the opportunity for their government to step forward to help them with this unemployment crisis.

We can do more. We have got to do it now. Stop the games.

□ 1215

MOLDOVA

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, with Russian-backed militants creating chaos in Ukraine, neighboring Moldova has put their forces on high alert.

Moldova and Ukraine share a similar problem of breakaway states within their borders. In fact, there is evidence that Russian forces located in the Transnistria region of Moldova have been involved in the recent violence seen in Odessa, Ukraine.