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No. 138

House of Representatives

The House met at 8:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

September 24, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, Father of us all, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

This day is a day of history. Send Your Spirit upon the Members of the people's House. May all be able to hear the words spoken here this day with discernment and goodwill, in the spirit in which they are to be delivered.

And bless our most special visitor, Pope Francis. We thank You for his vocation in the Church, the Pontiff, or bridge-builder, specially charged with bringing reconciliation where there is division. May his message of peace and healing, and his prophetic challenge wherever it may land, be a blessing of liberation and hope for all who have ears to hear.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. TONKO 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. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet in joint meeting to hear an address by Pope Francis of the Holy See, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege as prescribed by section 8 of House Resolution 380. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, this restriction regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, September 16, 2015, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 33 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 0945

JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY POPE FRANCIS OF THE HOLY SEE

During the recess, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 9 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint meeting will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort Pope Francis into the Chamber:

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS);

The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN);

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER);

The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX);

The gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY);

The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO); and

The gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort Pope Francis into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL);

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN);

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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The Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH);
 The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);
 The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);
 The Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);
 The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER);
 The Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS);
 The Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI);
 The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER);
 The Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE);
 The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);
 The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);
 The Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER);
 The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);
 The Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY);
 The Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER);
 The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);
 The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR);
 The Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN);
 The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ); and
 The Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Hersey Kyota, the Ambassador of the Republic of Palau.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 10 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable Paul D. Irving, announced Pope Francis of the Holy See.

Pope Francis of the Holy See, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you Pope Francis of the Holy See.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

POPE FRANCIS. Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members of Congress, dear friends, I am most grateful for your invitation to address this joint session of Congress in "the land of the free and the home of the brave." I would like to think that the reason for this is that I, too, am a son of this great continent from which we have all received so much and toward which we share a common responsibility.

Each son or daughter of a given country has a mission, a personal and social responsibility. Your own responsibility as Members of Congress is to enable this country, by your legislative activity, to grow as a nation. You are the face of its people, their representatives. You are called to defend and preserve the dignity of your fellow citizens in the tireless and demanding pursuit of the common good, for this is the chief aim of all politics.

A political society endures when it seeks, as a vocation, to satisfy common needs by stimulating the growth of all its members, especially those in situations of greater vulnerability or risk. Legislative activity is always based on care for the people. To this you have been invited, called, and convened by those who elected you.

Yours is a work which makes me reflect in two ways on the figure of Moses. On the one hand, the patriarch and lawgiver of the people of Israel symbolizes the need of peoples to keep alive their sense of unity by means of just legislation. On the other, the figure of Moses leads us directly to God and thus to the transcendent dignity of the human being. Moses provides us with a good synthesis of your work: you are asked to protect, by means of the law, the image and likeness fashioned by God on every human life.

Today I would like not only to address you, but, through you, the entire people of the United States. Here, together with their representatives, I would like to take this opportunity to dialogue with the many thousands of men and women who strive each day to do an honest day's work, to bring home their daily bread, to save money, and—one step at a time—to build a better life for their families.

These are men and women who are not concerned simply with paying their taxes but, in their own quiet way, sustain the life of society. They generate solidarity by their actions, and they create organizations which offer a helping hand to those most in need.

I would also like to enter into a dialogue with the many elderly persons who are a storehouse of wisdom forged by experience and who seek in many ways, especially through volunteer work, to share their stories and their insights. I know that many of them are retired but still active; they keep working to build up this land.

I also want to dialogue with all those young people who are working to realize their great and noble aspirations,

who are not led astray by facile proposals, and who face difficult situations, often as a result of immaturity on the part of many adults. I wish to dialogue with all of you, and I would like to do so through the historical memory of your people.

My visit takes place at a time when men and women of goodwill are marking the anniversaries of several great Americans. The complexities of history and the reality of human weakness notwithstanding, these men and women, for all their many differences and limitations, were able by hard work and self-sacrifice—some at the cost of their lives—to build a better future. They shaped fundamental values which will endure forever in the spirit of the American people.

A people with this spirit can live through many crises, tensions, and conflicts while always finding the resources to move forward and to do so with dignity. These men and women offer us a way of seeing and interpreting reality. In honoring their memory, we are inspired, even amid conflicts and in the here and now of each day, to draw upon our deepest cultural reserves.

I would like to mention four of these Americans: Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Dorothy Day, and Thomas Merton.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, the guardian of liberty, who labored tirelessly that "this Nation, under God, might have a new birth of freedom." Building a future of freedom requires love of the common good and cooperation in a spirit of subsidiarity and solidarity.

All of us are quite aware of and deeply worried by the disturbing social and political situation of the world today. Our world is increasingly a place of violent conflict, hatred, and brutal atrocities committed even in the name of God and of religion. We know that no religion is immune from forms of individual delusion or ideological extremism.

This means that we must be especially attentive to every type of fundamentalism, whether religious or of any other kind. A delicate balance is required to combat violence perpetrated in the name of a religion, an ideology, or an economic system, while also safeguarding religious freedom, intellectual freedom, and individual freedoms.

But there is another temptation which we must especially guard against: the simplistic reductionism which sees only good or evil; or, if you will, the righteous and sinners. The contemporary world, with its open wounds which affect so many of our brothers and sisters, demands that we confront every form of polarization which would divide it into these two camps.

We know that, in the attempt to be freed of the enemy without, we can be tempted to feed the enemy within. To

imitate the hatred and violence of tyrants and murderers is the best way to take their place. That is something which you, as a people, reject.

Our response must, instead, be one of hope and healing, of peace and justice. We are asked to summon the courage and the intelligence to resolve today's many geopolitical and economic crises. Even in the developed world, the effects of unjust structures and actions are all too apparent.

Our efforts must aim at restoring hope, righting wrongs, maintaining commitments, and thus promoting the well-being of individuals and of peoples. We must move forward together, as one, in a renewed spirit of fraternity and solidarity, cooperating generously for the common good.

The challenges facing us today call for a renewal of that spirit of cooperation, which has accomplished so much good throughout the history of the United States. The complexity, the gravity, and the urgency of these challenges demand that we pool our resources and talents and resolve to support one another with respect for our differences and our convictions of conscience.

In this land, the various religious denominations have greatly contributed to building and strengthening society. It is important that today, as in the past, the voice of faith continue to be heard, for it is a voice of fraternity and love, which tries to bring out the best in each person and in each society. Such cooperation is a powerful resource in the battle to eliminate new global forms of slavery, born of grave injustices which can be overcome only through new policies and new forms of social consensus.

Politics is, instead, an expression of our compelling need to live as one, in order to build as one the greatest common good: that of a community which sacrifices particular interests in order to share, in justice and peace, its goods, its interests, its social life. I do not underestimate the difficulty that this involves, but I encourage you in this effort.

Here, too, I think of the march which Martin Luther King led from Selma to Montgomery 50 years ago as part of the campaign to fulfill his "dream" of full civil and political rights for African Americans. That dream continues to inspire us all. I am happy that America continues to be, for many, a land of dreams: dreams which lead to action, to participation, to commitment; dreams which awaken what is deepest and truest in the life of the people.

In recent centuries, millions of people came to this land to pursue their dream of building a future in freedom. We, the people of this continent, are not fearful of foreigners because most of us were once foreigners. I say this to you as the son of immigrants, knowing that so many of you are also descendants of immigrants.

Tragically, the rights of those who were here long before us were not al-

ways respected. For those peoples and their nations, from the heart of American democracy, I wish to reaffirm my highest esteem and appreciation. Those first contacts were often turbulent and violent, but we know that it is very difficult to judge the past by the criteria of the present.

Nonetheless, when the stranger in our midst appeals to us, we must not repeat the sins and the errors of the past. We must resolve now to live as nobly and as justly as possible, as we educate new generations not to turn their back on our neighbors and everything around us. Building a nation calls us to recognize that we must constantly relate to others, rejecting a mindset of hostility in order to adopt one of reciprocal subsidiarity, in a constant effort to do our best. I am confident that we can do this.

Our world is facing a refugee crisis of a magnitude not seen since the Second World War. This presents us with great challenges and many hard decisions. On this continent, too, thousands of persons are led to travel north in search of a better life for themselves and for their loved ones, in search of greater opportunities. Is this not what we want for our own children? We must not be taken aback by their numbers, but rather view them as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories, trying to respond as best we can to their situation, to respond in a way which is always humane, just, and fraternal. We need to avoid a common temptation nowadays: to discard whatever proves troublesome. Let us remember the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

This rule points us in a clear direction. Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated. Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped ourselves.

In a word, if we want security, let us give security. If we want life, let us give life. If we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities. The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us.

The Golden Rule also reminds us of our responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage of its development. This conviction has led me, from the beginning of my ministry, to advocate at different levels for the global abolition of the death penalty. I am convinced that this way is the best, since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity, and society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes.

Recently, my brother bishops here in the United States renewed their call for the abolition of the death penalty. Not only do I support them, but I also offer encouragement to all those who are convinced that a just and necessary punishment must never exclude the di-

mension of hope and the goal of rehabilitation.

In these times when social concerns are so important, I cannot fail to mention the servant of God, Dorothy Day, who founded the Catholic Worker Movement. Her social activism, her passion for justice and for the cause of the oppressed were inspired by the Gospel, her faith, and the example of the saints.

How much progress has been made in this area in so many parts of the world. How much has been done in these first years of the third millennium to raise people out of extreme poverty. I know that you share my conviction that much more still needs to be done, and in times of crisis and economic hardship, a spirit of global solidarity must not be lost.

At the same time, I would encourage you to keep in mind all those people around us who are trapped in a cycle of poverty. They too need to be given hope. The fight against poverty and hunger must be fought constantly and on many fronts, especially in its causes. I know that many Americans today, as in the past, are working to deal with this problem.

It goes without saying that part of this great effort is the creation and distribution of wealth. The right use of natural resources, the proper application of technology, and the harnessing of the spirit of enterprise are essential elements of an economy which seeks to be modern, inclusive, and sustainable.

"Business is a noble vocation, directed to producing wealth and improving the world. It can be a fruitful source of prosperity for the area in which it operates, especially if it sees the creation of jobs as an essential part of its service to the common good."

This common good also includes the Earth, a central theme of the encyclical which I recently wrote in order to "enter into dialogue with all people about our common home." "We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all."

In *Laudato Si'*, I call for a courageous and responsible effort to "redirect our steps" and to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity. I am convinced that we can make a difference. I am sure and I have no doubt that the United States and this Congress have an important role to play.

Now is the time for courageous actions and strategies aimed at implementing a "culture of care" and "an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature." "We have the freedom needed to limit and direct technology, to devise intelligent ways of . . . developing and limiting our power," and to put technology "at the service of another type of progress, one which is healthier, more human, more social, more integral." In this regard, I am confident

that America's outstanding academic and research institutions can make a vital contribution in the years ahead.

A century ago, at the beginning of the Great War, which Pope Benedict XV termed a "pointless slaughter," another notable American was born: the Cistercian monk Thomas Merton. He remains a source of spiritual inspiration and a guide for many people.

In his autobiography, Merton wrote: "I came into the world. Free by nature, in the image of God, I was nevertheless the prisoner of my own violence and my own selfishness, in the image of the world into which I was born. That world was the picture of Hell, full of men like myself, loving God, and yet hating him; born to love him, living instead in fear of hopeless self-contradictory hungers."

Merton was, above all, a man of prayer, a thinker who challenged the certitudes of his time and opened new horizons for souls and for the Church. He was also a man of dialogue, a promoter of peace between peoples and religions.

From this perspective of dialogue, I would like to recognize the efforts made in recent months to help overcome historic differences linked to painful episodes of the past.

It is my duty to build bridges and to help all men and women, in any way possible, to do the same. When countries which have been at odds resume the path of dialogue—a dialogue which may have been interrupted for the most legitimate of reasons—new opportunities open up for all.

This has required, and requires, courage and daring, which is not the same as irresponsibility. A good political leader is one who, with the interests of all in mind, seizes the moment in a spirit of openness and pragmatism. A good political leader always opts to initiate processes rather than possessing spaces.

Being at the service of dialogue and peace also means being truly determined to minimize and, in the long term, to end the many armed conflicts throughout our world. Here we have to ask ourselves: Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society?

Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money, money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade.

Three sons and one daughter of this land, four individuals and four dreams: Lincoln, liberty; Martin Luther King, liberty in plurality and non-exclusion; Dorothy Day, social justice and the rights of persons; and Thomas Merton, the capacity for dialogue and openness to God. Four representatives of the American people.

I will end my visit to your country in Philadelphia, where I will take part in the World Meeting of Families. It is my wish that throughout my visit the

family should be a recurrent theme. How essential the family has been to the building of this country, and how worthy it remains for our support and encouragement.

Yet I cannot hide my concern for the family, which is threatened, perhaps as never before, from within and without. Fundamental relationships are being called into question, as is the very basis of marriage and the family. I can only reiterate the importance and, above all, the richness and the beauty of family life.

In particular, I would like to call attention to those family members who are the most vulnerable: the young. For many of them, a future filled with countless possibilities beckons, yet so many others seem disoriented and aimless, trapped in a hopeless maze of violence, abuse, and despair.

Their problems are our problems. We cannot avoid them. We need to face them together, to talk about them, and to seek effective solutions rather than getting bogged down in discussions. At the risk of oversimplifying, we might say that we live in a culture which pressures young people not to start a family, because they lack possibilities for the future. Yet this same culture presents others with so many options that they, too, are dissuaded from starting a family.

A nation can be considered great when it defends liberty, as Lincoln did; when it fosters a culture which enables people to "dream" of full rights for all brothers and sisters, as Martin Luther King sought to do; when it strives for justice and the cause of the oppressed, as Dorothy Day did by her tireless work; the fruit of a faith, which becomes dialogue and sows peace in the contemplative style of Thomas Merton.

In these remarks, I have sought to present some of the richness of your cultural heritage, of the spirit of the American people. It is my desire that this spirit continue to develop and grow, so that as many young people as possible can inherit and dwell in a land which has inspired so many people to dream.

God bless America.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 10 o'clock and 55 minutes a.m., Pope Francis of the Holy See, accompanied by the Speaker and the Vice President, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIBERI). The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

All Members and Senators will remain in the Chamber while the official party departs.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 56 minutes a.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members and Senators are now invited to depart the Chamber for two additional events. Those wishing to view the departure of Pope Francis should proceed to the House steps. Those wishing to view the appearance of Pope Francis on the west front should proceed to the upper west terrace.

The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the House continued in recess.

□ 1302

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) at 1 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 986. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico.

S. 1170. An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research, and for other purposes.

S. 1632. An act to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram.

COMMUNICATION FROM MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR OF COM- MITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Sean McLaughlin, Majority Staff Director, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOV-
ERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, September 21, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena, issued by the Superior Court for the District of Columbia, purporting to require that, in connection with a particular criminal case, I produce certain official documents and appear to testify at trial on official matters.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined, pursuant to Rule VIII, that the subpoena (i) is not a "proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court," (ii) seeks information that is not "material and relevant," and/or (iii) is not "consistent with the privileges and rights" of the House, its Members, its officers, or its employees. Accordingly, I intend to move to

quash the subpoena, or for other protective relief.

Sincerely,

SEAN McLAUGHLIN,
Staff Director, Majority Side.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, September 22, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena, issued by the Superior Court for the District of Columbia, purporting to require that, in connection with a particular criminal case, I produce certain official documents and appear to testify at trial on official matters.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined, pursuant to Rule VIII, that the subpoena (i) is not a "proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court," (ii) seeks information that is not "material and relevant," and/or (iii) is not "consistent with the privileges and rights" of the House, its Members, its officers, or its employees. Accordingly, I intend to move to quash the subpoena, or for other protective relief.

Sincerely,

JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman.

COMMUNICATION FROM RANKING MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, September 22, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena, issued by the Superior Court for the District of Columbia, purporting to require that, in connection with a particular criminal case, I produce certain official documents and appear to testify at trial on official matters.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined, pursuant to Rule VIII, that the subpoena (i) is not a "proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court," (ii) seeks information that is not "material and relevant," and/or (iii) is not "consistent with the privileges and rights" of the House, its Members, its officers, or its employees. Accordingly, I intend to move to quash the subpoena, or for other protective relief.

Sincerely,

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS,
Ranking Member.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 434) providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 719, with an amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 434

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution the bill, H.R. 719, entitled "TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015", with the Senate amendment thereto, shall be considered to have been taken from the Speaker's table to the end that the Senate amendment thereto be, and the same is hereby, agreed to with the following amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Consistent with Federal law and regulations, for law enforcement officers to qualify for premium pay as criminal investigators, the officers must, in general, spend on average at least 50 percent of their time investigating, apprehending, or detaining individuals suspected or convicted of offenses against the criminal laws of the United States.

(2) According to the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS IG), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) does not ensure that its cadre of criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection are meeting this requirement, even though they are considered law enforcement officers under TSA policy and receive premium pay.

(3) Instead, TSA criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection primarily monitor the results of criminal investigations conducted by other agencies, investigate administrative cases of TSA employee misconduct, and carry out inspections, covert tests, and internal reviews, which the DHS IG asserts

could be performed by employees other than criminal investigators at a lower cost.

(4) The premium pay and other benefits afforded to TSA criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection who are incorrectly classified as such will cost the taxpayer as much as \$17 million over 5 years if TSA fails to make any changes to the number of criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection, according to the DHS IG.

(5) This may be a conservative estimate, as it accounts for the cost of Law Enforcement Availability Pay, but not the costs of law enforcement training, statutory early retirement benefits, police vehicles, and weapons.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term "Administration" means the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term "Assistant Secretary" means the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security) of the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term "Inspector General" means the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 4. INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.

(a) AUDIT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General shall analyze the data and methods that the Assistant Secretary uses to identify Office of Inspection employees of the Administration who meet the requirements of sections 8331(20), 8401(17), and 5545a of title 5, United States Code, and provide the relevant findings to the Assistant Secretary, including a finding on whether the data and methods are adequate and valid.

(b) PROHIBITION ON HIRING.—If the Inspector General finds that such data and methods are inadequate or invalid, the Administration shall not hire any new employee to work in the Office of Inspection of the Administration until—

(1) the Assistant Secretary makes a certification described in section 5 to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(2) the Inspector General submits to such Committees a finding, not later than 30 days after the Assistant Secretary makes such certification, that the Assistant Secretary utilized adequate and valid data and methods to make such certification.

SEC. 5. TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION WORKFORCE CERTIFICATION.

(a) CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—The Assistant Secretary shall, by not later than 90 days after the date the Inspector General provides its findings to the Assistant Secretary under section 4(a), document and certify in writing to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that only those Office of Inspection employees of the Administration who meet the requirements of sections 8331(20), 8401(17), and 5545a of title 5, United States Code, are classified as criminal investigators and are receiving premium pay and other benefits associated with such classification.

(b) EMPLOYEE RECLASSIFICATION.—The Assistant Secretary shall reclassify criminal investigator positions in the Office of Inspection as noncriminal investigator positions or non-law enforcement positions if the individuals in those positions do not, or are not expected to, spend an average of at least 50 percent of their time performing criminal investigative duties.

(c) PROJECTED COST SAVINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall estimate the total long-term cost savings to the Federal Government resulting from the implementation of subsection (b), and provide such estimate to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate by not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) CONTENTS.—Such estimate shall identify savings associated with the positions reclassified under subsection (b) and include, among other factors the Assistant Secretary considers appropriate, savings from—

- (A) law enforcement training;
- (B) early retirement benefits;
- (C) law enforcement availability and other premium pay; and
- (D) weapons, vehicles, and communications devices.

SEC. 6. INVESTIGATION OF FEDERAL AIR MARSHAL SERVICE MISCONDUCT.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, or as soon as practicable, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate—

(1) materials in the possession or control of the Department of Homeland Security associated with the Office of Inspection's review of instances in which Federal Air Marshal Service officials obtained discounted or free firearms for personal use;

(2) information on specific actions that will be taken to prevent Federal Air Marshal Service officials from using their official positions, or exploiting, in any way, the Service's relationships with private vendors to obtain discounted or free firearms for personal use; and

(3) information on specific actions that will be taken to prevent the Federal Air Marshal Service from misusing Government resources.

SEC. 7. STUDY.

Not later than 180 days after the date that the Assistant Secretary submits the certification to Congress under section 5(a), the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a study—

(1) reviewing the employee requirements, responsibilities, and benefits of criminal investigators in the TSA Office of Inspection with criminal investigators employed at agencies adhering to the Office of Personnel Management employee classification system; and

(2) identifying any inconsistencies and costs implications for differences between the varying employee requirements, responsibilities, and benefits.

SEC. 8. INDEPENDENT AUDIT OF FEDERAL AIR MARSHAL SERVICE PERSONNEL ISSUES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a study that—

(1) reviews the Federal Air Marshal Service's existing personnel policies and procedures for identifying misuse of Government resources; and

(2) reviews the administration of the Federal Air Marshal Service's existing code of

conduct or integrity policies with respect to instances of misconduct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 719, the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015.

This bipartisan legislation will increase operational efficiency within TSA's Office of Inspection and will translate into cost savings for the American taxpayer, as articulated in a report by the Department of Homeland Security inspector general.

I am here today because I have amended this legislation to build on the good work conducted by our colleagues in the Senate and provide increased oversight of the Federal Air Marshal Service in light of ongoing issues of sexual misconduct within the agency.

The amended bill requires the DHS inspector general to report to Congress on a review of TSA's existing policies for identifying misuse of government resources within the Federal Air Marshal Service as well as TSA's strategy for addressing instances of misconduct within the Federal Air Marshal Service.

This provision has, unfortunately, become necessary, as we have learned of recent egregious examples of both alleged sexual misconduct and misuse of government resources by air marshals.

In early September of this year, I was made aware of alleged sexual misconduct by three Federal air marshals in Chicago, Illinois, which came to light through an examination of a government-issued cellular telephone due to a workman's compensation claim investigation.

The Federal Air Marshal Service self-reported that the involved employees not only utilized government-issued cellular telephones for unauthorized purposes, but hotel rooms paid for with government funds were used to engage in sexual misconduct.

I understand that managing a workforce that operates worldwide is a monumental task. But, as leaders, it is imperative that we maintain discipline in order to accomplish the overall mission of keeping our skies safe.

These and other allegations of misconduct have plagued the agency and

are devastating to the public trust, employee morale, and the high degree of integrity that must be maintained by Federal law enforcement officers charged with securing aviation and protecting acts of terrorism.

Earlier this year my subcommittee held a hearing to examine the Federal Air Marshal Service, and we plan to continue to provide rigorous oversight as TSA works to address these disturbing examples of flagrant abuse of government resources and deplorable behavior.

I wish to thank the original sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD), for his leadership on this issue as well as Chairman MCCAUL, Ranking Member THOMPSON, and Ranking Member RICE for their support.

Also, I would like to thank my colleagues in the Senate, particularly Chairman THUNE and Ranking Member NELSON, for their work in contributing to the bill and passing it through that Chamber. I look forward to working with them and working towards final passage of this bill, as amended.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 719, the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015.

