

Martinsburg in 2012, and he went on to study criminal justice at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He was proudly on the dean's list.

In December 2015, he enlisted to join the Pennsylvania State Police Academy in Hershey, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the State Police Academy in June, was assigned to Troop G of the Pennsylvania State Police, and served at the Huntingdon Barracks. He loved his family, and he loved being a police officer.

Trooper Weaver attended Zion Lutheran Church and enjoyed spending time with his family, and especially his wife, Macy. To him, family was everything.

Trooper Weaver is the 97th member of the Pennsylvania State Police to be killed in the line of duty.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his parents, Eric and Christine Weaver of East Freedom; his brother, Larett Weaver of East Freedom; his paternal grandparents, Merrill and Christine D. Weaver; as well as other family members and friends. He grew up in a small town where there is a deep sense of community. Many hearts are broken over this tragic, senseless situation.

One of Trooper Weaver's teachers at Central High School in Martinsburg remembered Trooper Weaver from his days as a student. Teacher Joe Logan said Trooper Weaver was a "great kid" whom you could call on during times of need and he would be there. He said he was "beside himself with grief and sadness."

He went on to say: "He would do anything for you. He was humble, dedicated, and a loving person to his wife and family. You'd be proud to call him a colleague or friend."

Trooper Weaver was one of Pennsylvania's finest. He was committed to his family, to his profession, and to the community that he loved. His dedication to service embodies the values of law enforcement officers across the Nation. Our law enforcement officers risk their lives every day to help people.

Trooper Weaver put on his uniform that day and went to work like he had done so many days before, knowing that any moment he could be in harm's way. That is a commitment our officers make to serve and protect the public and uphold the law. That is the commitment that Trooper Weaver made to serve the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

May we all honor Trooper Weaver's memory. He was a young man just starting out in life. He was a newlywed with so much to look forward to. In one moment, he was gone.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I offer my sincere condolences and prayers to his family, especially to his wife, Macy, during this tragic and difficult time. He risked his life to keep all of us safe.

Trooper Landon Weaver is a hero who was taken from us too soon. May we

mourn his loss and honor his memory. May God bless Landon Weaver and his family.

MINERS' PENSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in this new year, we must make things right for our miners and their widows. We must act now to keep the promise. We must honor their work in the mines by protecting the pensions and healthcare benefits they worked their whole lives to earn.

We must pass legislation I have cosponsored to protect these hard-earned benefits for families like Rita Blankenship of McDowell County who wrote me asking for help. Here is what she said: "My husband was promised healthcare coverage in 1975 when he went to work in the mines and joined the union. I am asking if you could do everything possible to get this passed so we will have health care," she wrote.

These miners and their families deserve no less than what they worked their entire lives to earn: the peace of mind that comes with a pension and secure health care.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting legislation to protect our miners, their widows, and their families. We owe it to them to keep our word.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EMMER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You for the joy, excitement, and ceremony of yesterday, when the 115th Congress convened. It was a celebration of the ongoing American experiment of participatory democracy and the peaceful shifting of power.

Today begins the work of that Congress, when the difficulties facing our Nation, and some communities especially, come into focus. We ask again an abundance of Your wisdom for the Members of the people's House.

May we be forever grateful for the blessings our Nation enjoys and appropriately generous with what we have to help those among us who are in need.

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 Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

JIMMY BURNSED, RETIRING CHAIRMAN OF BRYAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

(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 Mr. Jimmy Burnsed, who has served as chairman of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners for the past 12 years.

On December 31, 2016, he officially retired from serving on the board. Beyond serving as chairman, Mr. Burnsed has dedicated an admirable amount of his life to public service. Nearly 40 years ago, he began serving on the City Council for Garden City, Georgia, before serving 4 years as mayor. In 1989, he moved from Garden City to Bryan County. In 2005, he ran and was elected chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Burnsed's accomplishments on the board since that time are numerous. He worked to build a new administrative building for the county to hold meetings and other events; he managed and planned the infrastructure for Bryan County, which has grown more than 50 percent in size during his tenure; and he helped to upgrade Bryan County's trails, parks, and recreation centers. Mr. Burnsed always put the community first and performed his duties in a way that would make any constituent very proud.

Jimmy Burnsed, you will be greatly missed.

ETHICS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, just a few hours after they attempted to kill the independent Office of Congressional Ethics and strip it for parts, Republicans backed down in the face of public outrage. It speaks volumes that the first thing Republicans attempted to do was weaken ethical standards and that they only changed course once their efforts were exposed to the public. This is not what the American people sent us here to do.

It seems that, contrary to rhetoric, Republicans don't want to drain the swamp. They want to fill it up. This is wrong, and it is critical that Members of Congress be accountable and adhere to the highest ethical standards.

