

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

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

CONGRESS MUST STOP THE
SUFFERING

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as Americans celebrate Christmas, millions of families will have an empty chair at the table for a relative who is lost in our failed mental health system or one of the more than 80,000 mentally ill who died this year.

They suffer from a brain disease of serious mental illness, but they also suffer from Federal policies stopping them from getting treatment: Medicaid rules that say you can't see two doctors on the same day, you can't go to a psychiatric hospital with more than 16 beds, and perverse priorities of the right to be sick instead of the right to be well.

Mr. Speaker, this holiday season, let us give our families a gift of hope. Members should cosponsor H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, and let compassion dictate. We must stop the suffering, stop the congressional delays, and finally take action because where there is no help, there is no hope.

A YEAR OF ACTION AND
PROGRESS

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have spent the past year working with Illinois families to see how we could make this year a year of action and progress for Second District families. Keeping that in mind, I wanted to end this year on a high note by providing a brief snapshot on the state of my district on the education and economic front.

This year, I donated over 1,000 books to Second District's school libraries, even as we faced a tough State budget crisis. Illinois students should have the best educational resources possible, and I am working with my community to ensure just that. I also kicked off my "Robin's Readers" reading challenge. More than 3,000 kids participated, reading over 20,000 books in a 10-week period.

On the economic front, I held my third annual job fair, where I connected 500 jobseekers with 70 businesses looking to hire. We also held our second job and resource fair for our youth, as well as a veterans event.

This is just a sample of the work we were able to accomplish, and I look forward to continuing our success in the new year.

Happy holidays.

OBAMACARE DESTROYS JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Monday, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office confirmed what we have seen for the last 5 years: ObamaCare destroys jobs.

Over the next 10 years, ObamaCare is expected to significantly reduce American work hours, destroying nearly 2 million jobs. The impact will also reduce America's workforce by nearly 1 percent.

The cause is clear. Workers cannot afford the excessive mandates and changes in tax rates. ObamaCare not only hurts wallets by increasing premiums, but it also hurts workers by destroying jobs. Last month, we learned that major insurance companies, like UnitedHealthcare, may not remain in the exchanges because of high costs. ObamaCare is unsustainable.

We have seen time and time again how ObamaCare has harmed jobs and families. Its architect, Jonathan Gruber, admitted that it was built on "the stupidity of the American voter." We must repeal it and replace this broken law with patient-centered solutions.

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

CONGRATULATING EAST
NICOLAUS HIGH SCHOOL ON
GOING TO THE STATE AA CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to your attention East Nicolaus High School. I suspect all of you are aware of this. I see my colleague from my bordering district, to the north of me, who went to Biggs High School, which was the rival of East Nicolaus High School.

East Nicolaus High School is going to the State AA championships in San Diego. Congratulations to them.

To all of you, be aware: there are less than 250 students in this school, and they are tough.

TAX RATE EXTENDERS HAVE
POSITIVE ECONOMIC EFFECTS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Merry Christmas to the East Nicolaus Spartans from the Biggs Wolverines. Congratulations this year.

Mr. Speaker, the tax credit package we have passed will not only lower taxes for families across the Nation, it will spur more investment and growth by small businesses and farms, like in my northern California district.

For too long, Americans have had to wait until the last few days of each year to find out under which laws they will be taxed and at what rates. If the Senate will join us, this package will end that vicious cycle, and Americans can finally make financial decisions with greater stability to plan for the future.

We have supported education through tax credits for students and teachers, and we have increased protections to rein in the IRS.

Particularly important components for the First District are provisions that allow farmers, ranchers, as well as mining operations, timber operators, and construction contractors to make informed decisions about how they can buy new equipment for the coming years and how it will be taxed.

Families and businesses have been asking and begging for us to have the stability and predictability in what their tax rates are going to be. I am very happy that we were able to get this done, and I urge the Senate to also get that done so we can have predictability in tax rates and go about our business.

FUNDING FOR NEUROSCIENCE

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, over 50 million Americans suffer from a neurological disease or disorder, over 1 billion worldwide. I authored language that created an interagency working group that brought together dozens of federal agencies years ago, and we have laid out a map, a plan, over the last 4 years now including mapping the human brain with the BRAIN Initiative and funding a host of specific efforts.

I am so pleased that the bill that we will pass today will have a historic level of funding for neuroscience, over \$7 billion in efforts at the National Institutes of Health, a historic investment at the National Science Foundation, and now we have brought together our national labs to create a national brain observatory.

I want to thank my colleague from Oklahoma, TOM COLE, for working with me as the chair of our Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. And in my role on the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, there is so much more for us to do. But I am convinced that if we have the mind to work, we, indeed, can rebuild the walls.

RECOGNIZING THE GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM AT CHEROKEE TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL IN AURORA, COLORADO, FOR WINNING THE 5A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the girls varsity volleyball team of Cherokee Trail High School in Aurora, Colorado, on winning the 2015 Colorado 5A State championship game on November 14, 2015.