In September 2013, the Department of Homeland Security inspector general released a report detailing the Transportation Security Administration's misclassification of certain employees in its Office of Inspection as criminal investigators.

Specifically, the inspector general found that the workload of these criminal investigators did not fit the Federal workload requirement to justify their title.

Because of this misclassification, these employees received enhanced benefits, such as premium pay, early retirement, and other benefits commensurate with the position, despite the fact that they perform little to no investigative duties.

Whereas the workload for a properly classified criminal investigator predominantly involves investigating criminal cases, the inspector general found that the workload for these employees consisted largely of investigating noncriminal cases, carrying out inspections, covert testing, and internal reviews, all tasks that could be performed by employees who do not receive the enhanced benefits.

As the ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, I believe that it is important that agencies utilize their resources in a manner that is both effective and efficient.

According to the inspector general, the Office of Inspection did not use its resources in a manner that would efficiently conduct internal reviews, inspections, and covert testing.

If no changes are made to these positions, the inspector general estimated that it would result in the wasting of as much as \$17.5 million over 5 years.

H.R. 719 directs TSA to certify that all persons designated as criminal investigators are working on criminal investigations at least 50 percent of their time.

This threshold is consistent with the Federal standard for the position and ensures that the TSA is providing enhanced pay and benefits to those who actually perform the duties of a criminal investigator.

This measure will not affect those with the proper classification of criminal investigator and will not impede efforts to thwart terror plots and other criminal enterprises that threaten our national security.

This legislation also incorporates changes meant to address instances in which Federal Air Marshal Service officials have used their official capacities to obtain benefits from private vendors and to also address recent allegations of misconduct involving the misuse of government resources and solicitation by reviewing existing personnel and code of conduct policies.

This legislation is common sense and reflects a commitment to good government.

Mr. Speaker, if enacted, H.R. 719 will bring greater accountability to TSA's Office of Inspection. This measure will also ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and that past abuses are not repeated.

I urge Members to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 719.

□ 1315

It is critical that we in Congress assert our oversight priorities to ensure that taxpayer dollars and government resources are being used in a responsible manner. We must make certain that our Federal employees, especially those in positions of law enforcement and significant public trust, are not misusing government resources to engage in sexual misconduct and are exhibiting the highest degree of moral fortitude.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H.R. 434.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JACOB TRIEBER FEDERAL BUILDING, UNITED STATES POST OFFICE, AND UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1707) to designate the Federal building located at 617 Walnut Street in Helena, Arkansas, as the "Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1707

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JACOB TRIEBER FEDERAL BUILDING, UNITED STATES POST OFFICE, AND UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building located at 617 Walnut Street in Helena, Arkansas, shall be known and designated as the "Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRAWFORD. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1707.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1707 would designate the Federal building located at 617 Walnut Street in Helena, Arkansas, as the Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House.

Judge Trieber, a Prussian immigrant, eventually became the first Jewish Federal judge in our Nation's history. Settling in Helena, Arkansas, Judge Trieber issued rulings to protect against racial discrimination more than six decades before the Supreme Court would. For his unmatched dedication to justice, a lifetime of service, and his many landmark rulings, we seek support in renaming the Federal building in his honor.

Appointed to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas by President McKinley in 1900, he served for 27 years and became one of the country's most distinguished jurists and renowned constitutional scholars. Working simultaneously on

more than 1,000 cases each year, Judge Trieber issued nationally important rulings on controversies that included antitrust cases, railroad litigation, prohibition cases, and mail fraud. Several of his rulings, especially the ones regarding civil rights and wildlife conservation, still have implications today.

Judge Trieber took an early interest in civil rights, especially after seeing how discrimination against Jews consumed his home country of Prussia. After the move to his new home in the United States, Arkansas became very dear to him, but the blatant racism he saw firsthand affected his outlook on life and his work even more than what he had encountered in Prussia. Judge Trieber "sought to communicate—through his own life and deeds and his commitment to equal justice—that racism was detrimental to the people of Arkansas" and that only until the State's race relations problem was solved could the "State's great potential be achieved."

Since Arkansas' judicial system alone could not prevent the commonplace violence and racism, Judge Trieber took it upon himself to fight against injustice through several landmark rulings, two of which dealt with employment discrimination. He also fought against unfair election laws, which he correctly believed were unfair to women and Blacks.

Going against conventional thought and even at risk to himself, Judge Trieber ruled against local hate groups, writing that "the rights to lease lands and to accept employment for hire are fundamental rights, inherent in every free citizen."

Although he was overruled in 1906 by the Supreme Court, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 had finally granted the comprehensive protection against racial discrimination that Judge Trieber had long sought. In 1968, the Supreme Court overturned their original ruling against Judge Trieber's interpretation, saying that his interpretation of the law was at last vindicated.

In 1927, Judge Trieber departed this life and was buried in Little Rock at Oakland Cemetery. He would never live to see the changes he fought so hard for, but by renaming the Federal building in the town he loved, we preserve his memory and acknowledge his very early role in the most important civil rights movement our Nation has ever seen.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with my colleague's endorsement of Judge Trieber's legacy as a trailblazer and champion of civil rights for all Americans.

Judge Jacob Trieber was a highly respected Federal judge in the Eastern District of Arkansas who served with distinction for 27 years. Judge Trieber

was one of the first Federal judges to embrace international treaties as a basis for Federal policy to trump State regulation with respect to pollution control, endangered species preservation, and wetlands conservation.

Judge Trieber also famously ruled that a local group of White citizens could not compel a sawmill to fire its Black workers. Judge Trieber's original decision was later cited as a foresighted ruling that had correctly interpreted the 13th Amendment.

Because of Judge Trieber's long history of public service and outstanding judicial service, it is appropriate to name the U.S. Federal building in Helena, Arkansas, as the Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her eloquent comments, and I urge my colleagues to support S. 1707.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1707.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WILLIAM J. HOLLOWAY, JR. UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 261) to designate the United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the "William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 261

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WILLIAM J. HOLLOWAY, JR. UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, shall be known and designated as the "William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 261.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 261 would designate the United States Courthouse located at 200 Northwest Fourth Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse.

A native of Oklahoma, Judge Holloway served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Judge Holloway was nominated by the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals by President Johnson in 1968. He served as chief judge from 1984 to 1991 and assumed senior status in 1992 until his death in 2014.

During his 45 years on the bench, he authored over 900 opinions and became the longest serving tenth circuit judge. I think it is more than fitting to name this courthouse after him.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

Judge Holloway was well-respected and served for over 45 years as an appellate judge in the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. During his tenure, Judge Holloway wrote more than 900 appellate opinions and continued to serve as a judge until his death in 2014.

Judge Holloway received many awards, including the President's Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association and the Humanitarian Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and had a prestigious lecture series named after him.

Because of Judge Holloway's long Federal service and his universally revered work ethic, I support naming the U.S. Courthouse located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and no further comments. I support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her support, and I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 261.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 261.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3116) to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3116

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Quarterly Financial Report Reauthorization Act".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO CONDUCT QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT PROGRAM.

Section 4(b) of the Act entitled "An Act to amend title 13, United States Code, to transfer responsibility for the quarterly financial report from the Federal Trade Commission to the Secretary of Commerce, and for other purposes", approved January 12, 1983 (Public Law 97-454; 13 U.S.C. 91 note), is amended by striking "2015" and inserting "2030".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3116, the Quarterly Financial Report Reauthorization Act, sponsored by my colleague from the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Congressman TED LIEU.

Mr. Speaker, since 1947, Quarterly Financial Report, often referred to as the QFR program, has collected and published key data on American corporate financial results. It is the primary source of data for GDP estimates and other top-line economic estimates. Ever since its first development, the QFR program has been one of our Nation's most important economic indicators.

Quite simply, this survey allows us to measure how large sectors of our economy are doing. Without the QFR, we would lose a seven-decade economic trendline. The QFR's loss would also have significant negative impacts on a wide variety of economic indicators.

Authorization for this important program expires next week at the end of the fiscal year. Today we consider a bill introduced by Congressman TED LIEU that will reauthorize this key program for an additional 15 years.

The Oversight and Government Reform Committee approved this bill without objection on July 22. It is a good bill, and I would like to thank Congressman TED LIEU for his good work on this and his leadership on this issue, and I would urge my colleagues to support and pass this bill.

Further, I would also urge my colleagues in the Senate to take quick action on the legislation as well. The QFR program is vital for understanding our economy, and we cannot and should not let it expire.

Again, I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I introduced the Quarterly Financial Report Reauthorization Act, a bill that would reauthorize a vital and common-sense program for 15 years. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered the bill reported by voice vote in July of 2015.

I want to thank Chairman CHAFFETZ and Ranking Member CUMMINGS for working to quickly move this bill forward prior to the program's expiration this year.

Since the end of World War II, the QFR has been a closely watched principal economic indicator used to determine our Nation's gross domestic product, the Federal Reserve's Flow of Funds account, and other vital economic estimates.

It is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau based on a sample size of 12,500 companies across a variety of industry sectors, from mining, to manufacturing, to information and professional services. The end result is timely, accurate data on business financial conditions for over one-third of our economy that is widely used by both government and private sector actors.

□ 1330

The program plans to further expand coverage to over 60 percent of our economy, tracking additional sectors and industries, such as health care and real estate.

The Department of Commerce has called the reauthorization of this program a top priority, and the U.S. Census Bureau has received letters of validation from both the public and private sectors.

The Small Business Administration supports it as do companies such as ProQuest, a Michigan-based global information content and technology company, and companies such as Wells Fargo, whose chief economist wrote in support of this QFR and said: Good decisions require good information.

At a time when our country is not that far removed from the wake of the

global financial crisis, we need all the tools at our disposal to measure the state of our economy and to chart our progress.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I appreciate the work of Mr. LIEU. This is a good example of our working together on both sides of the aisle. We passed it smoothly out of committee, and I urge its adoption here today.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3116.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH
D'AUGUSTINE POST OFFICE
BUILDING

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 994) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 994

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH
D'AUGUSTINE POST OFFICE BUILD-
ING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, shall be known and designated as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

While this is a Senate bill, there is nobody who has been more passionate and excited and dedicated to getting this done than Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

Mr. GARRETT. I thank the chairman for helping us to usher this legislation through today. I very much appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, today I stand before the House to honor the life and the legacy of one of New Jersey's sons, Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine of Waldwick, New Jersey.

Staff Sergeant D'Augustine was killed more than 3 years ago—that was back on March 27, 2012—while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan. In the greatest possible act of self-sacrifice, he gave his life while protecting the lives of men and women in uniform. He was just 29 years old.

Today it is fitting that this House will honor him by passing legislation to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service, located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building.

While nothing will ever heal the loss left by Staff Sergeant D'Augustine to his family, to his friends, and to his community, today's vote will ensure that all of the residents of this town will have a permanent reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by one of their native sons.

To protect our freedom, to protect our liberty, to protect our way of life, a few brave men and women have answered that call of duty. They stand—and have stood—between us here in the United States and those who would do us harm. So I am privileged to come here and stand before this House to honor one of those men today.

You see, it was just one day after graduating from Waldwick High School in 2001 that Staff Sergeant D'Augustine enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

He was assigned then to the 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force. He had served two full tours of duty in Iraq and was just 2 weeks away from completing his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

He worked as something called an explosive ordnance disposal tech, and he was going ahead of his fellow marines, soldiers, sailors, and airmen. He was the one clearing the way for them. Although we will never know the number of lives that he saved, I think his numerous awards speak for his selfless heroism.

He was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor, the Purple Heart, the Navy and Marine Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign

Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and the NATO-ISAF Medal. I think all of these speak of his selfless heroism.

Even now, after his passing, Staff Sergeant D'Augustine's legacy continues in his community. The Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Memorial Fund offers a scholarship to one male graduating senior and to one female graduating senior who exemplify the highest standards of citizenship through strong character and dedication to community service. Since October of 2012, the fund has donated more than \$94,000 to numerous charities as well as direct donations to veterans in need.

The tremendous outpouring of love and support for his family since his death has provided a glimpse into the numbers of lives that he has touched and to the number of lives his love continues to touch.

To those who knew him best—his parents, Anthony and Patricia; his three sisters, Nicole, Jennifer, Michele; and his brother-in-law, Len—he will be remembered as a loving son and brother.

To his fellow marines, he will be remembered as a faithful brother in arms. To this Nation, he will be remembered as a patriot who loved this country, who loved the Marine Corps, and who gave his life in defense of freedom.

The Marine Corps' motto is *Semper Fidelis*, always faithful. Staff Sergeant D'Augustine lived this motto, and his legacy embodies it. He was faithful to his country; he was faithful to the mission; he was faithful to the Corps; and he was faithful to his fellow marines.

In times such as this, words do fail to provide adequate comfort to his family and to his friends; but it is my hope, as I think it is the hope of us all, to know that the prayers and gratitude of this Nation are with them.

I want to thank my colleagues for supporting this legislation. Again, I thank the chairman for moving this legislation, for ensuring that the Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office becomes an everlasting honor to his legacy and service to our Nation.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of S. 994, a bill to designate the Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office.

A native of New Jersey, Joseph D'Augustine attended Waldwick High School, where he wrestled and played football.

Following his graduation, Joseph joined the Marine Corps, serving two tours of duty as an infantryman in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On March 27, 2012, while serving his second tour in Afghanistan, Joseph was tragically killed while working to defuse a bomb.

Having served on Active Duty myself—and still in the Reserves—I want to honor Joseph for his service and also his family for their sacrifice and their loss.

Joseph received a number of awards for his dedicated service, including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

In addition to Joseph's courageous military service, he is remembered for giving back to his hometown through a youth wrestling program that he co-founded with his father.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to honor the years that Staff Sergeant D'Augustine dedicated to this country and the ultimate sacrifice he made on our behalf.

I urge the passage of S. 994.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, in closing, you have heard today of the passionate, deep-felt belief of our colleague, Congressman GARRETT. It is very appropriate to pass this bill and name this post office after Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine.

I didn't know his family, but I hope his family will know today, tomorrow, and forever how grateful this Nation is. People like him step up; they serve; they answer the call of their country.

I hope we always remember that and give pause and thanks to those men and women who do sacrifice. So I find it very appropriate that we would name this post office after this young man, Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine.

I urge the passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 994.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STAFF SERGEANT ROBERT H. DIETZ POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1442) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1442

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. STAFF SERGEANT ROBERT H. DIETZ POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90

Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1442, introduced by Congressman CHRIS GIBSON. We are honored that he is championing this bill through the House.

I think he has the best perspective from which to give an overview of why it is appropriate that we honor Staff Sergeant Robert Dietz for his sacrifice to this country and honor him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON).

Mr. GIBSON. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of the Greatest Generation from my district in upstate New York. H.R. 1442 renames the post office in Kingston, New York, after Staff Sergeant Robert Dietz, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions during World War II.

Sergeant Dietz hailed from Kingston, New York, a proud and historical city in New York's 19th Congressional District.

In March of 1945, Sergeant Dietz led his squad on an attack of a heavily fortified German position while protecting a key bridge.

Under heavy machine gun fire, Sergeant Dietz advanced forward, clearing enemy obstacles, providing a path for the men of his squad and platoon.

This selfless act enabled the success of this attack, but in the process, Sergeant Dietz made the supreme sacrifice and was killed while valiantly leading his men.

Last year I had several local veterans' service organizations reach out to me to rename the post office in Kingston for Sergeant Dietz. I thank these organizations, including the Kingston Veterans Association, William Forte, and Dan Joyce, for their leadership and for their support of this bill.

I want to thank Chairman CHAFFETZ, Ranking Member CUMMINGS, and the entire Oversight and Government Reform Committee for passing this bill earlier this year.

I also want to thank the entire New York State delegation for its strong support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, today we pause to remember Sergeant Dietz and all of those men and women who have lost their lives in defense of our freedoms.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1442.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 1442, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building."

A Kingston native, Sergeant Dietz served in the Army's 38th Armored Infantry Battalion, 7th Armored Division, during World War II. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his valor, and this is some of what he did.

He was leading a squad as they advanced, and a minefield and two well-defended bridges blocked their path. Despite heavy fire, Sergeant Dietz led his men through the minefield and forged on.

In a show of unmatched courage, Sergeant Dietz dodged bullets to independently advance to the first bridge, where he killed the bazooka team that was defending the structure.

He continued to advance, killing another bazooka team as well as other German soldiers who fired at him. In his final act of bravery, Sergeant Dietz dove into waist-deep water to disconnect the demolition charges on the second bridge, and he was struck and killed by German sniper fire when he stood to alert his men that their route was then clear.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill in order to honor Sergeant Dietz' valiant actions and to remember a man who truly put his country before himself.

I urge the passage of H.R. 1442.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1345

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, Staff Sergeant Dietz, this is what made America great. People like this stepped up and answered the call. They find themselves in a most impossible situation, but they are fighting for their country. It embodies the American spirit.

I would urge the passage today of H.R. 1442.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1442.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SGT. ZACHARY M. FISHER POST OFFICE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 322) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 322

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SGT. ZACHARY M. FISHER POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 322 introduced by Congresswoman ANN WAGNER, which designates the post office located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office.

I find this very appropriate. This is a young person who went to serve their country, and we honor that person.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), the Congresswoman who has championed this through the House of Representatives.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a brave American hero, Sergeant Zachary M. Fisher, from my hometown of Ballwin, Missouri.

On July 14, 2010, Missouri's Second District lost a brave young man when United States Army Sergeant Zach Fisher was killed by an IED while serving during Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant Fisher was assigned to the 27th Engineer Battalion of the 20th Engineer Brigade based out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was 24 years old when he died at Forward Operating Base Lagman in Afghanistan.

Zach graduated in 2004 from Marquette High School in St. Louis, where

his history teacher remembered him as a patriotic student with an interest in how the United States developed as a country.

Zach met his beautiful and loving wife, Jessica, just before his earlier deployment in Iraq. At the time of his death, they had been married for just 2 years.

Sergeant Fisher is survived by his parents, Sue and Jim Jacobs and Bob and Alicia Fisher; and three brothers, Andrew, Clayton, and Alexander; along with two sisters, Emily and Zoe.

Zach initially enlisted in the United States Army Reserves. When he told his parents that he wanted to report for Active Duty, they asked him to give them two good reasons why he would choose to put himself in harm's way in the service of his country. His reply said a lot about the character of the man Zach Fisher. He wanted to join the Army because he wanted the discipline that it would provide, and he wanted to be part of something bigger than himself.

Although the United States of America can never fully repay the priceless debt we owe to Sergeant Fisher, we can do our part to ensure that his memory lives on. Therefore, it is my honor to sponsor H.R. 322, a bill that names the Chesterfield main post office after such a courageous young man, memorializing a hero who gave up his life in service to the Nation that he loved.

All of Zachary's friends would say that Zach was their best friend. He was a dedicated warrior whose commitment to family, friends, and country will be long remembered.

I am proud that this legislation will serve as a testament to the dedication and sacrifice of Sergeant Zachary Fisher, standing as a physical reminder of the bravery of one American from Missouri's Second District who chose to serve a cause greater than himself.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 322, a bill to designate the Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office.

Zachary Fisher was born in Missouri in 1986. A 2004 graduate of Marquette High School, Zachary was known for his passion for American history, patriotism, and academic excellence.

To those who knew him, it was no surprise that Zachary decided to serve his country by enlisting in the Army Reserves in 2006. In 2007, he was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and later, in December 2009, to Afghanistan.

Tragically, on July 14, 2010, Sergeant Fisher and seven of his fellow soldiers were killed in Afghanistan after insurgents attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device. For his honorable service, Sergeant Fisher received numerous military awards, including the NATO Medal, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart. Sergeant Fisher is survived by his wife, Jessica, his parents and five siblings.

Having myself served in Active Duty and still in the Reserves, I honor Sergeant Fisher's outstanding service and sacrifice to our Nation, and also the sacrifice of his family.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill and remember the brave leadership of Sergeant Zachary Fisher and honor the ultimate sacrifice he made for our Nation. I urge the passage of H.R. 322.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my deep honor to support something that would honor the life, the sacrifice, and the commitment of the patriotism of Sergeant Fisher.

I hope his family knows and internalizes how grateful his country is, how men and women across the country thank the young people who step up and serve their Nation.

So we recognize Army Sergeant Zachary M. Fisher, and I urge the passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 322.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

SGT. AMANDA N. PINSON POST OFFICE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 323) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 323

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SGT. AMANDA N. PINSON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 323, which is introduced and championed by Congresswoman ANN WAGNER, which designates this post office in St. Louis, Missouri, as the Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office.

We love people like this who step up and serve their Nation and to be able to recognize this person, their family, and their community. We are so grateful to be able to remember the great sacrifices that they have made. The person who is in the best position to discuss this is Congresswoman ANN WAGNER.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of an American hero. On March 16, 2006, Missouri's Second Congressional District lost a brave young soldier when United States Army Sergeant Amanda N. Pinson was killed in a mortar attack while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom. I would like to take a moment to reflect on the life of this courageous young woman.

Army Sergeant Amanda Pinson was a signals intelligence analyst assigned to the 101st Military Intelligence Detachment of the 101st Airborne Division, based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The Screaming Eagles are personal to me. My oldest son, Raymond, is presently serving as a captain in the 101st Airborne.

Growing up in Lemay, Missouri, Amanda enlisted in the Army after graduating from Hancock Place High School, where she won several scholarships and was on the basketball and softball teams.

Amanda was always concerned with helping others. In high school, she started her own group called the Hancock Environmental Leadership Program, and she enlisted all of her friends to join her in making a difference.

Amanda and her group of dedicated volunteers planted trees at local parks and volunteered with local seniors. The group also planted and maintained flowers at the entrance of Jefferson Barracks Park. The park where she used to plant flowers is adjoined to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, where Amanda was laid to rest. A pink willow tree was also planted in her honor at her alma mater, Hancock High School, in 2006.

Amanda clearly had the respect and the admiration of her fellow soldiers. She was described as a "model soldier" and "a breath of fresh air" by Lieutenant Colonel Lucinda Lane, who spoke at her service.

Following her death, Sergeant Pinson was awarded a Bronze Star, a

Good Conduct Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Medal, and a Purple Heart. Her impact on the people privileged to know her is evidenced by the several memorials that honor her life.

In 2006, the U.S. Army honored Amanda by dedicating the building where she worked in Tikrit, Iraq, naming it Pinson Hall.

Amanda is survived by her mother, Chris; her father, Tony; and her younger brother, Bryan.

The Sgt. Amanda M. Pinson Post Office will join the other memorials in her honor as a testament to the bravery, valor, and kindness of this American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for her country.

It is my honor to sponsor H.R. 323, a bill that names the Affton Branch, Grasso Plaza Post Office after such a courageous young woman, immortalizing a hero who gave up her life in service to the Nation that she loved. May it bring comfort to her family and their friends and give witness to Sergeant Pinson's bravery and sacrifice. To quote the face that adorns so many tributes and memorials to Amanda: "If love could have saved you, you would have lived forever."

