

For details and text of the bills, folks can visit the Rules Committee Web site. Feel free to contact the Rules Committee with any questions that Members may have.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016, TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns, it adjourn to meet on Monday, February 29, 2016, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and at 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address one of the Nation's greatest concerns: welfare reform.

America's most important resource is our people. The last thing we want any of our citizens to believe is that they are forever stuck in a situation that they cannot rise above.

Welfare reform was originally successful because it required work in return for assistance, gave more power and responsibility to the States in fighting poverty, and ensured that States were rewarded for reducing poverty instead of increasing dependency.

Today, given the slow growth of our economy, many job seekers become frustrated when they are unable to find adequate work. This creates a system where many become trapped and dependent on State and Federal assistance.

Solutions to welfare reform have to come from a local level, not from Washington. It is imperative that we encourage family values and education more than anything.

Washington's primary role is to strengthen the economy, facilitate growth, and encourage a positive business climate, thus creating jobs and reducing dependency on State programs.

SPORTSMEN'S HERITAGE AND RECREATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, today Congress voted to make it easier to import killed polar bears and ivory into our Nation.

The SHARE Act is a piece of legislation most closely resembling George Orwell's novel "1984," riddled with doublespeak and nightmarish visions.

The Polar Bear Conservation and Fairness Act, part of this bill, would encourage the further hunting and importation of polar bears as long as they follow the rules.

The African Elephant Conservation and Legal Ivory Possession Act, another title, would encourage the needless and malicious slaying of innocent and endangered animals for their tusks.

And for what? So that gun owners can have a shiny grip on their Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum made of a tusk that once was part of a beautiful, majestic elephant. Have we really come to this place in our history in which the ivory trimming on a gun is more important than a life?

I urge the Senate and the President to reject this ethically reprehensible and morally repugnant bill.

VAIL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Ms. MCSALLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Vail Unified School District for their outstanding education achievements. Year after year the Arizona Department of Education recognizes Vail as a top-performing school district and its schools are continuously labeled A-plus.

As with any organization, leadership matters. Vail superintendent Cal Baker, who I have worked with on many issues related to education, sets a tone from the top of innovation and excellence, but he is not alone.

He has many wingmen and wingwomen, including an engaged school board, dedicated staff and teachers, involved parents, and selfless volunteers, who all work together to provide high-quality education to kids.

Vail's out-of-the-box learning model doesn't just benefit its students, but benefits others across the State where Vail's best practices are exported to other school districts.

Recently it was my honor to participate in Vail Pride Day where we recognized excellent performance in so many students. I gave out the Board Community Award to members of the Vail Parent Network for their work in advocating for education.

I congratulate Vail on their many achievements and their impact on so many kids by setting them on a course to achieve their dreams and full potential.

CONGRATULATING WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the talent, teamwork, and intelligence of the West Windsor-Plainsboro High

School South National Science Bowl team, who are regional champions for the second year in a row.

This year's team includes Dhruva Byrapatna, Eric Mischell, William Jiao, Angela You, and Tanishq Aggarwal. They were coached by Ms. Sunila Sharma.

In a few weeks, these students will head to Washington, D.C., to compete in the Department of Energy's National Science Bowl. I am proud to know that New Jersey's 12th District will be represented.

I wish both the coach and the team the best of luck in the national competition.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. DOLD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition and in celebration of Black History Month.

This month is a reminder of both the incredible sacrifices and the remarkable contributions that African Americans have made during our Nation's history.

153 years ago Illinois' own Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. For 153 years since then, our Nation has struggled to overcome bigotry and achieve equality for all.

Countless courageous leaders have taken up the cause of justice, including former Illinois Senator Everett Dirksen and our own colleague here in the United States Congress, Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

Walking on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma with Congressman LEWIS for the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery marches is one of the highlights of my tenure in the United States Congress.

As we look back on the accomplishments of the past, we cannot lose sight of the urgency with which we must address inequality in our society today.

African Americans today face an unacceptable likelihood of being incarcerated, a poverty rate that our Nation's leaders should be ashamed of, and everyday discrimination that flies in the face of everything our Nation stands for.

In memory of the heroes who have fought for equality throughout our Nation's history, we are compelled to act. I am committed to fighting for a more just and equal society. I implore my colleagues to do the same.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF DEBBIE SMITH

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of late State Senator Debbie Smith, who passed away on Sunday.