The students and staff who were a part of the title-winning Cougar team deserve the utmost respect and commendation for winning in what has been a season full of challenges. Following the tragic death of one of their players, Celeste James, and a serious injury to another, Amazing Ashby, the Cherokee Trail Cougars showed courage in the face of true adversity to complete a title-winning season which honored their teammates.

These volleyball players were led to the championship title through the extraordinary leadership of their head coach, Terry Miller, and his hard-working staff.

It is with great pride that I join all of the residents of Aurora, Colorado, in congratulating the Cherokee Trail Cougars on their State championship.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. PETERS. Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 19, 2013:

Jael Griego, 5 years old.

Angelina Griego, 2 years old.

Greenwood, Minnesota, September 17, 2015:

Karen Short, 48 years old.

Cole Short, 17.

Madison Short, 15.

Brooklyn Short, 14.

Bell, Florida, September 18, 2014:

Sara Spirit, 28 years old.

Kaleb Kuhlmann, 11 years old.

Kylie Kuhlmann, 9 years old.

Johnathon Kuhlmann, 8.

Brandon Stewart, 4.

Destiny Stewart, 5.

Alanna Stewart, 3 months old.

Federal Way, Washington, April 21, 2013:

Roland Scobee, 62 years old.

Bradley Fischer, 47.

Justine Baez, 24.

Cesar A. Valdovinos, 23.

Spanish Fork, Utah, January 16, 2014:

Marie King, 55 years old.

Kelly Boren, 32.

Joshua Boren, 7.

Haley Boren, 5.

CONGRATULATING CLINCH COUNTY PANTHERS

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Clinch County High School football team. Last Friday night, the Clinch County Panthers faced off against the Irwin County Indians for the Georgia Class A Public State Championship.

Early in the game, both teams were well matched, with both scoring touchdowns in the first quarter. However, the Panthers scored a second touchdown early in the second quarter and never looked back.

In total, the Panthers racked up 292 rushing yards in the 24-7 win. This was the sixth title in the school's history and the first since winning it in 2010.

I commend Coach Dickerson and the Clinch County Panthers for a great season. You deserve it.

REMEMBERING LILLIAN VERNON

(Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, Lillian Vernon, a woman who personified the American Dream and inspired generations of girls and boys, passed away this week.

Lillian was born Lilli Menasche in Leipzig, Germany, in 1927. Her family arrived here in 1937 after fleeing the new Nazi regime. She attended NYU for a couple of years before leaving to get married. And shortly after her nuptials, the newly pregnant Lillian gathered together what little wedding money she had to start a mail order business from her home in Mount Vernon, New York. She took the name Vernon as her own, and the Lillian Vernon Company was born.

She put an advertisement in "Seventeen" magazine for a personalized purse and belt for \$5; and within weeks, she had \$34,000 dollars in orders.

By 1970, Lillian Vernon had her first million-dollar year. A few decades later, she had nine catalogues, 15 outlet stores, two Web sites, a business-to-business division, and yearly revenue close to \$300 million.

She was a role model for women. She started her company when working mothers were often criticized and female entrepreneurs could rarely get credit. But undeterred, she persevered.

She was also a trailblazer outside the business world and was known for her charity and her devotion to so many causes, including her dedication to the Lillian Vernon Foundation, which supports the U.S. Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, Literacy Volunteers of America, and a number of other charities. In 2011, Vernon was honored with the Project Sunshine Award for Philanthropic Leadership and was appointed by President Clinton as chairwoman of the National Women's Business Council in 1995.

Above all, she was a mother. She was dedicated to her two sons, David and

Fred, both of whom worked in the family business with her.

I had the pleasure of meeting Lillian throughout the years. And I can say that even a reading of her accolades and accomplishments would fail to give a sense of just how special this wonderful woman truly was.

We have lost a great American, and she will be sorely missed.

□ 0915

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise for a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CURBELO of Florida). The gentlewoman will state her parliamentary inquiry.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is facing a dire economic crisis, and our fellow Americans who live there need our help.

Just now, I introduced the Puerto Rico Emergency Financial Stability Act, a bill that provides Puerto Rico some critical, temporary breathing room from creditor lawsuits until Congress acts.

Puerto Rico urgently needs this respite while Congress considers restructuring legislation—legislation to provide the 3.5 million U.S. citizens that call Puerto Rico home the tools they need to comprehensively address the territory's unsustainable debt burden.

Mr. Speaker, my parliamentary inquiry is: Is it in order for this bill to be considered and voted on by this House right now by unanimous consent?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair will not entertain a unanimous consent request for the consideration of a measure unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, that only adds to the urgency of our acting by March 31, 2016, as the Speaker indicated. He also indicated that hearings on this important legislation would begin on our first day back.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2 of House Resolution 566 and clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2029 with the House amendment specified in section 3(a) of House Resolution 566; and

Suspending the rules and passing H.R. 2241, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.