So today on behalf of a grateful nation, I say: Thank you, Amanda. You are indeed loved.

□ 1400

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 323, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service in St. Louis, Missouri, as the Sergeant Amanda N. Pinson Post Office.

As has been stated, she was a native of St. Louis, Missouri, and attended the high school there. Not only was Amanda one of the top students in her class, she enjoyed the opportunity to participate in sports and excelled in them, all while earning numerous academic scholarships.

She enlisted in the military, and she served her country. She was assigned to the 101st Military Intelligence Detachment out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where she served as a signals intelligence analyst.

It has been stated that, while she was deployed to Iraq in 2006, Sergeant Pinson was tragically killed by a mortar round on March 16. She was the first female signals intelligence analyst to ever be killed in combat.

Sergeant Pinson was honored by having the Army's new cryptology center named in her honor and her memory. Additionally, Sergeant Pinson's parents accepted a Bronze Star, a Good Conduct Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Medal and a Purple Heart for their daughter's commendable military service.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to remember Sergeant Amanda Pinson's unselfish dedication to bettering the lives of those around her

and for her ultimate sacrifice she so bravely made.

I urge the passage of H.R. 323.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this bill. It is appropriate that the United States Congress honor Sergeant Pinson.

I hope that her family will always know how much this Nation is grateful for this young woman's service and sacrifice to her country.

She was only 21 years old—21 years old. She answered the call, stepped up, served her Nation. While her life was taken, I think the inspiration and dedication that she gave her Nation should always be remembered.

I thank Congresswoman ANN WAGNER for bringing this to the attention of the Congress and championing it through.

I urge the passage of H.R. 323.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 323.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LT. DANIEL P. RIORDAN POST OFFICE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 324) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office."

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 324

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LT. DANIEL P. RIORDAN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We are here today to honor Lieutenant Daniel P. Riordan with a post office naming in St. Louis, Missouri. This has been brought to our attention by Congresswoman ANN WAGNER.

I appreciate her championing this through the Congress. She is in the best position to give the background and the reasoning for the naming of this post office.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman very, very much for his indulgence in these three post office namings.

I thank the ranking member, also.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of a brave young man from Missouri's Second Congressional District. On June 23, 2007, Missouri's Second Congressional District lost a true American hero when United States Army First Lieutenant Daniel Riordan made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the life of this young patriot. Daniel Patrick Riordan was born to Rick and Jeanine Riordan on February 17, 1983.

He had a twin brother, Nick, and an older sister, Suzanne. After graduating from Vianney High School in Kirkwood, Missouri, Dan attended Southeast Missouri State, where he was in the Air Force's ROTC program.

After graduation, Dan decided to follow his father into the military and joined the U.S. Army, quickly becoming known as Lieutenant Dan.

Lieutenant Dan became a tank commander, and in 2006 he was deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a member of Demon Company in the 1st Cavalry Division, Dan served with courage and determination.

Despite frequently being outnumbered in enemy territory, Dan was always out on point, leading his platoon into battle. Dan took his leadership responsibilities literally. As he put it: How can I order my men forward if I am not willing to go first?

To those who knew Dan, his devotion to his country through service and sacrifice came as no surprise. He was both a fierce and dedicated warrior in the service of our country and a caring and loving gentleman who felt a duty to help those in need.

From a very young age, Dan showed sensitivity beyond his years. At the age of 5 or 6, while attending a funeral, Dan's mom found him sitting with an elderly woman.

When she asked him why he was sitting with her, he said she looked sad and lonely. It was this kind of compassion that drew him to the United States military: his desire to serve, help, and protect those in need.

While at home on leave from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Dan consistently reassured his family that our country's military efforts were truly bringing empowerment and freedom to the people of Iraq. He believed in a cause greater than himself, that of freedom, democracy, and the dignity of all people.

While in the Army, Dan wrote his mother a letter in case he didn't return. One thing that he said was: Don't mourn for me, Mom. Celebrate my life.

Today we celebrate First Lieutenant Daniel P. Riordan's life by designating the Sappington Branch Post Office in St. Louis, Missouri, as the Lieutenant Daniel P. Riordan Post Office.

The United States of America owes Dan a priceless debt that we will never be able to fully repay, but we can do our part to ensure that his memory lives on.

Therefore, it is my honor to sponsor H.R. 324, a bill that names the Sappington Branch Post Office after such a courageous young man, immortalizing a hero who gave up his life in the service to the Nation that he loved.

This legislation will serve as a testament to the dedication and sacrifice of First Lieutenant Daniel Riordan, standing as a physical reminder of the bravery of one American from Missouri's Second Congressional District.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 324, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service in St. Louis, Missouri, as Lieutenant Daniel Riordan Post Office.

Daniel Riordan was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and then later at the age of 5 moved to St. Louis, Missouri. There he attended the high school of St. John Vianney.

While attending college at Southeast Missouri State University, Daniel worked for the Department of Public Safety and the Jackson Sheriff's Department.

In pursuit of his childhood dream of becoming a fighter pilot, Daniel also joined the university's Air Force ROTC program.

Upon graduation, Daniel was commissioned in the U.S. Army, beginning his career in the infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia.

By 2006, he had become a tank commander of the Blue Platoon. In October of that year, his unit deployed for a 15-month tour to Iraq.

Lieutenant Riordan survived many attacks from explosive devices with only minor wounds, and he was proud of his unit's brave actions on behalf of the Iraqi citizens.

Sadly, in June of 2007, a massive IED explosion instantly took the lives of Lieutenant Riordan and four others in his unit. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 324 to remember the brave leadership of

Lieutenant Daniel Riordan and to honor the sacrifices he made for the love of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I urge the passage of H.R. 324. Lieutenant Riordan served with great courage and sacrifice for his Nation.

I hope his family, friends, and colleagues, those around him will look to him for inspiration, somebody who steps up and answers the call of their country.

I only hope and pray that his family knows how much we all care across the country for people like Lieutenant Riordan. I appreciate the help on both sides of the aisle to get this passed.

I really appreciate Congresswoman WAGNER, who brought this to everybody's attention and really pushed to get it done. I hope we find it in our hearts to pass this appropriate bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 324.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RICHARD "DICK" CHENAULT POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 558) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, as the Richard "Dick" Chenault Post Office Building.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 558

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RICHARD "DICK" CHENAULT POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the "Richard 'Dick' Chenault Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Richard 'Dick' Chenault Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

□ 1415

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 558, introduced by Mr. CHABOT. It is a very appropriate bill, recognizing someone in the community.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding.

I rise today to speak on behalf of H.R. 558, which names the post office in Springboro, Ohio, after Richard Chenault.

Mr. Chenault was born in Xenia, Ohio, on December 26, 1925. He was married to his wife, Phyllis, for 63 years. They have four children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He was a lifelong resident of Springboro and Clearcreek Township before passing away in November 2010.

Throughout his life, Richard Chenault dedicated himself to serving his community and his Nation. A World War II veteran, Mr. Chenault served in the United States Army's First Cavalry Division from 1944 to 1946, including a year in occupied Japan. Upon returning to Ohio after the war, he sought a career in which he could continue to serve, this time in his local community. He found that opportunity with the U.S. Postal Service, where he was one of the first letter carriers for the Springboro Post Office. He served his community as an employee of the post office for 22 years.

But Richard Chenault's dedication to his community and his neighbors didn't stop there. He was a member of the Clearcreek Township Volunteer Fire Department for 45 years, and he served as chief of the department for 23 of those years. Additionally, he was a part-time police officer during the fifties, sixties, and early 1970s, and was a charter member of the Springboro Lions Club, which was founded in 1953. He didn't miss a meeting for 57 years. Somehow he even found time to frequently mow lawns, shovel snow, and check on his elderly neighbors.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Chenault was adored and revered by the Springboro community. When he passed, his obituary in the Dayton Daily News was headlined, "Springboro Icon Dies," and he had one of the largest funerals in Springboro history.

Since his passing, members of the community have sought the best way to honor a man who did so much for so many. Fittingly, the community has rallied to remember him by naming their local post office the Richard Chenault Post Office, as it was the post office that allowed Mr. Chenault to do what he loved best: serve his neighbors.

I ask for your support in honoring this extraordinary public servant by supporting this bill.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 558, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service in Springboro, Ohio, as the Richard "Dick" Chenault Post Office Building.

We have heard the amazing career and service of Mr. Chenault. It includes service to his country in many ways. Serving during World War II, he returned back to his community and continued to serve. He was well-known as a friendly face in Springboro. He became the first letter carrier when the postal delivery started in 1965, and he continued to do so until his retirement in 1988.

I want to take the time to note that postal service employment is a form of service to our country and to our citizens. That is included in his resume of service, and it is deserving of recognition.

He served in the volunteer fire department as their chief. He served as a deputy policeman. He also was involved in community groups, such as being a charter member of the Lions Club. He had an unwavering commitment to service in his community. One thing that is notable is that Mr. Chenault had perfect attendance at the Lions Club for 57 years.

Mr. Chenault is survived by his family, but also by the community that he served. Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to recognize Dick Chenault's devotion to public service and the impact that he made on his community and those fortunate enough to know him.

I would also note that this is an example of an individual who, at every level he was given an opportunity to serve, he did. It is with such honor that we should give him, his family, and those who knew him this recognition by naming the post office after him. I urge passage of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

From what I know about Mr. Chenault, he was a great American. I am proud that Congressman STEVE CHABOT brought this up and moved this bill, because he did everything as an American. He served his country. He served his community. He served his family. He was a volunteer firefighter, fire chief, part-time police officer, and a charter member and president of the Lions Club. For more than 50 years, he had a perfect attendance at the Lions Club. My goodness.

He was somebody who gave back to his community and somebody who I would hope young people will learn more about when they see the designation of this post office. We thank his family. We thank him for his service to his country, his family, and his community.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 558.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OFFICER DARYL R. PIERSON MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1884) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, as the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1884

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. OFFICER DARYL R. PIERSON MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We are preparing and supporting the designation of a post office for a great American. This is brought to our attention and introduced by Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER. It is probably most appropriate that she be the one to tell us more about this person's background, this person's life, and why we should name this post office after him. It is a great American story.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER).

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to honor a great young man whom the Rochester, New York, community continues to mourn and seeks to memorialize.

On September 3 of last year, Rochester Police Officer Daryl R. Pierson was killed in the line of duty. His job with the Rochester Police Department's tactical unit was important to all of us. He was recognized for working to remove illegal guns from the streets.

While securing our neighborhoods and ensuring that our children were safe, Officer Pierson paid the ultimate price at the young age of 32. He was the first Rochester Police Department officer killed by gunfire in the line of duty since 1959, and our community will not forget him.

He left behind a wife, Amy Pierson—a young widow now—and two young children, Christian and Charity. It brings me great sadness to know that he will not be able to see them grow up and that they will only know him now from memory.

Officer Pierson's death traumatized the entire community, which came together in mourning. Over a thousand police officers and citizens of our area attended his funeral at the War Memorial Building.

But he served far more than what he did in the police department. He served as a member of the National Guard. He was also an Army veteran of the war in Afghanistan. After all that, he came home to try to make his community safer. He died trying to do that. He was a devoted police officer who did his best every single day of his life.

The bill before us would rename the United States Post Office in his hometown community of East Rochester, New York, after him. It would be a wonderful tribute to his service. The most important thing is that every citizen of East Rochester and anyone else who uses that post office will never go into that door without remembering Daryl Pierson and who he was and what he did.

I think Daryl's mother summed it up better than anyone could. She said: "Daryl lived as a hero; he didn't have to die to be a hero."

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 1884, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located in East Rochester, New York, as the Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building.

A native of East Rochester, New York, Daryl Pierson graduated from East Rochester High School and attended Monroe Community College. He served our country in Afghanistan before he began his service in the Rochester Police Force.

It is said his calming demeanor and ability to deal with chaotic situations made him a perfect fit for the depart-

ment's tactical unit. As a member of that unit, Officer Pierson received numerous awards, including the 2013 Good Conduct Award, and 11 letters of recognition from the police chief. In addition to his service in Afghanistan and his service as a police officer, he continued to serve as a member of the National Guard.

It was a sad night on September 3 when Officer Pierson was shot and killed in the line of duty while pursuing a suspect after a traffic stop. He leaves behind a family and a community and country that he served.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to remember Officer Pierson and honor his years of dedicated public service and his ultimate sacrifice in order to protect his community. I urge the passage of H.R. 1884.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great American. He was serving his country. He served his community. As Congresswoman SLAUGHTER brought up, this was a well-supported person within the community.

My heart goes out to his wife, Amy, and their two children, Christian and Charity. They are very young children, but I hope that they remember their father served this country nobly in the United States Army in Afghanistan and in the Army National Guard, putting his life on the line so that other young families could be safe and protected.

I hope that his legacy continues on and that, truly, this post office naming will serve as a reminder to all those in the community and our country that these great people step up, serve their country, serve their community, and they are loved by families and they do tough, difficult things that, quite frankly, a lot of other Americans wouldn't do. We honor him this day. We encourage the passage of Congresswoman SLAUGHTER's bill, H.R. 1884.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1430

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1884.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAMES ROBERT KALSU POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3059) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, as the "James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3059

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JAMES ROBERT KALSU POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, shall be known and designated as the “James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support today of H.R. 3059. Congressman STEVE RUSSELL, who has served this country in a very noble way, has brought this to our attention, introduced this bill, and shepherded it through the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. We would be honored, I think, all of us, to name this post office after such a great American.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) to tell us more about this amazing person.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, this measure is to memorialize the service of Bob Kalsu by designating the post office in Del City, Oklahoma, to carry his name.

Bob was born as James Robert Kalsu and attended Del City High School in Del City, Oklahoma, my alma mater and my hometown.

At 6'3" and 235 pounds, he was an All-American offensive tackle in 1967, playing for the University of Oklahoma as they won the Big Eight Conference Title.

The Buffalo Bills of New York selected him in the eighth round of the 1968 college draft, but he quickly proved himself by earning the team's Rookie of the Year award in his first American football league season as guard. It would also be his final season of professional football.

Bob had made an ROTC commitment, earning a commission in the field artillery in college. In late 1969, he was called to duty in the Republic of Vietnam.

He was told that, as a pro football player, arrangements could be made

where he wouldn't have to serve, but Bob would have none of it.

He said: I gave my word to my country. Just because I play professional football doesn't make me any better of a man or any different of a man than the men already serving our country. I'm going to live up to that commitment and the word I gave.

Bob deployed to the 101st Airborne Division, leaving behind his beloved wife, Jan, who was pregnant, and a 10-month-old daughter named Jill.

On July 21, 1970, only 8 months into his tour of duty, First Lieutenant Bob Kalsu was killed in action at Fire Support Base Ripcord on an isolated jungle mountaintop near the Ashau Valley, Thua Thien, South Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Bob was survived by his wife, Jan, his daughter, Jill, and son, James Robert Kalsu, Jr., born 2 days after he was killed in action.

Bob Kalsu was the only active professional football player killed in the Vietnam War.

He has been further memorialized as the namesake of FOB or Camp Kalsu in Iraq, a base where thousands of Americans served from 2003 to 2011.

As long as we have breath we will remember him. This act allows others who live after us to do so as well.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of this fallen American hero.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 3059, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service in Del City, Oklahoma, as the James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building.

We have heard about this amazing individual who was blessed with such amazing athletic skills, who was selected to play football at the University of Oklahoma and received All-American honors in 1967, leading his team to a 10-1 record and an Orange Bowl win.

The following year, after being drafted into the NFL, the Buffalo Bills, and starting in 9 of his 14 appearances, he was again recognized as Rookie of the Year.

It was more than his efforts on the football field that made Robert or Bob Kalsu a standout. He always put others first and chose to lead by example. He joined the ROTC at the University of Oklahoma and took to heart the pledge he made to serve his country in the Army.

While many athletes elected to serve in the Reserves, he insisted that he was no better than anyone else and choose to serve on Active Duty.

We know that, after 8 months of being stationed in Lawton, Oklahoma, Lieutenant Bob Kalsu received orders to go to Vietnam, and less than 1 year later, in 1970, he was killed by enemy fire.

It is significant to note he is the only active NFL player to give his life in Vietnam and one of only a handful of professional athletes to serve in Active Duty. Lieutenant Kalsu is survived by a family and, amazingly, a son, who was born just 2 days after his tragic death.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to honor this individual, Lieutenant Bob Kalsu, and recognize the last full measure of devotion he made on behalf of our great country.

I urge the passage of H.R. 3059.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say, as this is our last post office naming that we have on the floor tonight, that so many of us go to postal facilities across the country.

I was a postal employee for 30 years, and I know the service that is given in a Postal Service.

But the ability to name a building in a community where so many of us go, I would like Americans to pause and recognize the names that are given to these facilities.

Do take the time to learn about these individuals. This is done so that their service will never be forgotten and that, as we go about our day, it is one of the things that we can do to give tribute to make sure that their service is not forgotten and to give some comfort to the families who lost someone in service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank Congressman STEVE RUSSELL for highlighting this person and his life because he truly was an All-American in every sense of the word.

He serves as an inspiration to a lot of people, and I do hope that his loved ones will remember him fondly for the great sacrifice that he gave and commitment that he gave to his country, as did millions of other Americans. It is appropriate that we recognize them.

And, as was said, I do hope that, as Americans, when we go into these post offices, we recognize people like Mr. Kalsu, who put everything on the line to serve and sacrifice for their country to give us the freedoms that we have here today, that we don't take them for granted, that there are men and women who serve who step up and answer the call of their country. And certainly Mr. Kalsu did that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3059.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SGT. ZACHARY M. FISHER POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 322) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the “Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office”, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 0, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 507]
YEAS—405

Abraham	Costa	Granger
Adams	Costello (PA)	Graves (GA)
Aderholt	Courtney	Graves (LA)
Aguilar	Cramer	Graves (MO)
Allen	Crawford	Grayson
Amash	Crenshaw	Green, Al
Ashford	Crowley	Green, Gene
Babin	Cuellar	Griffith
Bass	Culberson	Grothman
Beatty	Cummings	Guinta
Becerra	Curbelo (FL)	Guthrie
Benishkek	Davis (CA)	Gutiérrez
Bera	Davis, Rodney	Hahn
Beyer	DeFazio	Hanna
Bilirakis	DeGette	Hardy
Bishop (GA)	Delaney	Harper
Bishop (MI)	DeLauro	Harris
Black	DelBene	Hartzler
Blackburn	Denham	Hastings
Blum	Dent	Heck (WA)
Blumenauer	DeSantis	Hensarling
Bonamici	DeSaulnier	Herrera Beutler
Bost	DesJarlais	Hice, Jody B.
Boustany	Deutsch	Higgins
Boyle, Brendan	Diaz-Balart	Hill
F.	Dingell	Himes
Brady (PA)	Doggett	Hinojosa
Brady (TX)	Dold	Holding
Brat	Donovan	Honda
Bridenstine	Doyle, Michael	Hoyer
Brooks (IN)	F.	Huelskamp
Brown (FL)	Duckworth	Huffman
Brownley (CA)	Duffy	Huizenga (MI)
Bucshon	Duncan (SC)	Hultgren
Burgess	Duncan (TN)	Hunter
Bustos	Edwards	Hurd (TX)
Butterfield	Ellison	Hurt (VA)
Byrne	Ellmers (NC)	Israel
Calvert	Emmer (MN)	Issa
Capps	Engel	Jackson Lee
Capuano	Eshoo	Jeffries
Cardenas	Esty	Jenkins (KS)
Carney	Farenthold	Jenkins (WV)
Carson (IN)	Farr	Johnson (GA)
Carter (GA)	Fattah	Johnson (OH)
Carter (TX)	Fincher	Johnson, E. B.
Castor (FL)	Fitzpatrick	Johnson, Sam
Castro (TX)	Fleischmann	Jordan
Chabot	Fleming	Joyce
Chaffetz	Flores	Kaptur
Chu, Judy	Forbes	Katko
Cicilline	Fortenberry	Keating
Clark (MA)	Foster	Kelly (IL)
Clarke (NY)	Fox	Kelly (MS)
Clawson (FL)	Frankel (FL)	Kelly (PA)
Clay	Franks (AZ)	Kennedy
Cleaver	Frelinghuysen	Kildee
Clyburn	Fudge	Kilmer
Coffman	Gabbard	Kind
Cohen	Galleo	King (IA)
Cole	Garamendi	King (NY)
Collins (GA)	Garrett	Kinzinger (IL)
Collins (NY)	Gibbs	Kirkpatrick
Comstock	Gibson	Kline
Conaway	Gohmert	Knight
Connolly	Goodlatte	Kuster
Conyers	Gosar	Labrador
Cook	Gowdy	LaHood
Cooper	Graham	LaMalfa

Lamborn	Pallone	Sherman
Lance	Palmer	Shimkus
Langevin	Pascrell	Sinema
Larsen (WA)	Paulsen	Sires
Larson (CT)	Payne	Slaughter
Latta	Pearce	Smith (MO)
Lawrence	Pelosi	Smith (NE)
Lee	Perlmutter	Smith (NJ)
Levin	Perry	Smith (TX)
Lewis	Peters	Smith (WA)
Lieu, Ted	Peterson	Speier
Lipinski	Pingree	Stefanik
LoBiondo	Pittenger	Stivers
Loeb sack	Pitts	Stutzman
Lofgren	Pocan	Swalwell (CA)
Loudermilk	Poe (TX)	Takai
Love	Poliquin	Takano
Lowenthal	Polis	Thompson (CA)
Lowey	Pompeo	Thompson (MS)
Lucas	Posey	Thompson (PA)
Luetkemeyer	Price (NC)	Thornberry
Lujan Grisham	Quigley	Tiberi
(NM)	Rangel	Tipton
Luján, Ben Ray	Ratcliffe	Titus
(NM)	Reed	Tonko
Lummis	Reichert	Torres
Lynch	Renacci	Trott
MacArthur	Ribble	Turner
Maloney, Sean	Rice (NY)	Upton
Marino	Rice (SC)	Valadao
Masse	Richmond	Van Hollen
Matsui	Rigell	Vargas
McCarthy	Roby	Veasey
McCaull	Roe (TN)	Vela
McClintock	Rogers (AL)	Velázquez
McDermott	Rogers (KY)	Visclosky
McGovern	Rohrabacher	Wagner
McHenry	Rokita	Walberg
McKinley	Rooney (FL)	Walden
McMorris	Ros-Lehtinen	Walker
Rodgers	Roskam	Walorski
McNerney	Ross	Walters, Mimi
McSally	Rothfus	Walz
Meadows	Rouzer	Wasserman
Meehan	Roybal-Allard	Schultz
Meeks	Royce	Waters, Maxine
Meng	Ruiz	Watson Coleman
Messer	Ruppersberger	Weber (TX)
Mica	Rush	Webster (FL)
Miller (FL)	Russell	Welch
Miller (MI)	Ryan (OH)	Wenstrup
Mooney (WV)	Ryan (WI)	Westerman
Moore	Salmon	Westmoreland
Moulton	Sánchez, Linda	Whitfield
Mullin	T.	Wilson (FL)
Mulvaney	Sanchez, Loretta	Wilson (SC)
Murphy (PA)	Sanford	Wittman
Napolitano	Sarbanes	Womack
Neal	Scalise	Woodall
Neugebauer	Schakowsky	Yarmuth
Newhouse	Schiff	Yoder
Noem	Schrader	Yoho
Nolan	Schweikert	Young (AK)
Norcross	Scott (VA)	Young (IA)
Nugent	Scott, Austin	Young (IN)
Nunes	Sensenbrenner	Zeldin
O'Rourke	Serrano	Zinke
Olson	Sessions	
Palazzo	Sewell (AL)	

NOT VOTING—29

Amodei	Grijalva	Moolenaar
Barletta	Heck (NV)	Murphy (FL)
Barr	Hudson	Nadler
Barton	Jolly	Price, Tom
Bishop (UT)	Jones	Scott, David
Brooks (AL)	Long	Shuster
Buchanan	Maloney,	Simpson
Buck	Carolyn	Stewart
Cartwright	Marchant	Tsongas
Davis, Danny	McCollum	Williams

□ 1511

Mr. RANGEL changed his vote from “present” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESPONSIBLY AND PROFESSIONALLY INVIGORATING DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 348.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia? There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 420 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 348.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1514

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 348) to provide for improved coordination of agency actions in the preparation and adoption of environmental documents for permitting determinations, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

□ 1515

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

America's voters sent the 114th Congress to Washington to help turn around this Nation's struggling economy.

