

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THANK YOU, CAROLINE DELLENY

(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, for over 6 years, the constituents of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina have been extremely fortunate to have Caroline Delleny working for them. Caroline began as scheduler in the office in 2008 and, over the last 3 years, has served tirelessly as communications director. When tasked with this challenge, Caroline not only succeeded, but excelled. She established and fulfilled the goal of being accessible and accountable.

At the end of the year, Caroline will be returning to South Carolina to coordinate communications for the incoming speaker of the State house, Jay Lucas of Hartsville. While I will miss Caroline's dedication to the job and ever-cheerful personality, I know she will do a great job for Speaker Lucas and the people of South Carolina.

Caroline is truly a credit to her dedicated parents, Becky and Greg Delleny of Chester, South Carolina.

As she moves to the capital city of Columbia, home of her alma mater, the University of South Carolina, I wish her the absolute best. I know she will do a great job, and I look forward to serving her, as she will now be a constituent of the Second District.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and the President by his actions should never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

TRAGEDIES IN BANGLADESH

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on April 24, 2013, the world witnessed the deadliest disaster in the history of the garment industry. That morning Rana Plaza, an eight-story building housing five garment factories just outside Bangladesh's capital of Dhaka, collapsed. 1,138 people were killed and over 2,500 more were injured.

Just 5 months earlier, at least 112 people were killed, and scores more were injured when they leapt from a burning building at the Tazreen Fashion factory.

These tragedies laid bare the broken system, ineffective government oversight, and failed corporate responsibility and the powerlessness of the garment workers.

They also left nearly 4,000 survivors, families of the victims in need of long-term compensation. Many of the survivors are unable to find work, struggling with physical disabilities and mental trauma that could last for a lifetime. The injured workers and their families who lost loved ones—for many of them, their only income earner—are now trying to survive economic impoverishment in addition to the painful memories.

In the wake of these disasters, the International Labor Organization helped set up compensation funds for victims and families. Labor groups, the Bangladeshi Government, and several prominent retailers and brands who sourced from Bangladesh have committed funds to the survivors of Rana Plaza. Two years after the Tazreen fire, an agreement has also been reached on compensation for these survivors.

The Rana Plaza Donors Trust Fund needs an estimated \$40 million to provide for Rana Plaza survivors and victims' families, but as of last month the fund only had collected \$22 million, barely half the amount.

Injured workers and victims' families are being shortchanged. Nearly 40 global garment brands had recent or current orders in the five garment factories in Rana Plaza when it collapsed. They owe better compensation to the victims of their carelessness.

RECOGNIZING WILL CROCKER

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Will Crocker, long-time Johnston County clerk of superior court, who is retiring this month after decades of public service.

For over 36 years, Will helped thousands of people, judges, and attorneys navigate the court system in Johnston County. He first began his job in 1959 as clerk of Selma recorder court, then later as assistant clerk of court in 1967. Will served with professionalism since winning his first election in 1978 and is the longest serving clerk in the State of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, Will is truly the "Will of the people." His knowledge of Johnston County history and politics is second to none, and when Will isn't eating at the Coffee Pot in Smithfield, he is enjoying his favorite pastime at night—watching C-SPAN.

Mr. Speaker, Will is one of a kind and leaves a lasting legacy in the history of Johnston County. I wish him good health and happiness in his retirement.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF
NEWTOWN TRAGEDY

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

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, to honor and remember the 20 innocent children and six brave educators gunned down at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown in my district 2 years ago.

The community of Newtown has asked us all to honor their memory with acts of kindness. They have asked us to honor with action. So I urge you to take a moment out of this busy holiday season and to volunteer at a local soup kitchen or to buy holiday gifts for needy families.

Let's honor with action, with acts of kindness this week, and with action in Congress that makes our world safer for all our children. Our hearts are broken, but our spirit is not.

A STORY FROM OHIO

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the hard-working people of eastern and southeastern Ohio to share their stories since they began experiencing President Obama's health care law.

I have heard from many of those I represent who have seen an increase in their health care premiums, lost their doctors, and were forced out of the plans that they liked, even after they were told by President Obama that if

they liked their health plan they could keep it.

Alice of Dennison, Ohio, contacted my office and let me know that her insurance premium went from \$235 to \$520 a month, more than doubling. Alice told me that she goes to bed at night wondering how she will pay for the increased premiums. But Alice isn't alone. Her story is just one of the many stories from Ohio I have received.

We must continue to fight this misguided law and work to return control and choice of health care to the American people. Hardworking Americans deserve better than ObamaCare.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF DR. PAMELA TRANSUE

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Dr. Pamela Transue, who has served as Tacoma Community College's president for 17 years.

