

their elected duties with mercy and justice in a sacrificial spirit for the common welfare.

Bless us all with sincere and joyful hearts of service as we serve this country in each of our vocations. We pray justice and concord may abide, peace and prosperity be kept secure, for You, God, are everlasting.

We seek You with all our hearts knowing full well that You hear our prayers. Praying as I have been taught, I close now in the name of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. HIGGINS 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TAXPAYER IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION ACT

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Trade Commission recently ranked the St. Louis metropolitan area, my district and hometown, as having the highest rate of identity theft regarding Federal income tax returns. This is absolutely unacceptable and why I introduced the Taxpayer Identity Theft Protection Act.

My legislation would require the IRS to issue an identity protection personal identification number, or IP PIN, to any individual who requests one to better protect their Social Security numbers from criminals who are looking to steal their identity and file fraudulent tax returns.

Missourians and all Americans deserve peace of mind when filing their

taxes with the IRS, but, instead, we are seeing an unconscionable increase in data breaches and identity theft.

A new GAO report found many deficiencies in the IRS' security program that blatantly expose taxpayers' personal and financial data. My legislation will help stop this reckless exposure.

This essential bill holds the IRS accountable and forces the agency to do the most important job: assist and protect taxpayers.

At a time when trust in government is so low, I am committed to fixing this growing problem and providing another level of security to protect Americans from fraudulent activity.

REMEMBERING TOM HENNESSY

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, Tom Hennessy was a beloved columnist at the Long Beach Press-Telegram for nearly 30 years. Tom passed away recently with his Duchess Debbie by his side.

For his readers, Tom was Mr. Long Beach. He was a humorist, he was an advocate, he was our favorite uncle, and our closest neighbor.

He was a friend who lived in the same world, but somehow saw it so much more clearly and never shied away from using his Irish wit to say so.

Every morning for three decades Tom was the champion of what was right, good, and decent in Long Beach. I was fortunate to have read him, I was lucky to have known him, and now I will join his readers, his family, and his friends in missing him.

ONLY CONGRESS CAN WRITE LAWS

(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, yesterday the U.S. House of Representatives was represented at the Supreme Court during oral arguments for *United States v. Texas*, the challenge by 25 States to the President's illegal executive action on illegal aliens.

Article I of the Constitution is clear: only Congress can write laws. Sadly, the President has overstepped his authority by acting alone after repeatedly saying that he did not have the authority he claimed.

I was grateful to vote in favor of the resolution, which authorized Speaker PAUL RYAN to file a brief in the Supreme Court, the first by the House as a whole. Speaker RYAN deserves recognition for his remarkable leadership in standing up for the Constitution and rule of law.

United States v. Texas filings reveal the President's failed immigration policy, which should be to enforce existing

laws. As an attorney who has practiced immigration law, I know firsthand the benefits of a lawful system welcoming new citizens following the law.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FARENTHOLD). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, 1 in 68 children are diagnosed with autism, and 3.45 million Americans are living with it.

April is National Autism Awareness Month, a time to direct attention to and appreciate the special gifts of these Americans.

In Congress, it is a time to redouble our commitment to them by supporting the Autism CARES Act, which authorizes research in early intervention programs; the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which includes early intervention and education services for people with autism; and the BRAIN Initiative at the National Institutes of Health.

In western New York, I have been proud to support \$5.7 million in Federal grants for promising work at the Institute for Autism Research at Canisius College.

There is a great deal to be done to piece together the mysteries of autism and support the individuals and families living with it every day.

RECOGNIZING HANESBRANDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize HanesBrands, a company headquartered in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, with a long history of innovation, product excellence, and brand recognition.

Hanes recently earned its seventh consecutive partner-of-the-year award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program.

The company was recognized for its continued excellence in energy conservation, carbon emissions avoidance, and environmental sustainability.

Since 2007, Hanes, the world's largest marketer of basic apparel, has reduced its energy use by 25 percent, water use by 31 percent, and carbon emissions by 21 percent.

Last year Hanes derived 25 percent of its worldwide energy needs from renewable sources, including biomass, hydroelectric, geothermal, and wind.

With its continued commitment to excellence, Hanes is a valued corporate