For more than 6½ long years, America's families and workers have been waiting for the Obama administration to join with Congress to pass measures that will adequately restore jobs and growth to our land. The job clearly has not been finished.

Throughout the Obama administration, America's growth rate has been historically anemic. The truest measure of unemployment—the rate that includes both discouraged workers and those who cannot find a full-time job—remains over 10 percent. Our labor force participation rate remains mired among historic lows.

Median real household income, meanwhile, is 5 percent lower than in June 2009, when the recession officially ended. Median incomes are supposed to rise during economic recoveries, not fall. The Obama administration has managed to buck the historical trend.

However, the President at least pays lip service to the need to unleash construction projects. If one thinks back

to the start of the Obama administration, one can remember President Obama's plan to solve the Great Recession with the nearly \$1 trillion stimulus bill.

The stimulus was supposed to work, according to the President, because America had shovel-ready projects from which new, good-paying jobs would be created once the stimulus was enacted and the money was doled out.

While many, including myself, disagreed with the fundamental premise of the stimulus bill, the President blamed his stimulus bill's failure on the lack of shovel-ready projects. As he put it, "Shovel-ready was not as shovel-ready as we expected."

Mr. Chairman, that is the problem that today's legislation—the RAPID Act—is intended to solve.

This legislation fulfills post-stimulus bill calls of leaders in Congress, the White House, the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness, and the private sector to streamline the review of Federal construction permit applications. It contains well-thought-out, balanced reforms that provide for more efficient and effective decision-making.

Stated succinctly, the RAPID Act gives lead Federal agencies more responsibility to conduct and conclude efficient interagency reviews of permit requests, demands that any entity challenging a final permitting decision in court first have presented the substance of its claims during the agency review process, and requires that lawsuits challenging permitting decisions be filed within 6 months of the decisions, not 6 years, as the law currently allows.

These are simple, but powerful, reforms that will allow good projects to move forward more quickly, delivering high-quality jobs and improvements to Americans' daily lives.

Prior iterations of the RAPID Act passed the House three times during the 112th and 113th Congresses, each time with bipartisan support.

Once enacted, this legislation will help to create millions of high-paying jobs and make government decision-making more efficient and effective.

Importantly, it will also continue to ensure that the impacts of new projects on the environment can be considered responsibly before permitting decisions are made.

I thank Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee Chairman MARINO of Pennsylvania for introducing this legislation.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for the RAPID Act.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My colleagues, I rise in rather strong opposition to the measure before us, H.R. 348, the Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2015, or its nickname, the RAPID Act.

H.R. 348 has a number of flaws. I won't try to go into each and every one

of them. Most critically, this measure would jeopardize public safety and health by prioritizing project approval over meaningful analysis that is currently required under the National Environmental Policy Act.

By giving the proponents of construction projects greater control over the environmental approval process, this bill is the equivalent of giving Wall Street the authority to write its own regulations for financial responsibility. The bill accomplishes this result in several respects.

To begin with, under the guise of streamlining the approval process, H.R. 348 forecloses potentially critical input from Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as from members of the public, to comment on environmentally sensitive construction projects that are federally funded or that require Federal approval.

The bill also imposes hard and fast deadlines that may be unrealistic under certain circumstances. Moreover, if an agency fails to meet these unrealistic deadlines, the bill simply declares that a project must be deemed approved regardless of whether the agency has thoroughly assessed the task. This is an embarrassment, my friends.

As a result, H.R. 348 could allow projects that put public health and safety at risk to be approved before the safety review is completed.

This failing of the bill, along with some others, explains why the administration and the President's Council on Environmental Quality, along with more than 40 respected environmental groups, vigorously oppose this legislation before us today.

These organizations include Public Citizen, the League of Conservation Voters, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club, and The Wilderness Society. Likewise, the administration has appropriately issued a veto threat.

Stating that the bill will increase litigation, regulatory delays, and potentially force agencies to approve a project if the review and analysis cannot be completed before the proposed arbitrary deadlines, the administration warns that, if H.R. 348 ever became law, it would lead to more confusion and delay, limit public participation in the permitting process, and, ultimately, hamper economic growth.

Another concern, among many, that I have with this measure is that it is a flawed solution in search of an imaginary problem, and that is not just my opinion.

The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, for instance, states that highway construction project delays based on environmental requirements stem not from the National Environmental Policy Act, but from laws other than the National Environmental Policy Act.

In fact, the Congressional Research Service found that the primary source of approval delays for these projects

are more often tied to local or State and project-specific factors, primarily local or State agency priorities, project funding levels, local opposition to a project, project complexity, or late changes in project scope.

Undoubtedly, the so-called RAPID Act will make the process less clear and less protective of public health and safety.

My final major concern with this bill is that, rather than streamlining the environmental review process, which we need to do, it will sow utter confusion.

H.R. 348 does this by creating a separate, but only partly parallel, environmental review process for construction projects, which will cause confusion, delay, and litigation.

As I have noted, the changes to the National Environmental Policy Act's review process, as contemplated by the measure before us today, apply only to certain construction projects.

The National Environmental Policy Act, on the other hand, applies to a broad panoply of Federal actions, including fishing, hunting, and grazing permits, land management plans, Base Realignment and Closure activities, and treaties.

As a result of the bill, there could potentially be two different environmental review processes for the same project.

For instance, the bill's requirements would apply to the construction of a nuclear reactor, but not to its decommissioning or to the transportation and storage of its spent fuel.

Rather than improving the environmental review process, the measure before us will complicate it and generate more litigation. More importantly, this bill is yet another effort by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to undermine regulatory protections.

As with all of the other regulatory bills, this measure is a thinly disguised effort to hobble the ability of Federal agencies to do the work the Congress requires that it does.

For those reasons, I urge my colleagues to strenuously oppose this seriously flawed bill.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO), the chief sponsor of this legislation and the chairman of the Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. MARINO. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Chairman, once again, my good friends on the other side think we need more government, more EPA overreach, more regulation, to continue the \$19 trillion of debt that we have and to continue the flawed job opportunities of this administration's over the past 6 years.

Once again, today we consider the RAPID Act. As the gentleman from Virginia stated, during the 112th and

113th Congresses, the House passed this bill on three separate occasions in a bipartisan fashion.

Once again, we are considering a number of important regulatory reforms that present the potential for immediately impactful economic growth across our Nation.

Our Federal permitting process is undeniably broken. Duplicative environmental reviews have clogged decision-making for years.

Although recent studies have shown that, on average, an environmental impact study will take 3 to 4 years, the permitting process for many projects takes years more or, sadly, even decades.

Even more disappointing are indications that average environmental review times are increasing by over a month per year.

Furthermore, final decision-making has been driven by political whims rather than by the merits of any particular project that would be borne through economic growth and job creation.

Political pressure should never impede projects of worth that would get Americans back to work. One recent study found that 7 years of delay on the Keystone pipeline have kept us from realizing nearly \$175 billion in potential economic activity. At a time when true economic recovery lags and more Americans become disheartened and leave the workforce, such delays are unacceptable.

The RAPID Act reforms remove government obstructions from the equation by implementing hard deadlines for environmental review, and they shorten the window for judicial review. It doesn't take review away. It shortens it to a reasonable period of time.

We cannot delay while our infrastructure—from highways and bridges to transmission lines and waterways—crumbles around us in America's counties, towns, and cities.

I look forward to working with our colleagues in the Senate to bring this bill to the President's desk, and I hope that we can get this country working again.

Federal agencies and departments and employees have to be held accountable just like we are in private industry. They cannot sit back and let these permits and these issues stack up on their desks while they play games on their computers.

I have hope that we can get this bill through and the country working again. Please support the RAPID Act.

□ 1530

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I yield 8 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON), the ranking subcommittee member.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 348, the Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act, or the RAPID Act. But if I had my druthers, I would change it to the "Responsibly

and Professionally Invigorating Diver-sion Act," or RAPID Act.

I would say that it is a diversion because we have got important work to do in this Chamber, Mr. Chair. Everybody knows that we are approaching the end of the fiscal year. It will be here in 6 short days.

During this whole month of September—we are at September 24 today—we have had a total of 8 legislative days during this month, knowing that we are coming up to the end of the fiscal year and we need to pass a spending bill to keep the government open and operating. We have been knowing this.

We spent 6 weeks in August, from July to September, a total of about 6 weeks at home lounging while the Nation's business in Washington, D.C., went undone. We have spent a total of 8 legislative days out of the 24 days in September doing everything other than addressing the looming issue, which is the coming, or impending, government shutdown.

Now, we are here today. We just took one vote. This is the first legislative day of this week. We have got one business day left. The first legislative day, after hearing from the Pope, we have just had our last vote for the day. It was our one and only vote for the day, and it was to rename a post office.

We are coming up on the government shutdown, and what are we dealing with? Instead of dealing with the Nation's finances, we are dealing with this RAPID Act, which, as I said, is a diversion from the real duty that we need to be taking care of today.

H.R. 348, the RAPID Act, is a misguided attempt to sow widespread confusion and delay in the review and permitting process under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

For over 40 years, the approval process for projects under NEPA has saved time, money, and protected the environment, which the Pope spoke of our need to protect today. In fact, since NEPA was enacted, the U.S. economy has not contracted. It has actually tripled in size from just over \$5 trillion to more than \$16 trillion.

Among other things, NEPA requires agencies to prepare a detailed environmental review for proposals relating to "major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." NEPA's purpose is to provide a framework for wide-ranging input from all affected interests when a Federal agency conducts an environmental review of a proposed project.

H.R. 348, the so-called RAPID Act, upends this review process in three ways:

First, H.R. 348 carves out a separate environmental review process for construction projects. Currently, NEPA applies to a broad range of Federal projects, including hunting permits, land management plans, military base realignment and closure activities, and treaties. In contrast, H.R. 348 only applies to a subset of these Federal

projects, creating more regulatory complexity in the permitting system, not less.

Second, section (c) of the RAPID Act allows any project sponsor to prepare an environmental document in lieu of such analysis by the lead agency. It is not difficult to imagine the shortcomings of allowing corporations, which seek to maximize shareholder value, to sit in the driver's seat on environmental policy. In fact, that is why we have such environmental degradation today.

During a legislative hearing on H.R. 348, Amit Narang, a regulatory policy advocate for Public Citizen, compared section (c) to "asking big banks to determine the costs and benefits of new Wall Street reform rules, or big energy companies to determine the costs and benefits of new climate change or air pollution measures."

The inherent conflict of interest built into this section reveals the bill's clear design to allow project sponsors to manipulate the NEPA permit approval process to the greatest extent possible. It is clear that not only does this Republican bill task the fox with guarding the henhouse, it would also have him install the chicken wire as well.

Finally, under section (i) of H.R. 348, if an agency fails to meet the unrealistic deadlines mandated by H.R. 348, the bill would automatically greenlight a Federal construction project, regardless of whether or not the agency has thoroughly reviewed the project's risks.

Even if I were to set aside these concerns, it is difficult for me to look past the complete lack of empirical data supporting the premise of the RAPID Act, which is that agency compliance with NEPA is the cause of delays in approving permits.

The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service reported in 2012 that project approval delays based on environmental requirements are not caused by NEPA, but "are more often tied to local/State and project-specific factors, primarily local/State agency priorities, project funding levels, local opposition to a project, project complexity, or late changes in project scope."

Similarly, Dinah Bear, who served as the general counsel for the White House Council on Environmental Quality which oversees NEPA's implementation, for over 20 years under both Republican and Democratic administrations, testified in the 112th Congress that most delays in the environmental review process are not the result of NEPA, but due to other factors entirely unrelated to NEPA.

In other words, the RAPID Act does nothing to address the lack of adequate funds allocated to Federal construction projects or State-based barriers to the timely completion of construction projects, which are two of the most common delays and have nothing to do with regulatory permits under NEPA.

So, therefore, I urge my colleagues to oppose this misguided legislation.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman GOODLATTE, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. SMITH for working on this important bill and bringing it to the House floor.

Speeding up the regulatory process in the United States is an important issue in keeping America competitive. The methodical, slow, snail-paced decision or lack of decision process of the EPA to make a decision on whether or not to approve a project is absurd.

The RAPID Act addresses the problem of extensive requirements and growing delays in Federal permitting and approvals for construction projects stemming from multiple agencies, excessive requirements, and unnecessary lawsuits.

According to an April 2014 report issued by the GAO, the average preparation time for the required environmental impact statement finalized in 2012 was over 4½ years. Now, the environmental impact statement is just the first requirement in getting a permit.

Four-and-a-half years—World War II took less time than it takes the EPA to make a decision on whether or not to approve a project. They just continue to study and study and study. Mr. Chair, it is about time for the EPA to pick a horse and ride it, make a decision about these projects.

I am not going to talk in theory. I am going to talk about an actual project down in my congressional district.

The Sabine-Neches Waterway, most Americans have never heard of it. The Sabine-Neches waterway is what some of us call “the other Texas international border.” It is the waterway between Louisiana and Texas. We have been wanting, since 1997, to deepen that 40-foot waterway to 48 feet. That is just 8 feet. We just want to make it a little deeper so ships can come in and off-load their cargo and off-load their fuel.

What they are doing now, they can't come in with a full load of fuel on those tankers. They have to off-load it, sometimes 20 percent, in the Gulf of Mexico and then bring in the rest. That costs money. We just want 8 feet.

So in 1997, my predecessors asked the EPA for an environmental impact statement and finally got that impact statement. It took 20 years to get an impact statement. I have had 11 grandkids since I have been in Congress, and that impact statement has been pending all that time.

We just want 8 feet. Is it okay? The EPA finally made a decision, but yet we still haven't started moving dirt.

The original project was about \$600 million. Now, it is about \$1.3 billion, and we still don't have that extra 8 feet. Why? Because the bureaucrats can't make a decision. Delay, delay, delay.

That is the name of the EPA: Delay, Delay, Delay. All this bill does, it says

to this bureaucracy, study the information, reach a conclusion, and approve the project if it ought to be approved so America can be competitive worldwide. But, no, the other side says: Well, we need more studies; we need more information.

Mr. Chair, if Teddy Roosevelt would have had to deal with the EPA in building the Panama Canal, it would have never been built because of all the regulatory requirements—some unnecessary, in my opinion.

So let's approve the RAPID Act. Let's get America working again. The Sabine-Neches Waterway has numerous refineries on it. It is the energy hub of the United States. We just want 8 feet, Mr. Chair. That is all we want. Pick a horse and ride it. The EPA needs to get their act together.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU).

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose H.R. 348, also known as the RAPID Act. This bill will rapidly cause environmental degradation.

Under this bill, if it became law, you could have projects that harm the environment that are deemed approved, even if the review process was not yet completed. That is crazy. Keep in mind, we have had over 60 straight months of job creation under the Obama administration. Those are the facts.

This bill is written in such a way that it will cause confusion. It will cause increased delays and limit public involvement in this important process. It is also unscientific.

There is a provision in this bill that says we cannot count the social cost of carbon. Now, I believe in a free market, and I believe that that has made America strong, but we can't have government artificially come in and say we are going to say things are costs and things are not costs when it is not scientifically based.

We know that carbon has done a lot to increase climate change and caused global warming. That is why I, along with Representatives PETERS, POLIS, and LOWENTHAL, have introduced an amendment to put that language back in. We can't just say stop talking and ignore carbon.

Keep in mind, just a few hours ago, Pope Francis came in to a joint session of Congress and told us to really revert and look at what we have done in terms of causing environmental degradation.

□ 1545

Now, just a few hours later, we are back to attacking the environment. This is not right.

I urge that we not support the RAPID Act.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to myself to say to the gentleman from California that we may have 60 straight months of in-

creased job creation, but the average American worker is making 5 percent less than they were before those 60 months began. The reason is that we are overregulating our economy.

If we are really going to create jobs, we have got to have the infrastructure to do it. We have got to have the projects like were just described by Congressman POE of Texas.

Just 8 more feet of depth would bring a lot more jobs to east Texas and to Louisiana by being able to bring that product further up inland.

These kind of projects require careful environmental assessment, but it doesn't require assessment that takes 20 years to take place. It should take place in a much more limited period of time.

This bill helps to encourage focusing the mind on what needs to get done. That includes taking careful consideration of the environment, but it doesn't include delay, delay, delay.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY), a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Natural Resources, both of which understand the importance of these projects.

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Chairman, before I had the privilege of being elected to the 114th Congress, I spent more than four decades in the construction industry.

After growing up as a fifth-generation son of a farmer and rancher, I set out to learn the trades and acquire the skills that would one day allow me to support myself and my family.

Over the course of those four decades in construction, I learned what it takes to start and run a successful business and how to create quality, good-paying jobs.

I also learned the satisfaction of seeing the fruits of our labor in the roads, bridges, and dams we built and how they define the communities we serve.

Mr. Chairman, small construction businesses like the one I used to own are struggling all across America from Federal bureaucracy that is rife with delays, duplication, and uncertainty.

I can speak from firsthand experience about construction projects that have ground to a halt as resources are redirected to navigate the onerous NEPA process.

On projects like the ones I used to manage, NEPA delays meant idled equipment, mass layoffs, and millions of dollars going towards compliance. These are sunk costs on the macro level and will continue to hold our economy back.

We need to get smart about environment protection and to ensure that we do it in ways that allow businesses to thrive. H.R. 348, the RAPID Act, will go a long way toward achieving that goal.

Mr. Chairman, at a time when our Nation's infrastructure is crumbling

and far too many are in search of quality employment, we have the responsibility to give manufacturers, construction workers, and other engines of economic growth the certainty they desperately need to create high-paying jobs.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the RAPID Act.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON), a distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, my friend, Chairman GOODLATTE, bemoaned the fact that, over the last 64 straight months of job growth under the Obama administration, wages have remained stagnant.

That is true except for the wages of the top 10 percent, and specifically the top 1 percent, which have gone through the roof despite what he calls overregulation.

We continue to have the problem of income disparity that Pope Francis mentioned today. It is unrelated to this issue of regulations which are there to protect people. They, in fact, protect people and they protect our environment.

We have had a speaker today come in and talk about a dredging project that was delayed because of NEPA, but, actually, the truth of the matter is that that project was delayed due to lack of funding. Funding for the project was only authorized last year.

While the Republicans in Congress sit around and talk about how much the regulatory agencies study and study and study, what we do in Congress is simply ignore the funding needs for infrastructure in this country, which is what that dredging project was all about.

I have got a project down in Georgia, the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, which was estimated to cost \$652 million to complete.

But prior to the passage of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act last year, the Federal Government had only provided \$1.28 million—\$1.28 million—less than 1 percent.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. LAMALFA). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, let's take it back to the year 2011 with the Ryan Budget Control Act, which imposed sequestration on the Federal Government, cutting both defense and nondefense spending 10 percent across the board.

We can't have it both ways. If we are not going to fund, we have to admit that that is the reason these projects are not getting done. Don't blame it on NEPA.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Members of the committee, do not be misled by the title of this bill. Rather than effectuating real reforms to the process by which Federal agencies undertake environmental impact reviews, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, this measure before us will actually result in making the process less responsible, less professional, and less accountable.

These kinds of attempts are not new to this session of Congress. Accordingly, I urge that my colleagues carefully consider the discussion on this measure and oppose H.R. 348.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT OPPOSE H.R. 348, THE RAPID ACT

Alaska Wilderness League, American Rivers, Center for Biological Diversity, Citizens for Global Solutions, Clean Air Task Force, Clean Air Council, Clean Water Action, Conservation Colorado, Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship, Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice, EDF Action, Environmental Law and Policy Center, Epic—Environmental Protection Information Center, Energy Action Coalition, Friends of the Earth, Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy, Green Latinos, Kentucky Heartwood.

Klamath Forest Alliance, Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center, KyotoUSA, League of Conservation Voters, Los Padres ForestWatch, Marine Conservation Institute, Montana Environmental Information Center, National Parks Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, New Energy Economy, New Jersey Sierra Club, Oceana, Ocean Conservation Research, Public Citizen, Rachel Carson Council, Safe Climate Campaign, Sierra Club, Southern Environmental Law Center, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, SustainUS.

Union of Concerned Scientists, Western Environmental Law Center, The Wilderness Society.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of our millions of members and activists, we are writing to urge you to oppose H.R. 348 the misleadingly named “Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2015.” Instead of improving the permitting process, the bill will severely undermine the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and, consequently, the quality and integrity of federal agency decisions.

The National Environmental Policy Act plays a critical role in ensuring that projects are carried out in a transparent, collaborative, and responsible manner. NEPA simply requires federal agencies to assess the environmental, economic, and public health impacts of proposals, solicit the input of all affected stakeholders, and disclose their findings publicly before undertaking projects that may significantly affect the environment. Critically, NEPA recognizes that the public—which includes industry, citizens, local and state governments, and business owners—can make important contributions by providing unique expertise. NEPA also gives a voice to the most impacted and underrepresented, especially to the most vulnerable communities who usually have to bear the most burden of where federal projects are proposed in the first place. However, H.R. 348 strikes at these core purposes of NEPA by systematically prioritizing speed of decisions and project approval over the public interest.

Studies on the causes of delay in the permitting process reveal that the primary cause of delay is not the NEPA process. Rather, as multiple studies by the Govern-

ment Accountability Office and the Congressional Research Service have pointed out, the principal causes of delay in permitting rest outside the NEPA process entirely and are attributable to other factors such as lack of funding, project complexity, and local opposition to the project. The RAPID Act ignores the true causes of delay, and instead, focuses on institutionalizing dangerous “reforms” that restrict public input, limit review of the environmental and economic impacts of projects, and that create more, not less, bureaucracy. Provisions in the RAPID Act, such as the following, will create more delays in permitting, result in less flexibility in the process, and tilt the entire permitting process towards shareholder interest, not the public interest. For example, the bill:

Places Arbitrary Limitations on Environmental Reviews—Section 560(i) of the bill threatens to undermine NEPA's goal of informed decision-making and the agency's role of acting in the public interest. It sets arbitrary deadlines on environmental reviews of permits, licenses, or other applications—regardless of the possible economic, health, or environmental impacts. Consequently, it puts communities at risk by promoting rushed and faulty decisions.