President Transue has established an effective and successful learning environment that has opened doors of opportunity for its students. Under her tenure, Tacoma Community College has become a more vibrant and modern place, and her efforts have brought the college national recognition. As a former board member of Tacoma Community College, I saw firsthand how she helped shape the lives of countless students.

Alongside her service as president, she has also been actively engaged in the community, whether giving a speech at the Metropolitan Development Council breakfast or participating in a local economic development association. Dr. Transue has long recognized that education and job growth and self-sufficiency all go hand in hand.

Dr. Transue will retire at the close of this year, and with her retirement, she will be one of the longest serving presidents in higher education in Washington State's history, serving as Tacoma Community College's president for almost one-third of the college's existence.

Her nearly two decades as president of Tacoma Community College have impacted our region's economy and generations of students young and old. I am pleased to recognize her service today in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING PHIL HOGAN, JOSH ALLEN, JAMES WESTON ABBOTT, AND SHEA LASSETER

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Phil Hogan, Josh Allen, James Weston Ab-

bott, and Shea Lasseter for their work for Coweta-Fayette electric cooperative, located in my district, and Habersham electric cooperative.

Coweta-Fayette initiated a partnership with Habersham for these gentlemen to travel to Costa Rica as volunteers for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation. They helped construct an electric distribution system and worked alongside employees at Coopeguanacaste, the electric co-op in the town of Guanacaste.

Their volunteer efforts included extending access to electricity for families in this community. Electricity is a critical element in improving the quality of life. It enables better health care, education, clean water, and other vital services. These men also shared safety and best construction practices with the Costa Rican cooperative employees.

NRECA International has been active in rural electrification development in Costa Rica since 1963. The four electric cooperatives in Costa Rica serve approximately 750,000 folks. Thanks to these volunteers, more families in the world now have a chance for a better life.

Thank you, Phil Hogan, Josh Allen, James Weston Abbott, and Shea Lasseter for your hard work and dedication.

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SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, December 15 will mark the 1-year anniversary of the conflict in South Sudan. Since fighting broke out last December, a humanitarian crisis has plagued this young nation. Almost 2 million people have been displaced, and an estimated 50,000 civilian deaths have occurred. And the situation is only likely to get worse in the coming months.

The United States has played a vital role in supporting an independent South Sudan, and we have a vital role moving forward to ensure that the conflict does not deteriorate.

As we have seen in protracted crises around the world, such as in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the longer that a conflict continues and tears at the social fabric of a country, the more difficult reconciliation becomes.

As cochairs of the bipartisan Caucus on Sudan and South Sudan, Mr. McCAUL of Texas, Mr. CAPUANO of Massachusetts, and myself are urging Members to sign a letter with us to the administration requesting the President to increase his political and diplomatic efforts to help bring this conflict to an end and to prevent further bloodshed.

With 1.5 million people experiencing food insecurity in South Sudan, now is

the time to ensure that we use diplomacy to bring this crisis to an end. So we are asking you to join us in this effort because we must continue to work in a bipartisan way with the administration to increase our political and diplomatic efforts.

THE PRESIDENT'S LAWLESS IMMIGRATION OVERREACH

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

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, President Obama came to Nashville to defend his unconstitutional immigration overreaches, but Tennesseans aren't buying it.

I asked my constituents what questions they would ask the President during his visit to the Volunteer State, and the response was overwhelming. Penny in Springfield asked, "Why has he chosen to ignore the voice of the people on the immigration issue?"

Janice in Gordonsville asked, "What does he say to the legal immigrants who obeyed the law to become citizens?"

And Kimberly in White House simply says, "I want to know why our laws are no longer valid."

My constituents said it best. We are a Nation of laws, and this lawless immigration overreach must not stand.

WHERE IS OUR AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE?

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on August 8 of this year, we went to war with ISIL. Since that day, we have launched over 1,700 airstrikes, we have put thousands of men and women in harm's way, we have committed billions of dollars, and the President has said this effort will take years.

Many of my colleagues and I have waited patiently for Congress to deliberate on the Authorization for Use of Military Force; yet all of these months later, we have not had a single debate. We recessed this summer without debate. We passed a defense bill last week without debate. And now, once again, we are leaving town without debate.

Mr. Speaker, it is the duty of this Congress to make determinations of war and peace, and we are shamefully ducking this responsibility. America deserves better.

AUTHORITY TO FILE REPORTS

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all committees may have until 5 p.m. on December 30, 2014, to file reports to accompany measures.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?