In the weeks ahead, it is critical that all of us hold the majority accountable and prevent them from going back to the days when thinly veiled bribes, kickbacks, and worse were commonplace in this town.

We need more ethical reforms in Congress, not less. That is why I have introduced the ETHICS Act, to require every Member of Congress to undergo the same annual ethics training that their staffs have to complete. That is why I am asking Members of both parties to demand better from our elected officials than what we saw over the last 48 hours.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SPEAKER PAUL DAVIS RYAN

(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 first day of the 115th Congress, the House of Representatives elected PAUL DAVIS RYAN to serve as Speaker of the House. I have been grateful to serve with Speaker RYAN, a proven conservative, throughout my service in Congress and can attest to his commitment to conservative values with innovative thoughtfulness.

Under Speaker RYAN's leadership, House Republicans last year passed meaningful legislation providing greater outreach service for veterans, reinforcing local control of education, ending the 40-year ban on crude oil exports, combating the opioid epidemic, passing the National Defense Authorization Act, and enacting sweeping mental health reform.

Speaker RYAN also launched A Better Way, a bold policy agenda that presents meaningful initiatives for restoring a confident America by presenting solutions to address poverty, grow our economy to create jobs, defend the Constitution, improve health care by

repealing the failing ObamaCare, reform the Tax Code, and strengthen the military.

I was grateful to cast my vote for Speaker RYAN, and I look forward to working with him, President-elect Donald Trump, and Vice President-elect MIKE PENCE in the new Congress to deliver policies of limited government and expanded freedom for American families.

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

DON'T UNDERMINE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICANS

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I spent 10 years of my professional life working in health care, both during and after the Affordable Care Act passed, so let me tell you what a Republican repeal would mean.

It would mean raising prescription drug costs on Illinois seniors by more than \$1,000 every year by reopening the Medicare doughnut hole.

It would mean returning to the days when insurance companies could discriminate against women by charging them more than men for basic care.

It would mean telling diabetics, survivors of a heart attack, or even babies with a birth defect that they aren't qualified for healthcare coverage because of their preexisting condition.

It would mean denying cancer patients lifesaving care after they have reached their lifetime limit on their insurance policy.

Republicans have talked about repealing the Affordable Care Act for almost 7 years, but they have no plan for replacement. Again and again, we have heard that repealing ObamaCare will make America great again. Well, I say it will make America sick again.

Please, let's work together. Don't undermine the health of millions of Americans.

THIS STATE DEPARTMENT BETRAYS ISRAEL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the anti-Semitic United Nations has struck a new low, demanding that Israel prohibit Jews from settling in the West Bank. Guess who was supportive of this absurd resolution in betrayal of our closest ally? The United States.

Once again, this administration is on the wrong side. It has alienated what few international friends we have. Secretary of State John Kerry arrogantly declared: "Israel can either be Jewish or democratic; it cannot be both."

Mr. Speaker, let's think about that statement. The United Nations' man-

date separating Jews from Palestinians in the West Bank is segregation. Segregation is not democratic.

The United States and the U.N. have no legal business telling a sovereign nation where people should live or shouldn't live in that country. Who in the world do we think we are? Would we approve of the U.N. telling us that one race or ethnic group could not live in one region of the United States? Absolutely not.

Thankfully, this State Department will soon be clearing their desks at Foggy Bottom—and good riddance. It is time for a new State Department that supports America's friends and not our enemies.

And that is just the way it is.

SECOND AVENUE SUBWAY OPENING

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, residents in New York City had a special reason to celebrate as this new year began. The very first new subway in over 60 years and the largest subway in the country opened its doors and carried passengers at 12 noon on New Year's Day. This new line is expected to carry over 200,000 travelers a day, reducing commute time, reducing costs, operating with efficiency, and boosting small businesses.

It is a project that has been on the books for over a century and one that I fought for every single day that I have been in Congress. It is the gift that keeps on giving. It has already generated over 16,000 new jobs. It has spurred over \$840 million in good wages. The regional plan says that it is responsible for over \$2.5 billion in new economic activity. They just opened their doors.

Let's work together and support other good, important infrastructure projects in our country. It is good for Americans; it is good for America.

HONORING OUR NATION'S SERVICEMEN AND -WOMEN

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the first time in the 115th Congress to recognize the brave servicemen and -women who tirelessly defend our great Nation.

Every day, our men and women in uniform make tremendous sacrifices to protect the many freedoms we enjoy both at home and abroad. They spend time away from their families, miss birthdays, anniversaries, and funerals, and are frequently required to put themselves in harm's way to fight for this great Nation.

In particular, I would like to recognize Jason Braun, who will be deploying to the Middle East in the coming