Limits Consideration of Alternatives—Section 560(g) strikes at what CEQ regulations describe as “the heart of the NEPA process” by restricting the range of reasonable alternatives to be considered by an agency.

Creates Serious Conflicts of Interests—Section 560(c) blurs the distinct roles of private entities and agencies in agency decisions by allowing private project sponsors with stakes in the decision to prepare environmental review documents which creates inherent conflicts of interest and thus jeopardizes the integrity of the decision-making process.

Leading to Unanticipated Delays—The bill forces stakeholders into court preemptively simply to preserve their right to judicial review. The bill also limits the public's judicial access to challenge and address faulty environmental reviews which in turn is likely to increase the controversy and the amount of litigation derived from the permitting process which in turn could add to project delays.

Denies the Impacts of Climate Change—Section 560(k) of the bill prohibits any considerations of the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC), which the EPA and other federal agencies use to estimate the economic damages associated with specific projects and their related carbon dioxide emissions. The tool is critical for the public to understand the true benefits and costs of a project. Ignoring climate change puts critical infrastructure, tax payer dollars, and local communities at risk.

Provisions such as these and many more in the RAPID Act will only serve to increase delay and confusion around the environmental review process. We believe compromising the quality of environmental review and limiting the role of the public is the wrong approach.

Far from being broken, the National Environmental Policy Act has proven its worth as an invaluable tool. It ensures that the public, developers, and agencies have a reliable template for consistent and fair proposal assessment for major projects that may impact federal resources. The RAPID Act contradicts and jeopardizes decades of experience gained from enacting this critical environmental law. Further, it tips the balance away from informed decisions and public oversight, jeopardizing the public's ability to participate in how public resources will be managed. Please oppose this unnecessary and overreaching piece of legislation and vote “no” on the RAPID Act.

Although no amendment would remedy the problems with the underlying bill, we make the following vote recommendations on amendments offered to the RAPID Act.

Vote no on Goodlatte (R-VA) #1—This amendment would prompt ill-informed decisions by limiting the role of cooperating agencies in the environmental review process. It would also severely limit the public's ability to use the courts their rights by requiring eventual plaintiffs to participate in drastically shortened comment periods and administrative proceedings that, in many cases, agencies do not provide.

Vote yes on Peters (D-CA) #2—This amendment ensures that the true impacts of climate change are considered by allowing agencies to consider the social costs of carbon when conducting environmental reviews. Agencies should be free to incorporate the social cost of carbon into the agency decision making process, which will result in better informed and responsible decisions that safely invest taxpayer dollars by taking into account climate change, the fundamental environmental issue of our time.

Vote yes on Jackson Lee (D-TX) #3—This amendment will undo one of the more pernicious provisions in the H.R. 348 which, in cases where an agency fails to meet arbitrary deadlines prescribed by the bill, projects are simply deemed approved regardless of their economic, health, or environmental impacts. The bill, without this amendment, puts communities at risk by green-lighting projects without fully considering environmental impacts or the opinions of those who will be impacted the most.

Vote yes on Jackson Lee (D-TX) #4—This amendment maintains national security by undoing hasty shortcuts in the permitting process and rightly ensuring a full review for projects that could be potential targets for terrorist attacks. This amendment wisely ensures that shortcutting critical federal review of projects does not apply those projects that most need informed decisions because of the tremendous impacts they may have on our national security.

Vote yes on Johnson (D-GA) #5—This amendment rightly ensures that nothing in the bill will limit input of affected stakeholders, local governments, private property owners, or business owners.

Vote yes on Dingell (D-MI) #6—This amendment would prevent project approvals under the arbitrary timelines set forth in the bill if the project under consideration would limit access to or opportunities for hunting or fishing or would impact threatened or endangered species. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, wildlife related recreation contributes more than \$140 billion dollars to the U.S. economy and supports thousands of jobs connected to fishing, hunting, and the observance of wildlife.

Vote yes on Gallego (D-AZ) #8—This amendment preserves meaningful input by local governments and tribal officials on projects affecting their communities by allowing them to request extensions of the arbitrary deadlines in the bill.

Vote yes on Grijalva (D-AZ) #9—The shortcutting of meaningful public input and review of a project's impacts under the RAPID Act could potentially lead to disproportionate impacts on low-income communities and communities of color. This amendment ensures such impacts are carefully addressed during the review of project alternatives.

Vote yes on Lowenthal (D-CA) #10—The truncated review procedures under the RAPID Act would potentially apply to construction projects of enormous size, scope, and complexity. Climate change poses severe threats to the health, safety, and economies of local communities through the increased

risks of floods, fire and severe weather. This amendment ensures federal agencies consider these impacts and construct projects that are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Vote no on Gosar (R-AZ) #11—This amendment would broaden one of the most damaging provisions of the bill which prevents Federal agencies from considering the true costs of climate change, putting communities and tax-payer dollars at risk.

Whatever the outcome of these amendments, we urge a no vote on final passage.

Sincerely,

Leah Donahey, Senior Campaign Director, Alaska Wilderness League; Jim Bradley, Vice President, Policy and Government Relations, American Rivers; Bill Snape, Senior Counsel, Center for Biological Diversity; Tony Fleming, Campaigns Director, Citizens for Global Solutions; Joseph Otis Minott, Executive Director & Chief Counsel, Clean Air Council; Conrad Schneider, Advocacy Director, Clean Air Task Force; Lynn Thorp, National Campaigns Director, Clean Water Action; Luke Schafer, West Slope Advocacy Director, Conservation Colorado; David Jenkins, President, Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship; Raul Garcia, Associate Legislative Counsel, Earthjustice; Elizabeth B. Thompson, President, EDF Action; Lydia Avila, Executive Director, Energy Action Coalition; Karen E. Torrent, Esq., Federal Legislative Director, Environmental Law and Policy Center; Natalynne DeLapp, Executive Director, Epic-Environmental Protection Information Center; Marissa Knodel, Climate Campaigner, Friends of the Earth; Mark Magana, President, Green Latinos; Colette Pichon Battle, Esq., Executive Director, Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy; Jim Scheff, Director, Kentucky Heartwood; Kimberly Baker, Executive Director, Klamath Forest Alliance; Mary Beth Beetham, Director of Legislative Affairs, Defenders of Wildlife; George Sexton, Conservation Director, Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center; Tom Kelly, Executive Director, KyotoUSA; Zach Drennen, Government Affairs Associate, League of Conservation Voters; Jeff Kuyper, Executive Director, Los Padres ForestWatch; Michael Gravitz, Director of Policy and Legislation, Marine Conservation Institute; Anne Hedges, Deputy Director, Montana Environmental Information Center; Craig D. Obey, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, National Parks Conservation Association; Sharon Buccino, Director, Lands & Wildlife Program, Natural Resources Defense Council; Mariel Nanasi, Executive Director, New Energy Economy; Jeff Tittel, Director, New Jersey Sierra Club; Jacqueline Savitz, Vice President, U.S. Oceans, Oceana; Michael Stocker, Director, Ocean Conservation Research; David J. Arkush, Managing Director, Climate Program, Public Citizen; Rober K. Musil, Ph.D., M.P.H., President, Rachel Carson Council, Inc.; Daniel Becker, Director, Safe Climate Campaign; Liz Martin Perera, Climate Policy Director, Sierra Club; Navis A. Bermudez, Deputy Legislative Director, Southern Environmental Law Center; Alan Journet, Co-Facilitator, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now; Adam Hasz, Chair, SustainUS; Andrew Rosenberg, Director, Center for Science and Democracy, Union of Concerned Scientists; Katy Siddall, Director of Government Relations, Energy, The

Wilderness Society; Erik Schlenker-Goodrich, Executive Director, Western Environmental Law Center.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, first, to the gentleman from Georgia, let me just say that the Water Resources Development Act, which passed this House, has in it the same streamlining provisions of the permitting processes for the projects that it would fund that are based on the ideas in this bill.

Why? Because we know that, just because we come up with the funds for something, those funds can be churned and churned and churned year after year after year in the permitting process and never ever get to a permit so the underlying construction can take place in Texas or Savannah, Georgia, or Virginia, or all of the other places where infrastructure projects are needed.

Part of the enormous cost of it is the enormous process that we go through and the length of that process and the review and review and review that never gets to a decision.

During the debate over this bill this term and last, we have heard several false alarms from my friends on the other side of the aisle. For example, we have heard that the bill does not allow enough time for environmental reviews to be completed.

But, with all due respect, the bill, when necessary, allows as much time for the completion of an environmental impact statement as it took our Nation to win World War II. Surely that is time enough.

We have heard that the bill will generate more litigation because there may be litigation over what its new terms mean, but that argument can be made against any reform legislation. If it were a valid and sufficient reason to defeat legislation, we would never pass another reform bill.

Furthermore, the bill for the first time requires litigants to present their claims to permit agencies before they sue in court and to file lawsuits no later than 180 days after the agency's final decisions. That will reduce litigation, not increase it.

We have also heard that the White House has threatened to veto the bill. Mr. Chairman, that is what is truly alarming. This legislation fulfills the calls of the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness to streamline the review of Federal permit applications. We are doing that in this legislation.

It creates shovel-ready projects, which even President Obama claims would create jobs. In fact, it would generate millions of high-paying, good jobs for our Nation's workers and families, who so desperately need them. It would raise the standard of living of Americans.

The White House should not be issuing threats to veto the legislation. The White House should be running to lend its support to this bill.

Ignore the false alarms and embrace the commonsense reforms in this bill. Pass the RAPID Act, call the President's bluff, give the Nation shovel-ready projects.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise. The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARDY), having assumed the chair, Mr. LAMALFA, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 348) to provide for improved coordination of agency actions in the preparation and adoption of environmental documents for permitting determinations, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL RICE MONTH

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 25th year of September being National Rice Month. Today I want to pay special tribute to the hard-working American farmers, millers, merchants, suppliers, and the consumers who make rice not only such a wholesome food, but an important part of our economy.

Rice farming in America actually predates our Nation's founding, beginning some 300 years ago in the Deep South. Today, America's rice industry creates 125,000 good-paying jobs and contributes an estimated \$34 billion to our Nation's economy.

America's rice farmers have also a longstanding commitment to protect and preserve natural resources. Today, U.S. rice farmers produce more rice, using less land, energy, and water, using cutting-edge technology in land-leveling, in yield, and in technology for using less chemicals.

The process is much more efficient than it was 20 years ago, while providing critical waterfowl habitat for hundreds of species. I know personally because I have leveled many of these fields myself.

America's rice farmers continue to serve as leaders in the farming community by producing a healthy, conservation-friendly rice crop that generates jobs and economic opportunity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing September as National Rice Month.

□ 1600

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS: FEDERAL SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to serve here in the United States Congress, but we sully that honor when we waste the American people's time with misplaced priorities and manufactured crises.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has one fundamental responsibility: funding the Federal Government. But unfortunately, Republicans in Congress insist on undermining these responsibilities at virtually every turn.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans already insist on maintaining reckless sequester funding that chokes services for working and middle class Americans, seniors, veterans, and children. Instead of passing Republican budgets that meet the ever-changing needs of our Nation, Republicans choose to kick the can down the road through continuing resolutions that waste precious time and shortchange the American people.

But if sequestration and continuing resolutions weren't already bad enough, now we are facing a complete Federal shutdown because Republicans insist on holding Federal funds for women's health care hostage. Congress has just 4 legislative days remaining to pass a funding bill.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are fed up with this brinksmanship. It is time for us to run the country like adults.

Let's remember why this is happening: Republicans have pledged to shut down the entire Federal Government because of objections to abortion services by Planned Parenthood. Never mind that not a single cent of Federal money funds abortions by Planned Parenthood. Never mind that Planned Parenthood provides health care and education to more than 2.6 million Americans—both men and women—each year. Never mind that 97 percent of Planned Parenthood's health services are unrelated to abortions. Republicans would rather ignore these truths and instead rely on a series of distorted videos secretly filmed by discredited and shady antiabortion activists.

So instead of using this time to talk about creating jobs, building infrastructure, reducing college debt, and reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act, I am forced to stand here on the House floor to remind the American people about the dangers we face with yet another Republican shutdown.

Here are a few ways that this shutdown would harm the American people:

A shutdown would close more than 400 national parks and monuments. It would increase backlogs for veterans' pensions, compensation, and disability claims. It would delay tax refunds and Federal home loan applications; prohibit the National Institutes of Health from accepting new patients; shut down E-Verify screening for businesses to limit hiring undocumented workers; shutter Head Start programs for low-income families and children; and close Federal courts.

The impact of a 2015 shutdown is hard to quantify, but we don't have to look too far back to estimate the potential impact. In 2013, Republicans shut the government down for 16 days in a failed attempt to defund the Affordable Care Act. That shutdown furloughed 850,000 Federal workers for a total of 6.6 million days. The 2013 shutdown cost \$2 billion in lost productivity. Standard & Poor's estimated that the shutdown cost the U.S. economy \$24 billion and stalled the creation of more than 100,000 private sector jobs, and \$4.4 billion in tax returns were delayed. Small businesses and private lenders had to delay loans due to lack of access to Federal Social Security number and income verification tools.

Knowing what we know, Mr. Speaker, it is inconceivable that we could walk into this type of catastrophe by choice. That must be why the Speaker of the House, in 2013, called that shutdown a "very predictable disaster."

Mr. Speaker, I would much rather be predicting solutions than disasters. That is why I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus to stave off this irresponsible and dangerous shutdown. Again, this is the one thing our constituents sent us to Washington for: to fund the government. This is our job.

I implore my anti-women's health colleagues to set aside their partisan bickering and work with us to keep this government open.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HISTORIC BROOKVILLE TOWN SQUARE

(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, early this month, I visited Brookville, Jefferson County, located in my district, to congratulate local officials and community leaders on securing funds for a long-awaited project. The Historic Brookville Town Square is one of the most important pieces of the community's long-term plan and is the product of a very successful fundraising effort by Historic Brookville, Incorporated.

The Historic Brookville Town Square will be located next to the Jefferson County Courthouse on land once occupied by a vacant, rundown building.

The funding for the project includes more than \$300,000 raised by the community through the efforts of Historic Brookville, showing a real desire on behalf of the residents to beautify their community.

Mr. Speaker, this park represents a great public-private partnership, with the final \$150,000 in grant funding clearing the way for this project to enter the planning stages. I have been proud to work with the community leaders in Brookville to move this project one step closer to completion.

PREVENTING VETERAN SUICIDE

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of preventing veteran suicide.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as Suicide Prevention Month. I want to thank my colleague, KYRSTEN SINEMA, for joining me and putting together this Special Order hour. For the next hour, we will discuss an issue that is very important to me and should be unacceptable in a nation of our resources: veteran suicide.

A veteran in this country commits suicide every 65 minutes. That is 22 lives extinguished every day.

As the father of a veteran, a doctor who worked at a VA hospital in northern Michigan, and the chairman of the Health Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs, I know that the challenges of military life do not end once our servicemembers retire from Active Duty. The mental wounds of war may be invisible, but they are no less real to the young men and women suffering from them.

Facing high unemployment rates, the stigma of post-traumatic stress disorder, and a loss of military fellowship, returning veterans often face a crisis of confidence at the very moment they should feel nothing but relief and rest.

Congress did make a real impact early this year when we passed the Clay Hunt SAV Act, which is helping the VA put the very best mental healthcare professionals to work for our veterans and creating peer support groups to help catch those transitioning servicemembers who may otherwise fall through the cracks. However, so much more needs to be done.

I am grateful to my colleagues for standing with me today for our most vulnerable veterans and their families.

I look forward to hearing what they have to say and to working with them to end veteran suicide.

I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM).

Mr. ABRAHAM. Thank you, Dr. BENISHEK, for having this.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to raise awareness of veteran suicide prevention. Let me underscore the word "prevention"—prevention because veteran suicide is a public health tragedy. As a doctor, I know it is a preventable tragedy. For far too long, PTSD has been stigmatized, and it is time to remove that stigma.

Twenty-two percent of Americans who commit suicide are veterans. That statistic is unacceptable to me, and it should be unacceptable to the American people. Our Nation's heroes should come home to readily available mental health care. They should not have to wait days, weeks, or even months to receive treatment. Veterans should not have to wait at all.

The Clay Hunt SAV Act, which was signed into law earlier this year, was an excellent first step in giving veterans options, but there is more work to be done.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and a veteran myself, I will continue to fight for a more streamlined system to treat our veterans suffering from PTSD and continue to work to reform the VA system to be a system that puts the veteran first, not the bureaucrat.

Mr. BENISHEK. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA).

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you, Congressman BENISHEK, for joining me today as a cohost of tonight's Special Order.

September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time for our Nation to raise awareness about the persistent scourge of suicide. Tens of thousands of Americans each year purposefully die by their own actions. They are our neighbors and our friends, our sons and our daughters; and too often, they are the men and women who have served our country honorably in the United States military.

An estimated 22 veterans lose their lives to suicide every single day in our country. That is one life lost every 65 minutes.

Typically, time in the House Chamber is split. Republicans have 1 hour and Democrats have another hour, but Congressman BENISHEK and I believe that this issue is too important to be overshadowed by partisan politics. That is why we have joined together today, with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to show our commitment to solving this problem together and to finding real solutions for our country's veterans.

This is the third year we have assembled in this Chamber to raise awareness and to send a clear message that the epidemic of veteran suicide must end. We have so much work left to do. So today, we demonstrate our ongoing support for the individuals, organiza-

tions, and agencies devoted to preventing the epidemic of veteran suicide. Today, we challenge the VA, the Department of Defense, and our fellow lawmakers to do more. We are failing in our obligation to do right by those who have served so honorably.

Finally, we send a message to military families who have experienced this tragedy in their own families: Your family's loss is not forgotten. We work for the memory of your loved ones. We will not rest until every veteran in this country has access to the care that he or she needs.

□ 1615

I have often shared the story of a young veteran in my district, Sergeant Daniel Somers. Sergeant Somers was an Army veteran of two tours in Iraq.

Diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury and suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, Sergeant Somers took his own life after struggling with the VA bureaucracy and not getting the help he needed in time.

Together with the Somers family, we worked to develop the Classified Veterans Access to Care Act to ensure that all veterans, including those who served with classified experiences, can get immediate access to the mental health care that they need in the appropriate care setting.

I recently testified before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on the need for this important legislation, and I am grateful for the committee's support for this legislation. I am grateful for my cosponsor, Congressman DAN BENISHEK.

I will continue working with the committee to ensure that no veteran feels trapped, like Sergeant Somers did, and that all of our veterans have access to appropriate mental health care.

My State, Arizona, is ground zero for the VA's failure to take care of our veterans. It has been over a year since we learned about the veterans at the Phoenix VA Hospital who were kept on secret waiting lists, forced to wait months, even years, before seeing a doctor, unable to access the care they needed.

These revelations were shocking and sickening. Arizona veterans died while waiting for care. That is absolutely unacceptable and, frankly, it is un-American.

So in Arizona, we took immediate action when we learned from brave whistleblowers about this tragedy. Not waiting for the Phoenix VA to fix their problems, we came together as a community to make sure that Arizona veterans get the access to the care they needed.

Mr. Speaker, since last summer, we have held six veterans clinic, helping nearly 1,000 veterans and military families get access to the benefits they have earned. Our team helps veterans in getting access to benefits, to housing, to job placement, to education.

We established a Veterans Mental Health Working Group for community

providers, veterans service organizations, and the local VA, to bring them all together to work to improve access to services. Our group meets bimonthly and has made important progress.

These are some examples of the good that can come when people set aside partisanship and put veterans first. That is what is needed from all of us in this Chamber and the agencies we work with: to put aside partisanship and solve the problem we face to end the scourge of veteran suicide in this country.

Mr. BENISHEK. I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA). I really appreciate your comments and your concern for this significant problem.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to outline something that I have become aware of in my time here in office.

While this problem is very monumental, there are many small things that the VA can do right now to make a difference. One of these changes can be made by the VA immediately.

I would like to read a letter I received recently from an American Legion representative in my district that illustrates the problem better than I could.

Dear Dr. Benishek:

Here is the situation. Recently I encountered a suicidal veteran from the Sault area who had severe PTSD, 100 percent VA disabled. He called me on a Wednesday hysterical and said that he was contemplating suicide. He was traveling around with his wife in the car at the time. I thought this was a very dangerous situation.

After several back-and-forth conversations with him, I found out he was not taking any medicines and had not seen his VA psychiatrist in a long time because, as he put it, the psychiatrist was not helping him and it seemed that he didn't really care.

He insisted that he stay at Wilwin, the American Legion veterans facility, but I told him we needed his psychiatrist's okay.

As a veteran myself, I thought I should try to help him the best that I could. So I called the VA Suicide Hotline to get answers on how I should handle the situation.

Here's the problem. I called the Iron Mountain VA. The call started out saying, if you are having a medical or mental health emergency, please hang up and dial 911.

If you are having thoughts of hurting yourself and want to talk to a mental health professional, please hang up and dial 1-800-273-8255.

If you are thinking of committing suicide, you are already frustrated to the point that you would be glad to talk to anyone, even if it is someone at the VA.

Can you imagine a veteran in this position even having a paper and pencil in hand to write the number down?

If he is unable to get the correct number the first time, he must redial the VA, go through the whole spiel again and, hopefully, write the number on a paper the second or third time before he can try dialing. Once dialed, the voice comes on the phone and says, if you are a veteran push 1 and so on.

When I called the hotline after I pushed 1, listened to music for several minutes before a voice came on the phone, she told me that she was not a veteran, nor did she know much about PTSD veterans. What I needed was advice on how to handle the veteran I was working with, which she did give me.

How many veterans have committed suicide because of the VA's red tape?

Here's a solution. When the VA is called and the veteran is contemplating suicide or hurting himself, you should be able to push 1 to get a direct line to the suicide hotline. It should automatically register that the call is coming through the VA system and, yes, it is a veteran calling.

This constituent was able to get the veteran he referred to the help that he needed, but he raised an incredibly good point that I brought up repeatedly with the VA.

The VA told me it would take 6 months to change from an 800 number to simply dial 1. This is unacceptable. I call on the VA again today to make this change immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Nebraska (Mr. ASHFORD).

Mr. ASHFORD. I thank the gentleman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a subject many of our veterans and their families understandably find great difficulty in discussing.

Veteran suicide, as we have already heard, is a major problem in our country. We have all heard the numbers. An estimated 22 veterans commit suicide every day. That is one life every hour.

Please keep in mind those horrific numbers have names, the names of men and women who put themselves in harm's way in order to keep each and every one of us safe.

Earlier this year we passed the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention of American Veterans Act. It addresses the need for more mental healthcare experts inside the VA along with expanding the time available to veterans to seek mental health care through the VA.

