

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

days. A Minnesota resident, Jason is a member of the West Metro Fire-Rescue District and is a dedicated husband to my director of operations and scheduler, Kate Braun.

I want to thank Jason; his wife, Kate; and all of the members of our Armed Forces and their families for their continued sacrifice and service to our country. Their dedication to freedom is what makes this country great. I wish all of our servicemembers overseas a safe and speedy deployment.

#### HOW THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT WORKS FOR CONSTITUENTS

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Kalwis Lo, a young man from my district in San Gabriel, California, who told me how his life was saved by the Affordable Care Act.

When he was just out of college, Kalwis was shocked when he was diagnosed with stage III Hodgkin lymphoma. He learned that this disease would end his young life if ignored, but was actually easily treatable in the early stages.

No longer covered by his university, he applied to every type of health insurance he could, but he was denied every single time because of his pre-existing condition. He knew that through insurance coverage he could get the chemotherapy treatments that could save his life, but with each denial, he felt more and more desperate.

Then Kalwis learned about the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan under the Affordable Care Act. This plan made insurance accessible to anyone that had been denied due to a pre-existing condition. Thankfully, California was one of the States participating in the program. Finally, Kalwis got the chemotherapy he needed. He is one of millions of Americans given the promise of their lives back thanks to the Affordable Care Act.

#### OBAMACARE

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to because we made a promise to the American people, and we are going to keep it.

ObamaCare is an unpopular and failed law collapsing under its own weight. Polls have shown it; rising premiums have proven it; and, in November, the voters said it loud and clear. It is time to repeal ObamaCare and replace it with more choices, lower costs, and real protections for patients. Already, we are working to end this damaging law and take control away from Federal bureaucrats and give it back to the people of this country.

One year ago, we sent an ObamaCare repeal bill to the President's desk; but,

not surprisingly, he vetoed it. In a few weeks, this Congress will again send a repeal bill to the President's desk. This time, we will have a President who will sign it.

Mr. Speaker, healthcare decisions should be made by patients and their doctors. American families should have access to health insurance they can actually afford. That is why we will repeal ObamaCare and replace it with real reforms.

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#### HELPING OUR CONSTITUENTS GET AHEAD

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I am Congressman RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY from the Eighth District of Illinois. I have the honor to represent the hardworking families of Chicago's west and northwest suburbs. My constituents, like so many other Americans, are finding it harder and harder to get ahead.

Creating good-paying jobs is my number one job, and growing and strengthening the middle class is my primary mission. I believe working and middle class families must be able to earn a living wage, have quality health care, and educate their children well.

These challenges are not insurmountable, but we must address them immediately. We need to make sure that working and middle class families can achieve economic security. I believe that, if you work hard and play by the rules, you and your children can and should succeed in America. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues in this Chamber to make that a reality.

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS SOLDIERS

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor two young men who gave their lives in service to the State of Texas and the United States when their Apache helicopter crashed in Galveston Bay, Texas, during a training mission last week in my congressional district.

My deepest sympathies go out to the families of Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Lucas Lowe of Daisetta, Texas, a resident of the 36th Congressional District, which I represent, and Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dustin Mortenson of League City, Texas.

The heartbreaking loss of these two fine Texas Army National Guard pilots, assigned to the First Squadron 149th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion of the 36th Infantry Division, has been felt throughout our southeast Texas community. Both men tragically leave

behind a wife and family. Chief Warrant Officer Lucas Lowe's wife, Kami, was also pregnant with twins due next month, in February.

As a former Texas Guardsman myself, my prayers remain with all those who have been impacted by this terrible tragedy. As the U.S. Congressman for District 36, it is my commitment and duty to the families to see that they get the support they need during this very difficult time.

Please keep these families in your thoughts and your prayers. May God bless these two soldiers, their families, and all who serve their country.

#### DON'T MAKE AMERICA SICK AGAIN

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow my colleague and my neighbor in Texas to regret the loss of our two National Guardsmen from the 36th Division. The 36th Division is a historic division, Texas division, T-Patchers, and to lose two of our soldiers is tragic.

But I am on the floor today to talk about health care. The Republican majority has taken the first legislative step to make America sick again. The first step was to take away health care from tens of millions of Americans, including premium increases for millions more in America. The second action lights the fuse on the dangerous legislative process that threatens to cut Medicare, Medicaid, and health tax credits that Americans are now benefiting from.

There should be no reform without a replacement because we may never have a replacement, but we have millions of Americans who will lose their healthcare coverage because of the actions of this House. Let's don't make America sick again.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CENTRAL HIGH BAND

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Little Rock Central High School's flag line and marching band for participating in the events marking the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

Known as the Stereophonic Storm of the Mid-South, Central's flag line and marching band joined several high school bands across the Nation at the annual Waikiki holiday parade to commemorate this historic moment.

Led by band director Brice Evans, the school's trip lasted an entire week, giving our students the chance to having an unforgettable experience by meeting Pearl Harbor survivors and enjoying Thanksgiving in Hawaii.

With their seemingly limitless enthusiasm and spirit, the Central High