The new law also calls for an evaluation of all VA mental health care and suicide prevention practices to determine what is working and make recommendations on what is not. This is a major step in the right direction, but we must continue to do more.

I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that, in Omaha, we are currently working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to create a center of excellence, a national model for veterans' care that will include top-flight mental health care and other services so much needed by our veterans in our community. That treatment would cover post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety and problems relating to other people.

The debt we owe the men and women who serve this country is a debt that can never be repaid. But we must continue to ensure that we keep our promises to our veterans and support their very unique healthcare issues.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO).

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan for hosting this Special Order to raise awareness for an issue that impacts constituents in all of our congressional districts.

We can all agree that, as Members of Congress, we need to prioritize our vet-

erans. We also need to raise awareness about the invisible wounds many of them face. I am speaking about post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression, which can and often does lead to thoughts of suicide.

Mr. Speaker, we also need to make sure that the loved ones of these veterans have the support they need so that they may best help those who are suffering from these invisible wounds.

I have been here 9 months. The House has taken some very positive steps to help veterans since I have been here and improving suicide prevention programs.

It has been said by several Members already here on the floor today, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act, a commonsense bill that is going to increase access to mental health by creating a peer support and community outreach pilot program.

It is going to boost accountability with mental health care by requiring an annual evaluation of VA mental health and suicide prevention programs.

It is proof that, when we put party politics aside around here, we can get good things done. We should all be proud of that.

I would like to direct Members' attention to H.R. 2915, the Female Veteran Suicide Prevention Act, which has been just passed out of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. It is time to bring this bill to the floor.

It will direct the VA to identify mental healthcare prevention programs and metrics that are effective in treating female veterans as part of the evaluative process required by the Clay Hunt Act, and it would require the VA to accommodate a veteran's obligation to not properly disclose classified information.

Mr. Speaker, suicide prevention programs are key to maintaining continual engagement with veterans and communities, as well as to raise awareness and to help intervene, when necessary.

I would also add, let's keep in mind the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs, which I serve on, with many other hard-working Members who are working in a consensus-oriented fashion.

We need to make sure that the Transition Assistance Program is working for our veterans. We need to make sure that, from a veterans' hiring preference program, that that is working.

We need to make sure that we are utilizing the best that the private sector has to offer for workforce development training for veterans returning to civilian life.

We know that there is an unfair stigma associated with those who may need to seek assistance with mental health.

Part of the value of why we are here today is to raise awareness and help reduce that stigma and say that we understand that there are challenges for veterans returning to civilian life and we are here to help.

We want to raise awareness. We want to make sure that the programs that we have in place are working. We are going to continue to do that.

I applaud those who helped organize this Special Order here today, and I am honored to participate in it.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS).

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK) for convening this important discussion this afternoon.

As I am sure we agree, we need to continue shining a light on the epidemic of veteran suicide so we can push to improve the resources available to the brave men and women who have served our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I come from a region of Illinois called the Quad Cities. For more than two decades, my seat was held by one of the strongest advocates for veterans who has ever worked in these Chambers. I am talking about the late and the great Congressman Lane Evans.

Congressman Evans was a veteran of the Marine Corps who served this body from 1983 all the way to 2007. I was proud to call him my friend.

As a veteran, he understood the challenges that many of our returning heroes confront after they come home. Congressman Evans was a tireless advocate for expanding resources to our veterans and providing the mental health services that many of them need to make a successful transition back to civilian life.

Today, after more than a decade of war, this generation of veterans faces a new set of challenges. We have an obligation to those who have served our Nation.

As my friend, the gentlewoman from Arizona highlighted earlier in her remarks that an estimated 22 veterans commit suicide every single day. That is nearly one every hour.

And we all know the statistics driving this epidemic. Military suicides are at their highest rate in 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, veterans make up 20 percent of our suicides, despite making up only 10 percent of our population. Thirty percent of veterans have considered suicide. 37 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have been diagnosed with PTSD.

And of the approximately 22 veterans who take their lives every day, roughly five actually get care through the VA health system.

□ 1630

It is easy to get lost in all those statistics. They are numbers. But behind each and every one of those is a real human being, a veteran with a real story that we must tell. We have a duty to help them.

We all know how hard the Department of Veterans Affairs is working to keep up with this ongoing and per-

sistent challenge, but we have to do more. That is why I proudly supported the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, which was signed into law earlier this year. Once this legislation is fully implemented, it will take critical steps toward curbing the epidemic of veteran suicide by improving the VA resources and increasing oversight of programs designed to help our veterans get the care that they deserve.

This is an important step toward stemming the ongoing crisis of veteran suicide, but it is not enough. This is why I have called on the Appropriations Committee to increase funding for veteran suicide prevention programs and outreach services. I hope all of you will join me in demanding more action for our veterans.

If Congressman Evans were alive today, he would not rest until all of our veterans get the care and the support they have earned for protecting our Nation, and neither should we.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an epidemic that is plaguing our servicemembers and our veterans, and that epidemic is suicide. Each day it is estimated, on average, 22 veterans commit suicide in the United States. That is more than double the rate for the civilian population, and it is an extremely tragic statistic.

Earlier this year, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act was signed into law to help combat this very serious problem. I applaud this step forward, but our work is far from over. We must continue to ensure that those veterans who are suffering know that they are not alone; they have family, friends, and resources readily available to help them heal and move forward.

These men and women have given so much to this great Nation. It is our duty to walk with them during and after their service.

I remain committed to providing the highest quality medical care and resources for these brave men and women who were wounded in the course of defending our freedom.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve timely access to mental healthcare services to ensure our veterans in crisis receive the help that they need.

I thank Mr. BENISHEK and Ms. SINEMA for organizing this Special Order hour.

Mr. BENISHEK. I yield to my colleague from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. I thank my friend from Michigan for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank my friends Congressman BENISHEK, Congresswoman SINEMA, and Congresswoman BUSTOS for their leadership and for hosting this Special Order this evening on an issue that we all care very deeply about: the high rate of suicide among our veteran population.

September is Suicide Prevention Month, and it is important that we draw attention to this critical issue. The facts are stark. My other colleagues have already mentioned them. A veteran commits suicide every 65 minutes. That means that 22 veterans a day are dying.

Today we honor those that we have lost already and the families who have suffered so much and are left behind. These veterans were true American heroes who served their country and came home tormented. We can never forget the sacrifices that they have made.

It is great, on this evening, to see my colleagues from both sides of the aisle here to talk about this issue, because it is my sincere hope that we can come together and rededicate ourselves to doing what is right for our veterans and making sure that we are dedicating sufficient resources to veterans' care.

On Sunday night, in Michigan, I will gather with the family and friends of those veterans who have committed suicide in Michigan. They have built a cross for each of those lives to try to raise awareness in our community.

In addition, at a meeting that I hold with my mayors, where normally we are talking about infrastructure or roads, two-thirds of that meeting was spent talking about veterans and the emotional issues we are dealing with in our communities as we see these veterans struggling.

The mayors and I have started a task force to address these issues. We have started a veterans' court that has been following the model of other places, trying to raise awareness so that in the community, we see when someone is struggling and are able to put out a helping hand.

My next-door neighbor's young son, when tormented, needed help; and when he called, he couldn't get it.

We all have got to come together. These brave young men and women have served our country. When they came home from World War II and Korea, we celebrated them. We thanked them for their service. We formed a community around them.

These young men and women are fighting for us. They are fighting for freedom. They are fighting for world security. We have an obligation to help them when they come home, to help get them the resources that they need. They have memories that haunt them. They have memories that torment them.

This Suicide Prevention Month, we have to take the stigma away from mental illness. We have to recognize that young people need help sometimes, and we have to be there for them.

Tonight I thank my colleagues for organizing this Special Order so that we remind people that those who have served us sometimes need that helping hand. If we can prevent it, we must, any young person from taking their

life because of the service that they gave this country.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, nearly 10 million Americans have serious mental illness, and millions go without proper treatment or care because our Nation's mental health system is broken not only for our veterans, but for our nonveterans as well.

My next speaker is Dr. TIM MURPHY from Pennsylvania, the author of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, H.R. 2646. This will overhaul our Nation's mental healthcare system, adding grants for more psychiatrists, authorizing intervention programs, and fixing current nationwide shortages of crisis mental health beds.

I yield to my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman for organizing this very important Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell the stories of three servicemembers that I have known in my time in the Navy, in my work at Walter Reed Hospital:

One is of a soldier who tried to kill himself. He put a gun to his head, pulled the trigger. The gun fired, but it didn't kill him. It left him partially blind and with a significant head injury. He struggles through life. He continues to live, but the things that caused him to do that have not left.

The second is of a marine that I knew, the son of a friend, who died recently. I went to his funeral and saw him lying there, looking so peaceful.

The third, a soldier, I was called upon by the family to go visit him because he had been in his room for months. He covered the windows with camouflage. Bottles and bottles of medication littered his room, holes were punched in the walls, and he felt abandoned.

There was nothing more we could do for the soldier who had killed himself; there were some things we could do for the soldier who harmed himself; but there was a lot we could do for the soldier who hid himself.

When soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen look down the road to suicide, there are multiple reasons. Very often it is because they have faced those unspeakable horrors of war. Perhaps they have had multiple deployments, strain within the family, the lost social relationships, divorce, job complications, which whittled and chipped away at their strength. Perhaps they lost that sense of belonging that they had with their platoon or their company, that friendship with those who faced battles with them that somehow helped prop them back up.

In many cases, it is dealing with the traumatic brain injury, of the multiple blasts, explosions, the primary, secondary, or tertiary wounds that they had which affected their brain functioning and leaves them with symptoms oftentimes of psychological disorders. Sometimes that psychological disorder is that path to depression, that feeling of hopelessness, helplessness, and worthlessness that comes

with clinical depression, when the person sometimes says: There is no treatment that can help me; I might as well give up.

First let me say to veterans, Mr. Speaker, that there is treatment that can help. There is reason to hope. It is important that veterans seek out a therapist; and if that therapist doesn't seem like a good mix, seek another one. If that one doesn't seem like a good mix, seek another one. Keep going until you find the right person.

It is important veterans understand their life is worth living. Yes, you are suffering in the moment, but you can't stop pursuing treatment. Don't seek the permanent solution to the temporary problem. There is always another way out besides suicide.

Now, we make this more complicated for veterans, as we do with the rest of the community of people who are suffering from mental illness, by we simply don't have enough professionals out there to help. We have family members who don't see the signs of isolation and anger and drinking and drug abuse and irritability. But just because there is a healthcare provider out there, the family should not ever feel that they can't talk to that person.

The healthcare provider, even without permission of the soldier, can listen; and it is important that family members contact someone even when that soldier says, "I don't want to talk to anybody," because, very often, that is the disease speaking, that is the brain illness speaking. That is the part of the illness that says "I either want to give up" or "I don't recognize I have a problem."

Loved ones can call for help, but we need other things taking place here as well. We have to have families who can help that person get out of a crisis. We have to help the family understand they need to remove the means of a suicide—if it is a firearm, if it is weapons, if it is drugs.

But what we need to do and what my bill (H.R. 2646), the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, does is it changes the dynamics of what our country is doing, that has abusive policies and antifamily policies which actually prevent people from getting help.

What we have to do is make sure we have more access to treatment. We need more psychiatrists and psychologists—it is as plain as that—by the thousands and tens of thousands. We do not have enough. So even when someone tries to seek help, it is difficult.

We need more psychiatric hospital beds for those moments when a person needs a respite, someplace to go away from the crisis of everyday life. We don't have enough. We had 550,000 psychiatric hospital beds in the 1950s. We have less than 40,000 now. Part of that is because we have Medicaid rules out there and other rules that say, you know, we don't want hospital beds anymore.

Look, I don't want to see people go back to the old asylums, but some-

times a person with that sense of helplessness and worthlessness needs a place to go to recover, to get better.

We also have a VA system which has said: You are not going to continue some of these drugs. Your drug isn't on our formulary list. You are not going to take it anymore.

I have other legislation in which says that, if a Department of Defense doctor prescribes a person medication and it is working, the VA should automatically, without question, carry that medication and provide ease of access for it. One of the reasons we even have the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans bill is because he couldn't get the medication that worked.

It is our fault. We have met the enemy, and he is us, as one character famously said.

The General Accounting Office also tells us we have a disorganized system, 112 Federal agencies—112—that are supposed to deal with mental illness. The GAO tells us they don't keep track of data. There is not accountability. They don't meet. Many of these agencies haven't even gotten together since 2009 to coordinate services. Twenty homeless programs, programs scattered throughout the Federal Government—we make it the most difficult for those who have the most difficulty.

Sometimes what we do, though, is we reauthorize programs that work. But make no mistake, it is not enough. Anyone who thinks that Congress has been adequately addressing the needs of the mentally ill, the seriously mentally ill veterans, is naive. We are disillusioning ourselves into thinking that, because we did something, we did the right thing.

So let me speak honestly: Congress' lack of comprehensive action and its snail pace in dealing with this shares the blame. We are not passive in this. We are active and codependent in this crisis that is inflicted upon Americans.

When we are in this Chamber and we hear another tragic story of someone who has perhaps killed many people in the community and then killed themselves or they did suicide by cop, we have a moment of silence—and so we should—as we grieve over the loss of innocent life. But that moment of silence should not be accompanied with silent behavior. What we need are moments of action, and strong action at that.

Not only do we have the soldier suicides, we had 41,000 suicides in this country in this last year; 43,000 drug overdose deaths; homicides by those with serious mental illness; people with mental illness who are the victims of crime and homicide.

□ 1645

Then we have that slow-motion death of the homeless and the seriously mentally ill who, themselves, have come to so many other chronic illnesses that—do you know what? They are not even a statistic. We don't count them.

If people want to help, if Members want to do something, here is an action plan: become cosponsors of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, H.R. 2646. Don't sit idly by. Don't say, "Some other Member can do this; let it be someone else's problem." It is not. It is ours.

As a nation, wouldn't we do better to act instead of grieve, to turn a blind eye and to hope that someone else takes care of it, or, worse yet, to be caught up in the politics, the partisan politics and the games that plague this Chamber that says: "I am not going to let this party have a win or this party have a win"? In the meantime, people are dying, and we sit idly by.

Mr. Speaker, suicide is a plague on our Nation, on our veterans. It is a plague on, as was said in Samuel 16, the last, the least, and the lonely. We must change this system that makes it difficult for those who have the most difficulty. We must remove abusive Federal policies that say that you can't see two doctors in the same day; you can't have more than 16 hospital beds; that say it is okay to have Federal programs and grants going out there for absurd concepts like making collages, making masks; telling people to get off their medication; a Web site to help people in Boston, when it is cold, deal with the anxiety of snow; a \$425,000 Web site for 3-year-olds with sing-along songs; and a \$22,000 painting which sits in the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to give them awareness. The only thing I am aware of, Mr. Speaker, is that it is a waste of money—a waste of taxpayers' money—and a waste of lives.

If this Congress gets its act together and admits it, and if our leadership says that we can run lots of bills—and we can run lots of bills real quick—and we can suspend the bills and bring bills to the floor in a moment's notice, I have had this bill sitting around 3 years. We revise it and revise it again. We have the support of multiple organizations across the country, whether they represent parents or consumers or professionals, and another day goes by; and every few seconds another person commits suicide or has a drug overdose death, and we go home at night and sleep snugly in our beds.

It doesn't have to be this way if we have more providers and if we have a Federal Government in Congress that says that we must be guided by wisdom, compassion, and faith, that says we will not wait anymore and that we will take the collective voice of every Member of Congress to do that.

A few hours ago, we had the Holy Father, Pope Francis, speak in this very Chamber. His words still echo in this community. But he called us to do things together, to be motivated by love, to be engaged in a dialogue and conversation, and that is a conversation we must be having about mental illness as well, to say that we can no longer put this off.

I hope Members, if they really are concerned about veteran suicide—as I believe we are—if they are really concerned about the problems of serious mental illness—as I know we are—if Members are tired of moments of silence in those times when we come together for a few minutes of compassion, we recognize that is not enough—and I know we are—then I hope every Member, every Democrat and Republican, talks to their leadership, talks to their committee members, talks to each other and says, "Move this bill. Make something happen."

By the way, Mr. Speaker, let me close with this. The story I told you has a good ending.

The soldier that I visited in his home with the windows covered with camouflage, with medications scattered throughout the house, and with holes punched in the wall because of his anger, we did get him help. He got stabilized. He took those barriers off the windows. He let the bright light of the world shine in again, and he engaged with people again. He has hope again.

That is a story that comes because people stepped forward and helped him. The people at hospitals and military hospitals can do that. Let's make sure that the others like him whom we have not discovered yet, who are still hiding in their rooms, we get to them before their lives are taken. This is what we should be doing as a nation. Failing to do this means we are culpable as this tragedy continues.

Mr. BENISHEK. I would like to thank my colleague for his passion on this issue.

I would now like to yield to my colleague from California (Mr. PETERS).

Mr. PETERS. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank Congresswoman SINEMA and Congressman BENISHEK for their leadership on this issue, which is also of prime interest to me, this epidemic of suicide in our veteran community.

Mr. Speaker, San Diego has the third largest population of veterans in the country, more than 235,000. One of the most important jobs we have here in Congress is to honor their service by keeping our promises to them.

September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time to focus on ending the scourge of veteran suicide that has hurt families and communities across the country. Combating suicide takes the full spectrum of services, including deployment, education, drug and alcohol abuse treatment, and ending the stigma around mental health.

In San Diego, I am pleased to say, the nonprofit sector has really stepped up. We have been at the forefront of finding innovative ways to approach veteran suicide by providing services and developing cohesion in the local veteran community that came together after the Vietnam war to increase collaboration among government, private groups, and community partners.

San Diego is the home of, in my district, 0800, which is an organization

doing innovative work to assist easing the transition between Active Duty and civilian life. It is a community-based nonprofit that takes the existing service structure, works with the servicemembers before they leave the military to get them set, and provides the case management after they return to the civilian world to ensure that the benefits and services that veterans have earned are provided to them.

Another organization, the Three Wise Men Foundation, founded by combat veteran Nathan Fletcher, utilizes community engagement and workout trainings to help veterans who were in combat and have struggled to reintegrate after coming home.

There is a powerful article by Dave Phillips that The New York Times highlighted this weekend about how many veterans are turning to each other to survive. To quote that article: "Feeling abandoned, members of the battalion have turned to a survival strategy they learned at war: depending on one another."

We have all heard the devastating statistics of veteran suicides in the country, but thus far, the response has failed to properly address the dire situation, and we have a responsibility here in Congress to do much more than we have. The statistics don't tell the heart-wrenching stories that so many of us have heard from parents, spouses, and the loved ones of the veteran who has taken his or her own life.

One such couple that Congresswoman SINEMA and I know, and I have been honored to work with, is Dr. Howard and Jean Somers, who, after losing their son, Daniel, to suicide, have become tireless advocates to fix and reform the broken healthcare system at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We know that bipartisan reforms to the VA can make a difference. The Clay Hunt Act showed us that and garnered a new generation of mental health and suicide prevention services at the VA, and the Veterans Choice Act will bring accountability to a system wrought with oversight and leadership challenges, allowing for faster service closer to the veteran in need.

But fixing an inefficient VA requires more than just increased funding. It requires real changes to get veterans care in new and flexible ways. We need to allow the VA to better use innovative technologies, like wireless medicine, that allow veterans access to care from the comfort of their homes, which can save lives and decrease costs to taxpayers.

We need to break the stigma around mental health, particularly post-traumatic stress. The service-connected injury needs to be treated with the same gravity and respect as the physical injury that so many of our valiant warfighters have battled.

So thank you again, Congresswoman SINEMA and Congressman BENISHEK, for your consistent advocacy on reforming the VA and on ending the tragedy of veteran suicide. We have much more

work to do, and I appreciate the opportunity to be here today to work with you on it.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ABRAHAM). The gentleman has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. BENISHEK. I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO).

Mr. YOHIO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to thank my colleagues, Representatives SINEMA and Dr. BENISHEK, for their leadership in arranging such a Special Order on such an important topic and for the invitation to speak this afternoon on suicide prevention awareness.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. It is so important that we have an open and honest dialogue about the issue of suicide. The more we talk about it, we increase people's awareness, and they are there to help the people in need.

There are alternatives, and they do not have to suffer in silence. From comedian Robin Williams, to bullied young kids, to the brave men and women from our Nation's military returning from the battlefield, suicide does not discriminate. Emotional pain and despair can set in and take root in the minds and bodies of all ages across all demographics. Often, the signs of suicide go undetected, which leave those left behind asking: Why did this happen, and what could I have done to prevent this tragedy?

Today a disproportionate amount of our Nation's veterans are falling victim to suicide. After all they have given to this country, it is tragic and unacceptable that our Nation's veterans often suffer in silence until it is too late for those around them to help.

By shining a light on veteran suicide and all suicides, we as a nation can start to understand the urgency with which we need to solve and prevent this epidemic that our veterans, their families, and their friends struggle with. Not recognizing the signs early enough all too often leads to a loss of life. This is an important thing that we as a nation need to come together and have a strong support system in place so that those in need will reach out and not be stigmatized.

Again, I want to thank our colleagues.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank, particularly, Representatives SINEMA and BENISHEK for bringing up this Special Order hour.

For my own part, I speak for the northeastern part of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania is home to nearly 1 million veterans. These are brave men and women who serve this Nation, a Nation that has, regrettably, not always served them.

Many of the veterans suffer from mental illness. A study, as you all

know, has been released that found that 22 veterans commit suicide every day. This is unacceptable.

As someone who deeply cares about veterans' issues, I was proud to introduce legislation in the last Congress that would fast-track the hiring of psychiatrists who have completed a residency at a VA facility, and I was gratified that the President has incorporated many of those ideas in his policy.

Initially, in this Congress, I plan to reintroduce the Veterans Mental Health Accessibility Act, an important piece of legislation that aims to provide for our brave servicemen and -women when they return from combat with both easily visible and difficult-to-detect wounds. While the physical wounds are evident immediately, the mental health ones may take longer to manifest themselves.

Here is the problem: as many as 30 percent of Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom veterans face the possible diagnosis of a mental health disorder. But after 5 postservice years, if a condition is not diagnosed, veterans would go to the back of the line. They have missed their statute of limitations in 5 years and then experience an average wait time to receive benefits of more than 1 year. This could mean the difference between life and death.

Unfortunately, mental health disorders are harder to diagnose, may take much longer to manifest, and many veterans might delay seeking treatment. We are putting it on them to self-diagnose and report within that 5-year span.

We should not hold mental health disorders to the same timeline as a broken leg. The Veterans Mental Health Accessibility Act would ensure that no veteran would be denied mental health treatment no matter when combat-related mental health disorders first appear.

I believe we owe a great debt to those warfighters who serve our country through military service, including those who stood ready at a moment's notice to fight for our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, as long as I am a Member of Congress, I will be working to increase knowledge on this subject, to correct the shortcomings of the VA system, and to ensure that the men and women of our Armed Forces who bravely serve this country receive all the benefits to which they are entitled.

Mr. BENISHEK. Nice comments, Mr. CARTWRIGHT. I appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI), my colleague on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Thank you, Mr. BENISHEK.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Michigan and the distinguished gentlewoman from Arizona for yielding.

In honor of Suicide Prevention Month, I rise today to increase awareness about some of our bravest and

most at risk: our veterans. Many of our Nation's troops, both past and present, face struggles many of us can never imagine. Every day 22 veterans take their own lives.

I have experienced this same tragedy in my own district. In 2013, a constituent in my district, a former marine who served in Vietnam, began experiencing severe pain over his entire body. After visiting four VA clinics and facilities, doctors could not diagnose his condition and instead prescribed morphine for ongoing and oftentimes excruciating pain.

To help manage his undiagnosed condition, doctors recommended he enter a nursing home. Unfortunately, he discovered he did not meet the eligibility requirements. Later that day, his wife was told that she had 1 hour to pick him up or they, the VA, would send him home in a cab without clothes since he did not have any at the hospital to wear. Two days later, just a week before Christmas, the pain proved too great for him to bear and he took his own life.

His story details the urgency our Nation's heroes deserve. Instead of ending in heartbreak, veterans and their families need to know their lives count, which is why we must improve veterans' access to physical and mental health care. Together, we can change this system to prevent tragedies like this from ever happening again.

□ 1700

Mr. BENISHEK. Thank you very much, Mrs. WALORSKI. I really appreciate your comments.

I think Dr. MURPHY brought up a good point when he was speaking. We just recently in this House passed the 21st Century Cures Act, H.R. 6.

That has been endorsed by a wide variety of professional and medical organizations, such as the American Association for Cancer Research and The Cure Alliance. We passed this bill by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 344-77.

This is a piece of legislation that is going to change the way we do research at the NIH, that is going to change health care for all Americans. There is no reason that we shouldn't be able to pass a mental health care bill similar to that with a wide bipartisan effort.

Today Ms. SINEMA and I are leading a bipartisan group of Members of Congress to make mental health care an issue on which to move forward, and it has really been a great way to get this started.

I yield to Ms. SINEMA if she would like to add a few more thoughts in that regard.

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you very much, Congressman BENISHEK.

I know we will be continuing this in the next Special Order so as to allow more of our colleagues to speak, and I am really looking forward to that time.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) for 30 minutes.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to open the Special Order this evening with my colleague and friend, Congressman DAN BENISHEK of Michigan.

We have some colleagues who are joining us here this evening to continue the discussion we have been enjoying for the last hour of talking about the scourge of veteran suicides and how to stop this scourge.

We know that there are brave whistleblowers around this country who have told us and the Nation about the problems at the VA.

If it weren't for brave whistleblowers, we may not have learned about the tragedies at my VA, the Phoenix VA, and we could have lost even more lives than we have lost already.

In order for the VA to change, it has to put its veterans first and change the culture. We believe that VA employees must continue to speak up and speak out.

Brandon Coleman, a Marine Corps veteran, has seen firsthand the important role the VA can play in helping veterans. A decade ago he received help from a dedicated VA counselor, who helped him overcome substance abuse issues and get his life back on track.

Wanting to help his fellow veterans, Brandon began working as an addiction counselor with the Phoenix VA in 2009.

In January of this year, Brandon approached his supervisor after, over the course of a single week, five suicidal veterans walked out of the Phoenix VA hospital without getting the help they needed from the emergency room.

After coming forward with his concerns about how the VA handled suicidal patients, Brandon was placed on administrative leave for adverse behavior and his program was shut down.

Mr. Speaker, no one should fear the risk of losing his or her job for speaking out. That is why we introduced the VA Accountability Act, a bipartisan bill to hold poor-performing employees accountable and to increase protections for whistleblowers.

Empowering whistleblowers helps our veterans and their families get the answers they deserve. The VA must respond to this challenge with a culture of accountability that protects veterans, not its own bureaucracy.

Brandon testified before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee earlier this week on improving accountability within the VA. He is committed to fixing the VA to ensure that all veterans get the same help that he got.

I would like to take some time now to turn the podium over to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL).

Mr. RUSSELL. I thank the Congresswoman.

Mr. Speaker, it is a serious issue that our Nation faces when we imagine the

sacrifice that our veterans make only to see them become casualties in a battle with the mind.

Those of us who have borne the burden of battle carry the weight of that burden the rest of our lives. As a warrior, I have seen the worst things that human beings can do to one another. I have had to take human life. I have had to watch fellow warriors lose theirs. I have caressed wounded brothers as they have been bleeding.

We recall these things and carry these things, and, as warriors, we attempt to process it all when we come home. When we do come home, others attempt to interact with us not quite knowing how that interaction should play out or how to treat the Americans we really are.

So, as we address this issue of veteran suicide and as we stand here to speak in support of the many good measures that we have heard today, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to provide a couple of things worth noting with which we could reach out to the community at large, to our States, to all of America.

For the population that deals with returning battle veterans, purpose matters. We don't want to come home as victims. We don't want to be put in some special class.

We have maintained the stresses of battle, and we have fought our Nation's wars, but purpose matters as we come home.

If that purpose is somehow denied us because of fear of capacity or fear of being able to interact with other Americans in employment or in whatever it is that we put our hand to, then we will miss a great opportunity early on to engage returning veterans in things that will help them heal.

Secondly, we should treat our returning veterans as the Americans they really are. We somehow unintentionally imagine them as damaged goods, or maybe they have had something happen to them that does not make them quite like we are. That is a mistake.

Thirdly, when we look at the stresses of battle and how they shape our lives, we must remember this, that post-traumatic stress is treatable. As we deal with those who have faced battle as they struggle through this, it is important to note that the returning warrior has not lost his mind or her mind. It is treatable.

Mr. Speaker, one can easily relate when you think about, in my home State, maybe surviving a tornado or maybe, across America, being in a horrific car accident or losing a loved one in some capacity.

It creates stress on the human being, yet no one in that scenario would say, "Well, they have been through quite a lot, so I am not sure that they can engage with the public anymore and be employed" or, "I am not sure they will be able to handle the daily stresses."

Instead, we look at them, and we realize that these are life-altering experiences, whether it be through a car acci-

dent or a tornado, and we say, "Wow, that is terrible, but they have really bounced back, and they have done a good job of recovering." We need to look at it in the same capacity.

I am no physician, but I am a warrior who has come home. For the warrior, as he or she does come home, Mr. Speaker, we must urge all of our warriors, especially as they face insurmountable pressure about "Does life have a purpose?" to not live in isolation, and we must understand that the adrenalin of survival at our peak in battle, which is all around us—every sense alive to protect us as we survive—physiologically doesn't instantly change when we come home.

Those levels of adrenalin stay, and we crave them. That is why your returning veteran may ride his motorcycle at 120 miles an hour or pursue a dangerous activity. As the warrior processes it, he must understand as well that it takes time to abate that and to adjust.

I also want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that our returning veterans should band together with their fellow warriors. Above all, don't quit. Only we can take ourselves out of that fight.

To all of us, I think it is best to recall what Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes in that two are better than one because they have good reward for their labor, for, if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falls, for he does not have another to help him up.

Again, if two lie together, then they have heat. But how can one be warm alone? And if one prevails against him, two shall withstand him, and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

As we attempt here in government to bind up the wounds, we must also realize it is not the government's sole responsibility. As an American community, we need to bind together as those wounds are bound up to heal.

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you so much, Representative RUSSELL, for your thoughts and your participation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Thank you for being here this evening.

Mr. LAMBORN. I want to thank my colleagues Representative SINEMA and Representative BENISHEK for their leadership on this issue today and for organizing this time together.

I also want to thank Representative RUSSELL for his hard-earned insights that he has shared with us.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that we raise awareness for veteran suicide prevention. Unfortunately, this much-needed awareness comes too late for one of my Colorado Springs families.

I would like to tell you the story of Noah, a former marine, who served with honor in Iraq in 2009 and in Afghanistan in 2011. I will not use his last name, but his parents have offered the use of his picture.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Noah began working on a business degree at

the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and started his own online business.

Now, Noah comes from a military family, his dad having honorably served for 23 years. He chose to put off college so that he could serve this great Nation.

Unfortunately, his parents are appalled by the care their son did not receive from the VA. They believe their son would still be alive had he received better care. Noah was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and received a 50 percent disability rating due to PTSD.

On April 2 of this year, he went to the Colorado Springs VA clinic, where medical notes from his visit state that he had had suicidal thoughts.

Noah was prescribed a psychotropic drug and was sent on his way. He was not referred for suicide prevention; he was not offered counseling; and there was no follow-up from the VA.

He went missing on May 4 and was found dead from an apparent suicide on May 12 of this year. As you can imagine, his family is devastated. They are asking a lot of serious questions.

I had the opportunity to ask some of their questions on their behalf during a June 10 hearing by the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations.

During the hearing, two top-level VA officials stated that they would personally look into the case and "make sure this family had been reached out to directly."

However, a month after the hearing, no contact had been made, and my office had to once again engage the VA on behalf of this grieving family.

The VA has since stated that Noah should have been seen within 2 weeks of his medical appointment and that they are modifying their procedures to, hopefully, make sure this doesn't happen in the future.

It should not take the death of a marine to get procedures right in regards to suicide prevention. We owe it to our veterans to get it right the first time.

Hopefully, this Special Order and the added awareness of veteran suicide will help prevent another tragedy like Noah's.

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you, Congressman LAMBORN, for your contribution this evening.

Mr. Speaker, before we close this evening, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK), my friend, who has been gracious to cohost our Special Orders this evening.

Mr. BENISHEK. Yes. It was great. It was a wonderful Special Order this evening.

I want to thank all of my colleagues who took the time to come down and talk about this serious issue that faces our country.

Mr. LAMBORN discusses a case of suicide that he is very familiar with in his district. That story moves each and every one of us, and it is emblematic of the 22 suicides that occur every day amongst our veterans.

There are stories as moving as this one and as tragic as this one as Mr. LAMBORN brings up the fact that this patient was seen at the VA and was not helped at the VA.

□ 1715

We need to make sure that the Veterans Administration and this administration puts our veterans not on the back burner as something that is ongoing, but make this a crisis. This is an emergency.

This needs to be dealt with now not with reassurances from bureaucrats that it is all going to be better or "We are changing our policies." They have been changing their policies for a long time and nothing has happened. This needs to be an emergency response.

As friends and family members of our veterans and those serving our country, there are some things that we can do. We can work to recognize the symptoms that could indicate serious problems and identify where and how to get assistance when we may need it.

To all veterans struggling with whether to take your own life, know that there is no shame in asking for help. You are not broken, and God has not forgotten you.

You have volunteered to go to war for us, and we have failed to provide you adequate support when you have returned home. That is changing. I beg you to reach out to your local VA, your veterans center, your veterans service organization, or your Congressman to ask for help.

I mean, I had two calls today on my cell phone, which I give my number out freely, from veterans that did not get appropriate help at the VA, and I refer them to my staff to get the ball rolling, get moving.

Together we can begin to turn the tide on veterans' suicide. Everyone, though, can help fight this epidemic and be there for those that were there for us.

I thank my colleague from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) for closing this Special Order hour for us.

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you so much, Congressman BENISHEK.

Before we close, we have one more person who has joined us.

I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN).

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my unrelenting support for our Nation's veterans who are suffering, often silently, with depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and profound emotional pain. It is absolutely vital that we, as a Nation, address the crisis of veteran suicide.

As a Marine Corps combat veteran, I can tell you firsthand that returning home to civilian life can be a difficult transition. Many troops used to the constant daily support of their comrades come home feeling isolated and alone. Many find themselves needing help that too often isn't there.

Some units are hit particularly hard, like the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine

Regiment, a group that saw intense combat in Afghanistan and has continued to suffer casualties to suicide years after they have returned. 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, has seen a suicide rate 14 times higher than that of all other Americans.

It is essential that, when our men and women in uniform return to the civilian world and need to reach out for help, somebody reaches back.

We need to ensure that veterans get the mental health care they need, when they need it, not after waiting weeks or months for an appointment.

We need to ensure that veterans who need medication get it and veterans who don't need medication aren't unnecessarily prescribed drugs with volatile side effects.

We need to ensure that, when a veteran calls the VA's Veterans Crisis Line, somebody is available on the other end to listen.

But I don't believe this is a problem that begins and ends with the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans are in all of our communities, our schools, our places of worship, and our social clubs. All Americans should be willing to lend a hand when a veteran may be suffering silently.

I share the sentiment expressed by VA Secretary McDonald earlier this year, and I know it is a statement in which my colleagues on both sides of the aisle would uniformly agree: "Losing just one veteran to suicide is one veteran too many."

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker and Members, before I close with the closing statements, I want to take a moment and honor and thank Congressman BENISHEK not just for the work he has done tonight or the work he has done on the Veterans Committee, but for the great work he has done in Congress for the last three terms.

We are sad that you are retiring. We will miss you. But we have one more chance to do this Special Order again next year, and I look forward to that time. So thank you for your help and for your service.

Congressman BENISHEK has not just been a partner to me in the work that we have been doing to help and support veterans, he has been a leader in the Veterans Committee and in his conference and in this House of Representatives.

I know, when he leaves this body, he will continue to be a shining light for veterans around this country. Thank you, Congressman.

I want to close with a story about a veteran in my district. We recently received a call from David, a constituent of mine who is an Army veteran and a survivor of two suicide attempts.

David told us: My mind was plagued with feelings that my parents and siblings would be better off without me because of who I had become as a person. I felt savage and inhuman. No matter what good I did, I couldn't face going back to a normal existence. I had never felt more alone in my life.

Through much time and assistance from organizations like the Wounded Warrior Project and mental and physical rehabilitation programs, David gained a new mission in life. He is helping his fellow veterans navigate a daunting system and reintegrate back into civilian life.

David wants his fellow warriors to understand that suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

His mission of supporting veterans led David to Rally Point, a Phoenix nonprofit veteran service organization working to assist veterans in crisis.

Rally Point employs veterans like David who understand the unique needs of fellow veterans, servicemembers, and their families. These are the kinds of solutions we need to ensure that no veteran ever feels like he or she has nowhere to turn.

We have made some progress. In February of this year, the President signed the Clay Hunt SAV Act into law, an important step toward improving mental health services for veterans and their families.

This bipartisan legislation requires annual third-party evaluations of the VA's mental healthcare and suicide prevention programs to determine which programs are successful and to recommend improvements.

It also requires collaboration on suicide prevention efforts between the VA and nonprofit mental health organizations, and it establishes a pilot program using peer support and community outreach to assist veterans transitions from Active Duty.

We cannot leave our heroes to fight their toughest battles alone.

Thank you again to all of our colleagues who joined us this evening. Our thoughts are with all the families who have lost a loved one to suicide. Each of us can do something to raise awareness, to be that light for a struggling veteran in our community.

Businesses can display signs to let veterans know that help is always available. Mental health professionals can volunteer with organizations like Give an Hour to provide free counseling to veterans and their families. We can all learn to recognize the signs of crisis by visiting veteranscrisisline.net and reaching out to the vets in our life.

Here in Congress, we can do more. We need a VA that provides real and meaningful help to veterans in need that puts veterans first and works aggressively with community providers to improve the quality and accessibility of care.

We need a VA that is transparent and open to restore the trust and credibility it has lost. We, who enjoy freedom every day thanks to the sacrifices of our military servicemembers, must all step up to end the epidemic of veteran suicide.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

Mr. HUDSON (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of family reasons.

Ms. MCCOLLUM (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family event.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, September 24, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,

The Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of House Rule XI, I hereby submit the Rules of the Committee on Small Business for publication in the Congressional Record. The Rules were adopted by the Committee in its organizational meeting.

Sincerely,

STEVE CHABOT,
Chairman.

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Rules of the House of Representatives, in total (but especially with respect to the operations of committees Rule X, cl. 1(q), cl. 2, cl. 3(l), and Rule XI) are the rules of the Committee on Small Business to the extent applicable and are incorporated by reference. Each Subcommittee of the Committee on Small Business ("the Committee") is a part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee, and to the rules of the House and the rules adopted herein to the extent applicable.

2. REFERRAL OF BILLS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair will retain consideration of all legislation referred to the Committee by the Speaker. No action will be required of a Subcommittee before legislation is considered for report by the Committee. Subcommittee chairs, pursuant to the rules set out herein, may hold hearings on any bill referred to the Committee.

3. DATE OF MEETING

The regular meeting date of the Committee shall be the second Wednesday of every month when the House is in session. The Chair may dispense with the meeting of the Committee, if in the sole discretion of the Chair, there is no need for such meeting. Additional meetings may be called as deemed necessary by the Chair or at the request of the majority Members of the Committee pursuant to Rule XI, cl. 2(c) of the rules of the House.

At least 3 days notice of such an additional meeting shall be given unless the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to call the meeting on less notice or upon a vote by a majority of the Committee (a quorum being present). To the extent possible, the three days shall be counted from the 72 hours before the time of the meeting. Announcements of the meeting shall be published promptly in the Daily Digest and made publicly available in electronic form.

The determination of the business to be considered at each meeting shall be made by the Chair subject to limitations set forth in House Rule XI, cl. 2(c).

The Chair shall provide to each Member of the Committee, to the extent practicable, at least 48 hours in advance of a meeting, a

copy of the bill, resolution, report or other item to be considered at the meeting, but no later than 24 hours before the meeting. Such material also shall be made available to the public at least 24 hours in advance in electronic form.

The rules for notice and meetings as set forth in Rule 3 of these Rules shall not apply to special and emergency meetings. Clause 2(c)(2) of Rule XI and clause 2(g)(3)(A) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, as applicable, shall apply to such meetings.

A record vote of the Committee shall be provided on any question before the Committee upon the request of any Member of the Committee. A record of the vote of each Member of the Committee on a matter before the Committee shall be available in electronic form within 48 hours of such record vote, and, with respect to any roll call vote on any motion to amend or report, shall be included in the report of the Committee showing the total number of votes cast for and against and the names of those Members voting for and against.

The Chair of the Committee shall, not later than 24 hours after consideration of a bill, resolution, report or other item cause the text of the reported item and any amendment adopted thereto to be made publicly available in electronic form.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEARINGS

Public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by the Committee shall be made no later than 7 calendar days before the commencement of the hearing. To the extent possible, the seven days shall be counted from 168 hours before the time of the Committee's hearing.

The Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or upon a vote by the majority of the Committee (a quorum being present), may authorize a hearing to commence on less than 7 calendar days notice.

A. Witness Lists

Unless the Chair determines it is impracticable to do so, the Committee shall make a tentative witness list available at the time it makes the public announcement of the hearing. If a tentative witness list is not made available at the time of the announcement of the hearing, such witness list shall be made available as soon as practicable after such announcement is made. A final witness list shall be issued by the Committee no later than 48 hours prior to the commencement of the hearing.

B. Material for the Hearing

The Chair shall provide to all Members of the Committee, as soon as practicable after the announcement of the hearing, a memorandum explaining the subject matter of the hearing and any official reports from departments and agencies on the subject matter of the hearing. Such material shall be made available to all Members of the Committee no later than 48 hours before the commencement of the hearing unless the Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, determines that certain reports from departments or agencies should not be made available prior to the commencement of the hearing. Material provided by the Chair to all Members, whether provided prior to or at the hearing, shall be placed on the Committee website no later than 48 hours after the commencement of the hearing unless such material contains sensitive or classified information in which case such material shall be handled pursuant to Rule 15 of the Committee's Rules.

5. MEETINGS AND HEARINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A. Meetings

Each meeting of the Committee or its Subcommittees for the transaction of business,

including the markup of legislation, shall be open to the public, including to radio, television, and still photography coverage, except as provided by House Rule XI, cl. 4. If the majority of Members of the Committee or Subcommittee present at the meeting, determine by a recorded vote in open session that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public because the disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House; *provided however*, that no person other than Members of the Committee, and such congressional staff and such executive branch representatives they may authorize, shall be present in any meeting which has been closed to the public.

The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are *ex officio* Members of all Subcommittees for the purpose of any meeting conducted by a Subcommittee.

B. Hearings

Each hearing conducted by the Committee or its Subcommittees shall be open to the public, including radio, television and still photography coverage. If the majority of Members of the Committee or Subcommittee present at the hearing, determine by a recorded vote in open session, that all or part of the remainder of the hearing on that day shall be closed to the public because the disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House; *provided however*, that the Committee or Subcommittee may by the same procedure also vote to close one subsequent day of hearings. Notwithstanding the requirements of the preceding sentence, a majority of those present (if the requisite number of Members are present under Committee rules for the purpose of taking testimony) may vote: (i) to close the hearing for the sole purpose of discussing whether the testimony or evidence to be received would endanger the national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or violate Rule XI, cl. 2(k)(5) of the House or (ii) to close the hearing, as provided clause 2(k)(5) of Rule XI of the House.

The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are *ex officio* Members of all Subcommittees for any hearing conducted by a Subcommittee. Members of the Committee who wish to participate in a hearing of the Subcommittee to which they are not Members shall make such request to the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee at the commencement of the hearing. The Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee, shall grant such request.

No Member of the House may be excluded from non-participatory attendance at any hearing of the Committee or any Subcommittee, unless the House of Representatives shall by majority vote authorize the Committee or Subcommittees, for purposes of a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearing to Members by the same procedures designated to close hearings to the public.

Members of Congress who are not Members of the Committee but would like to participate in a hearing shall notify the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member and submit a formal request no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting or hearing.

To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall provide audio and video

coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen and view the proceedings and shall maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner easily accessible to the public.

6. WITNESSES

A. Statement of Witnesses

Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or Subcommittee shall file an electronic copy of the testimony with the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member no later than 48 hours before the commencement of the hearing. In addition, the witness shall provide 25 copies of the testimony by the commencement of the hearing. The Chair may waive the requirement by the witness providing 25 copies in which case the Committee or Subcommittee shall provide the 25 copies.

Each non-governmental witness shall provide to the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member, no later than 48 hours before the commencement of the hearing, a curriculum vitae or other statement describing their education, employment, professional affiliation or other background information pertinent to their testimony.

As required by Rule XI, cl. 2(g) of the Rules of the House, each non-governmental witness before the commencement of the hearing shall file with the Chair a disclosure form detailing any contracts or grants that the witness has with the federal government. Such information shall be posted on the Committee website within 24 hours after the witness appeared at the hearing.

The failure to provide the materials set forth by the deadlines set forth in these rules may be grounds for excluding both the oral and written testimony of the witness unless waived by the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee.

The Committee will provide public access to printed materials, including the testimony of witnesses in electronic form on the Committee's website no later than 24 hours after the hearing is adjourned. Supplemental material provided after the hearing adjourns, shall be placed on the Committee website no later than 24 hours after receipt of such material.

B. Number of Witnesses and Witnesses Selected by the Minority

For any hearing conducted by the Committee or Subcommittee there shall be no more than four non-governmental witnesses of which the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee (as appropriate) is entitled to select one witness for the hearing. Witnesses selected by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee shall be invited to testify by the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee (as appropriate). Rule 6(A) shall apply with equal force to witnesses selected by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee.

The limitations set forth in the preceding paragraph shall not apply if the Committee holds a hearing to honor the work of the small business community in conjunction with the annual celebration of Small Business Week. Witness limitations for such a hearing shall be determined by the Chair in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

C. Interrogation of Witnesses

Except when the Committee adopts a motion pursuant to subdivisions (B) and (C) of clause 2(i)(2) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, Committee Members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chair for that purpose. Members shall have the opportunity, as set forth in Rule XI, cl. 2(j) of the Rules of the House, to

question each witness on the panel for a period not to exceed five minutes. For any hearing, the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee may offer a motion to extend the questioning of a witness or witnesses by the Member identified in the motion for more than five minutes as set forth in Rule XI, cl. 2(j)(B).

The Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee shall commence questioning followed by the Ranking Minority Member. Thereafter, questioning shall alternate between the majority and minority Members in order of their arrival at the hearing after the gavel has been struck to commence the hearing with the first arriving having priority over Members of his or her party. If Members arrive simultaneously or are there prior to the gavel being struck to commence the hearing, order of questioning shall be based on seniority.

In recognizing Members to question witnesses, the Chair may take into consideration the ratio of majority and minority Members present in such a manner as to not disadvantage the Members of either party.

7. SUBPOENAS

A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities to require the attendance and testimony of such witness and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers and document, as deemed necessary. Such subpoena shall be authorized by a majority of the full Committee. The requirement that the authorization of a subpoena require a majority vote may be waived by the Ranking Member of the Committee. The Chair may issue a subpoena, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, when the House is out for session for more than three legislative days.

8. QUORUM

A quorum, for purposes of reporting a measure or recommendation, shall be a majority of the Committee Members. For purposes of taking testimony or receiving evidence, a quorum shall be one Member from the Majority and one Member from the Minority. The Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee shall exercise reasonable comity by waiting for the Ranking Minority Member even if a quorum is present before striking the gavel to commence the hearing. For hearings held by the Committee or a Subcommittee in a location other than the Committee's hearing room in Washington, DC, a quorum shall be deemed to present if the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee is present.

9. AMENDMENTS DURING MARK-UP

Any amendment offered to any pending legislation before the Committee must be made available in written form by any Member of the Committee. If such amendment is not available in written form when requested, the Chair shall allow an appropriate period for the provision thereof and may adjourn the markup to provide sufficient time for the provision of such written amendment. Such period or adjournment shall not prejudice the offering of such amendment.

For amendments to be accepted during mark-up, there is no requirement that the amendments be filed prior to commencement of the mark-up or prepared with the assistance of the Office of Legislative Counsel. Even though it is not necessary, Members seeking to amend legislation during mark-up should draft amendments with the assistance of the Office of Legislative Counsel and consult with the Chair or Ranking Member's staff (as appropriate) in the preparation of such amendments.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

The Chair in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member may postpone further

proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chair may resume postponed proceedings, but no later than 24 hours after such postponement, unless the House is not in session or there are conflicts with Member schedules that make it unlikely a quorum will be present to conduct business on the postponed proceeding. In such cases, the Chair will consult with Members to set a time as early as possible to resume proceedings but in no event later than the next meeting date as set forth in Rule 3 of these Rules. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

11. NUMBER AND JURISDICTION OF SUBCOMMITTEES

There will be five Subcommittees as follows:

The Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade

This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Republican Members and four (4) Democratic Members) will address policies that enhance rural economic growth, increasing America's energy independence and ensuring that America's small businesses can compete effectively in a global marketplace.

Oversight of agricultural policies.

Oversight of environmental issues and regulations (including agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers).

Oversight of energy issues, including expansion of domestic resources whether they are renewable or non-renewable.

Oversight of international trade policy with particular emphasis on agencies that provide direct assistance to small businesses, such as: the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of International Trade, the Department of Commerce's United States Export Assistance Centers, the Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Export-Import Bank.

Oversight of infringement of intellectual property rights by foreign competition.

The Subcommittee on Health and Technology

This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Republican Members and four (4) Democratic Members) will address how health care policies may inhibit or promote economic growth and job creation by small businesses. In addition, the Subcommittee will examine small business job growth through the creation and adoption of advanced technologies.

Oversight of the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Oversight of availability and affordability of health care coverage for small businesses.

Oversight of general technology issues, including intellectual property policy in the United States.

Oversight of United States telecommunications policies including, but not limited to, the National Broadband Plan and allocation of electromagnetic spectrum

The Small Business Innovation Research Program.

Small Business Technology Transfer Program.

The Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access

This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Republican Members and four (4) Democratic Members) will evaluate the operation of the financial markets in the United States and their ability to provide needed

capital to small businesses. In addition, the Subcommittee will review federal programs, especially those overseen by the SBA, aimed at assisting entrepreneurs in obtaining needed capital. Since the tax policy plays an integral role in access to capital, this Committee also will examine the impact of federal tax policies on small businesses.

Oversight of capital access and financial markets.

Implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

SBA financial assistance programs, including guaranteed loans, microloans, certified development company loans, and small business investment companies.

Oversight of the Department of Agriculture business and industry guaranteed loan program.

Oversight of general tax policy affecting small businesses.

The management of the SBA disaster loan program.

The Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulations

This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Republican Members and four (4) Democratic Members) will probe the efficient operation of government programs that affect small businesses, including the SBA, and develop proposals to make them operate in a more cost-effective manner. This Subcommittee also will review the regulatory burdens imposed on small businesses and how those burdens may be alleviated.

Oversight of general issues affecting small businesses and federal agencies.

Oversight of the management of the SBA.

Oversight of the SBA Inspector General.

Implementation of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Oversight of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget.

Use of the Congressional Review Act.

Transparency of the federal rulemaking process as required by the Administrative Procedure and Data Quality Acts.

Implementation of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

The Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce

This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Republican Members and four (4) Democratic Members) will assess the federal procurement system, including those programs designed specifically to enhance participation by small businesses in providing goods and services to the federal government. The Subcommittee will examine various programs designed to provide technical assistance to small businesses, whether specifically aimed at federal contractors or small businesses in general. Finally, the Subcommittee will review the broad scope of workforce issues that affect the ability of small businesses to obtain and maintain qualified employees.

Oversight of government-wide procurement practices and programs affecting small businesses.

Oversight of federal procurement policies that inhibit or expand participation by small businesses in the federal contracting marketplace.

All contracting programs established by the Small Business Act, including HUBZone, 8(a), Women-, and Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Programs.

Technical assistance provided to federal contractors and perspective contractors through SBA personnel, Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.

The SBA Surety Bond guarantee program.

Oversight of all federal policies that affect the workforce including, but not limited to,

the roles of the Department of Labor and the National Labor Relations Board.

SBA entrepreneurial development and technical assistance programs unrelated to participation in the federal government contracting.

12. POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Each Subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the Committee on any matters referred to it. Prior to the scheduling of any meeting or hearing of a Subcommittee, the Chair of the Subcommittee shall obtain the approval of the Chair of the Committee.

No hearing or meeting of a Subcommittee shall take place at the same time as the meeting or hearing of the full Committee or another Subcommittee, *provided however*, that the Subcommittee Chairs may hold field hearings that conflict with those held by other Subcommittees of the Committee.

13. COMMITTEE STAFF

A. Majority Staff

The employees of the Committee, except those assigned to the Minority as provided below, shall be appointed and assigned, and may be removed by the Chair of the Committee. The Chair shall fix their remuneration and they shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chair.

B. Minority Staff

The employees of the Committee assigned to the Minority shall be appointed and assigned, and their remuneration determined, as the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall decide.

C. Subcommittee Staff

There shall be no separate staff assigned to Subcommittees. The Chair and Ranking Member shall endeavor to ensure that sufficient committee staff is made available in order that each Subcommittee may carry out the responsibilities set forth in Rule 11, *supra*.

14. RECORDS

The Committee shall keep a complete record of all actions, which shall include a record of the votes on any question on which a recorded vote is demanded. The result of any vote by the Committee, or if applicable by a Subcommittee, including a voice vote shall be posted on the Committee's website within 24 hours after the vote has been taken. Such record shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of the Member voting for and against such amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, and the names of Members present but not voting. For any amendment, motion, order, or other proposition decided by voice vote, the record shall include a description and whether the voice vote was in favor or against.

The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee and Subcommittee activity which, in the case of a meeting or hearing transcript shall include a substantially verbatim account of the remarks actually made during the proceedings subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks.

The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chair of the Committee shall notify the Ranking Member of the Committee of any decision, pursuant to Rule VII, cl. 3(b)(3) or cl. 4(b), to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination of the written request of any Member of the Committee.

The Committee Rules shall be made publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later

than 30 days after the Chair of the Committee is elected in each odd-numbered year.

15. ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED OR SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Access to classified or sensitive information supplied to the Committee or Subcommittees and attendance at closed sessions of the Committee or a Subcommittee shall be limited to Members and necessary Committee staff and stenographic reporters who have appropriate security clearance when the Chair determines that such access or attendance is essential to the functioning of the Committee or one of its Subcommittees.

The procedures to be followed in granting access to those hearings, records, data, charts, and files of the Committee which involve classified information or information deemed to be sensitive shall be as follows:

(A) Only Members of the House of Representatives and specifically designated Committee staff of the Committee on Small Business may have access to such information.

(B) Members who desire to read materials that are in possession of the Committee shall notify the Clerk of the Committee in writing.

(C) The Clerk of the Committee will maintain an accurate access log, which identifies the circumstances surrounding access to the information, without revealing the material examined.

(D) If the material desired to be reviewed is material which the Committee or Subcommittee deems to be sensitive enough to require special handling, before receiving access to such information, individuals will be required to sign an access information sheet acknowledging such access and that the individual has read and understands the procedures under which access is being granted.

(E) Material provided for review under this rule shall not be removed from a specified room within the Committee offices.

(F) Individuals reviewing materials under this rule shall make certain that the materials are returned to the proper custodian.

(G) No reproductions or recordings may be made of any portion of such materials.

(H) The contents of such information shall not be divulged to any person in any way, form, shape, or manner and shall not be discussed with any person who has not received the information in the manner authorized by the rules of the Committee.

(I) When not being examined in the manner described herein, such information will be kept in secure safes or locked file cabinets within the Committee offices.

(J) These procedures only address access to information the Committee or Subcommittee deems to be sensitive enough to require special treatment.

(K) If a Member of the House of Representatives believes that certain sensitive information should not be restricted as to dissemination or use, the Member may petition the Committee or Subcommittee to so rule. With respect to information and materials provided to the Committee by the Executive Branch or an independent agency as that term is defined in 44 U.S.C. §3502, the classification of information and materials as determined by the Executive Branch or independent agency shall prevail unless affirmatively changed by the Committee or Subcommittee involved, after consultation with the Executive Branch or independent agency.

(L) Other materials in the possession of the Committee are to be handled in the accordance with normal practices and traditions of the Committee.

16. OTHER PROCEDURES

The Chair of the Committee may establish such other procedures and take such actions

as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee.

17. AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended or repealed by a majority vote of the Members, at a meeting specifically called for such purpose, but only if written notice of the proposed change or changes has been provided to each Member of the Committee at least 72 hours prior to the time of the meeting of the Committee to consider such change or changes.

18. BUDGET AND TRAVEL

From the amount provided to the Committee in the primary expense resolution adopted by the House of Representatives in the 113th Congress, the Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall designate one-third of the budget under the direction of the Ranking Minority Member for the purposes of minority staff, travel expenses of minority staff and Members, and minority office expenses.

The Chair may authorize travel in connection with activities or subject matters under the legislative or oversight jurisdiction of the Committee as set forth in Rule X of the Rules of the House.

The Ranking Minority Member may authorize travel for any Minority Member or staff of the minority in connection with activities or subject matters under the Committee's jurisdiction as set forth in Rule X of the Rules of the House. Before such travel, there shall be submitted to the Chair of the Committee in writing the following at least seven (7) calendar days prior specifying: a) the purpose of the travel; b) the dates during which the travel is to occur; c) the names of the states or countries to be visited and the length of time spent in each; and d) the names of Members and staff of the Committee participating in such travel. Prior approval shall not be required of Minority Staff traveling to participate in a deposition, authorized by the Chair in rule 16 of these Rules of an individual located outside of the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

19. COMMITTEE WEBSITE

The Chair shall maintain an official Committee website for the purpose of furthering the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about Committee's activities to Committee Members and other Members of the House. The Ranking Minority Member may maintain a similar website for the same purpose, including communicating information about the activities of the Minority to Committee Members and other Members of the House.

20. VICE CHAIR

Pursuant to the Rules of the House, the Chair shall designate a Member of the Majority to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee. The Vice Chair shall preside at any meeting or hearing during the temporary absence of the Chair. The Chair also reserves the right to designate a Member of the Committee Majority to serve as the Chair at a hearing or meeting.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1170. An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research, and for other purposes; to the Com-

mittee on Oversight and Government Reform; in addition, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and to the Committee on Armed Services for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 1632. An act to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs; in addition, to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 25, 2015, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2921. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Blueberry Promotion, Research and Information Order; Expanding the Membership of the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council and Other Changes [Document Number: AMS-FV-14-0089] received September 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2922. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Onions Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-15-0027; FV15-958-1 IR] received September 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2923. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Apricots Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-15-0033; FV15-922-1 IR] received September 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2924. A letter from the Director, Issuances Staff, Office of Policy and Program Development, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Eligibility of Lithuania to Export Meat and Meat Products to the United States [Docket No.: FSIS-2014-0040] (RIN: 0583-AD57) received September 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2925. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule — Irish Potatoes Grown in Southeastern States; Suspension of Marketing Order Provisions [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0011;

FV14-953-1 FIR] received September 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2926. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list, in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2927. A letter from the Acting PRAO Branch Chief, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Agricultural Act of 2014 Nondiscretionary Provisions (RIN: 0584-AE48) received September 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2928. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Benzovindiflupyr; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0141; FRL-9933-03] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2929. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Acibenzolar-S-methyl; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0840; FRL-9933-27] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2930. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Priorities List [EPA-HQ-SFUND-2015-0136, 0137, 0138, 0140, and 0141; FRL-9934-75-OSWER] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2931. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Nonattainment New Source Review and Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program [EPA-R01-OAR-2014-0796; EPA-R01-OAR-2014-0862; A-1-FRL-9933-92-Region 1] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2932. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Missouri; Control of Mercury Emissions from Electric Generating Units [EPA-R07-OAR-2015-0427; FRL-9934-68-Region 7] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2933. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Florida; Combs Oil Company Variance [EPA-R04-OAR-2015-0133; FRL-9934-72-Region 4] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2934. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Mississippi: Miscellaneous Changes [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0163; FRL-9934-73-Region 4] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2935. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Hazardous Waste Management System; Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste [EPA-R07-RCRA-2014-0452; FRL-9934-78-Region 7] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2936. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; CO; Revised format for Material Incorporated by Reference [EPA-R08-OAR-2015-0149; FRL-9931-73-Region 8] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2937. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for a drawdown in defense articles and services of the Department of Defense, and military education and training, to support Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria in their efforts to counter Boko Haram, in accordance with Sec. 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2938. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia, as required by Sec. 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and Sec. 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2939. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula (Rev. Rul. 2015-20) received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2940. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Per Capita Distributions of Funds Held in Trust by the Secretary of the Interior [Notice 2015-67] [IRB 2015-41] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2941. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Information Reporting on Minimum Essential Coverage [Notice 2015-68] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2942. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — 2015-2016 Special Per Diem Rates [Notice 2015-63] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2943. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Applicable Federal Rates — October 2015 (Rev. Rul. 2015-21) received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2944. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Investments Made for Charitable Purposes [Notice 2015-62] [IRB 2015-39] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2945. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Section 168(k)(2) and (4) and section 179(f) Extenders Guidance Pursuant to TIPA (Rev. Proc. 2015-48) received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2946. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2015-61] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2947. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations and removal of temporary regulations — Reorganizations Under Section 368(a)(1)(F); Section 367(a) and Certain Reorganizations Under Section 368(a)(1)(F) [TD 9739] (RIN: 1545-BF51; 1545-BM78) received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2948. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations and temporary regulations — Dividend Equivalents from Sources within the United States [TD 9734] (RIN: 1545-BJ56) received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 1613. A bill to reduce the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Federal fleet by encouraging the use of remanufactured parts, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-266). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BISHOP of Michigan (for himself and Mr. POCAN):
H.R. 3594. A bill to extend temporarily the Federal Perkins Loan program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 3595. A bill to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 3596. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ADERHOLT (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. PALMER, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mrs. ROBY, and Mr. BYRNE):

H.R. 3597. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow States to determine if providers are qualified under Medicaid State plans to perform services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BARLETTA (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 3598. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance the partnership between the Department of Homeland Security and the National Network of Fusion Centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 3599. A bill to take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HOLDING (for himself and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 3600. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to limit the instances in which official time may be granted to employees of the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 3601. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7715 Post Road, North Kingstown, Rhode Island, as the "Melvold J. Benson Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 3602. A bill to provide compensation to injured persons relating to the Gold King Mine spill, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to address mining-related issues, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 3603. A bill to grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3604. A bill to establish a grant program to assist States to establish or expand universal prekindergarten in public schools and public charter schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 3605. A bill to establish humane practices for the repatriation of aliens at the border, establish effective standards for the treatment of certain aliens in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 3606. A bill to provide for enhanced protections for vulnerable unaccompanied alien children and female detainees; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SABLAN (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, and Ms. PLASKETT):

H.R. 3607. A bill to increase from 10 to 15 years the term of office of the judges of the district courts of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. POMPEO):

H.R. 3608. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 exempt amounts paid for aircraft management services from the excise taxes imposed on transportation by air; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 3609. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify requirements for payment under the Medicare program for ambulance services furnished by critical access hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KATKO:

H. Res. 434. A resolution providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 719, with an amendment; considered and agreed to. considered and agreed to.

By Ms. GABBARD (for herself and Mr. HUNTER):

H. Res. 435. A resolution recognizing the persecution of religious and ethnic minorities, especially Christians and Yezidis, by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, also known as Daesh, and calling for the immediate prioritization of accepting refugees from such communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. COSTA, Ms. DELAUNO, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. WELCH):

H. Res. 436. A resolution honoring the victims of the Cambodian genocide that took

place from April 1975 to January 1979; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself and Mr. COHEN):

H. Res. 437. A resolution designating September 2015 as "Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. POCAN):

H. Res. 438. A resolution supporting the designation of a week as National Federal Nurse Recognition Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H. Res. 439. A resolution expressing support for designation of October 2, 2015, as "World MRSA Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. TROTT (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. DOLD, Mr. BENISHEK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. DENHAM):

H. Res. 440. A resolution calling for urgent international action on behalf of Iraqi and Syrian civilians facing a dire humanitarian crisis and severe persecution because of their faith or ethnicity in the Nineveh Plain region of Iraq and Khabor, Kobane, and Aleppo regions of Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

138. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 82, urging the United States Congress to preserve full funding and support for the United States Department of Defense STARBASE youth science and technology program; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BISHOP of Michigan:

H.R. 3594.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 3595.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 3596.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.R. 3597.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to * * * provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power * * * To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by

the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 3598.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 3599.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2—The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. HOLDING:

H.R. 3600.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution states: "The Congress shall have Power To [. . .] make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 3601.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 3602.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 3603.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3604.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 3605.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 3606.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. SABLÁN:

H.R. 3607.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the Constitution.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 3608.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 3609.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII Clause I

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common

defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 188: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 317: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 320: Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 343: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 540: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 592: Mr. HARDY and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 676: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 814: Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 822: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 842: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 865: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan and Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 879: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 918: Mr. HARDY.
H.R. 957: Mr. GUINTA.
H.R. 969: Mr. DONOVAN, Ms. BASS, and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 985: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 1076: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1101: Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 1120: Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 1130: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 1139: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 1142: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1174: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. BABIN, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1188: Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 1192: Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. SENBRENNER, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. ROSS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 1221: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
H.R. 1258: Mr. CASTRO of Texas and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 1286: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 1288: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 1301: Mrs. NOEM and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 1312: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 1321: Mrs. LAWRENCE and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 1343: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1384: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
H.R. 1398: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 1439: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 1442: Mr. DONOVAN.
H.R. 1475: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 1478: Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 1503: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 1516: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 1522: Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 1559: Mr. HECK of Nevada and Ms. GRAHAM.
H.R. 1568: Ms. GABBARD, Ms. ESTY, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1602: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1608: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 1610: Mr. DONOVAN and Mr. HILL.
H.R. 1624: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1635: Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H.R. 1706: Ms. EDWARDS.
H.R. 1737: Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 1752: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 1856: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1887: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 1942: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SHUSTER, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. BERA, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2023: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. GRAHAM, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 2050: Mr. BERA and Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 2090: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 2096: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2114: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 2121: Mr. POLIQUIN.

H.R. 2123: Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 2156: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 2205: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 2254: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2278: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 2280: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2295: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 2328: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 2408: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2430: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 2510: Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ASHFORD, and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 2515: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 2555: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2566: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 2568: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 2646: Ms. NORTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 2726: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2759: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. FARR, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2764: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GALLEG0, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 2769: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 2844: Mr. GARAMENDI and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 2848: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 2858: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 2876: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 2877: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 2894: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GALLEG0, and Mr. MICA.

H.R. 2903: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 2918: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 2923: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 2940: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 2991: Miss RICE of New York and Mr. BUCHSON.

H.R. 3029: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3052: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 3061: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3065: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. HAHN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3099: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.

H.R. 3119: Mr. KEATING, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 3126: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MASSIE, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 3135: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 3150: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 3183: Mr. ROSS and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 3187: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 3193: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 3229: Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 3268: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 3294: Ms. MCSALLY and Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 3295: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3297: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 3302: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 3309: Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. STEWART, Mrs. LOVE, and Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 3326: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 3338: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 3340: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 3343: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3361: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 3364: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 3381: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 3389: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 3396: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3421: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 3423: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 3429: Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 3457: Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 3472: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 3487: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 3493: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 3495: Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 3512: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 3516: Mr. MASSIE, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 3532: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 3537: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 3549: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 3562: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 3564: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 3566: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 3567: Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 3572: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 3584: Miss RICE of New York.

H.J. Res. 9: Mr. WALDEN.

H.J. Res. 55: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H. Con. Res. 50: Ms. KAPTUR.

H. Con. Res. 51: Mr. KING of New York.

H. Con. Res. 65: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. JONES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VELA, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. CLARKE of New York,

Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. HAHN.

H. Con. Res. 75: Mr. PALMER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JONES, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Ms. GABBARD.

H. Res. 54: Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H. Res. 218: Mr. YOHO.

H. Res. 268: Mr. ASHFORD.

H. Res. 290: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Res. 378: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H. Res. 394: Mr. WALZ and Mr. FARR.

H. Res. 400: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H. Res. 417: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H. Res. 419: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. ESTY.

H. Res. 423: Mr. COOK, Mr. PEARCE, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.

H. Res. 431: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.