FRIDAY NIGHT IN CAIRO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, as we gather tonight in the historic House Chamber, where so much of our Nation’s history has been debated and dispatched, it is good to hear my friend from Georgia talk about the challenges that face our country with the failure of the Affordable Care Act and his thoughtful presentation on just precisely what we need to do to save Americans from the failures of this bad law.

It is an honor for me to pay tribute in the historic House Chamber where every day the distinguished lawgivers in our history look down on this Chamber. George Mason, who wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights, looks down on the Speaker’s dais, as does Thomas Jefferson, the author of our Declaration of Independence.

No speaker stands at the dais and addresses the people’s House without the steady gaze of Moses, the ultimate, most revered lawmaker. Mr. Speaker, he looks down on this Chamber for truth and justice.

Mr. Speaker, we Americans work hard. We work hard every day of the week, and we love Friday. We love Fridays so much that we say: Thank God it’s Friday. Over the years, TGIF has become not only something that everyone in our country who works hard recognizes, but it became the name of a popular restaurant.

In the autumn, we love our Friday nights watching high school football. In the winter, maybe it is catching a movie and eating a pizza with our friends or family. In the spring, Friday can find us catching a baseball game, the American pastime.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday night, I was in Cairo, Egypt, and what I saw was that same joyous, happy experience of families sharing their successes of the week; celebrating a great soccer victory; clapping to wonderful, warm local music; and the squealing of their kids running around their parents, celebrating a birthday or just a good week at work or school.

The streets of the Khan el-Khalili Bazaar in Cairo were chicf-full last Friday. Mr. Speaker, with the living and the loving, just going about that weekly experience pursuing their own version of happiness and TGIF.

Friday night in Cairo, the land of the Pharaoh, the land of the beginning of much of human education and civilization, we found ourselves in the bizarre that has been the centerpiece of trading and manufacturing and merchandising for half a millennia.

Mr. Speaker, my trip to Egypt was marked not just with witnessing the joy of Egyptian family life and seeing and sharing what we have in common. It was a reminder that the 91 million Egyptians are on the front line of the global war on terror, a war that unites the leadership of Egypt and the United States arm-in-arm to design and implement the most effective strategies we can to defeat the malevolent evil enemy of ISIS, al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, and their bloody cohorts across the globe.

In my view, after the approach of the past 8 years, our enemies are stronger and engaged more broadly than ever before. Nothing has driven this point home more than a visit in Cairo to the St. Peter and St. Paul’s Coptic Church.

Located on the plaza adjacent to the offices of His Holiness Coptic Pope Tawadros II, there was joy there last Saturday morning. Mr. Speaker, listening to the chants of the priests, the reverence of the families in the pews, the kids again squealing and smiling in their parents’ arms.

But, Mr. Speaker, on the periphery of that joy was a stark reminder of the destruction there on December 11, when a male ISIS jihadist suicide bomber entered that church disguised as a woman and detonated his vest, murdering 25, mostly women, splattering the walls and the floors of God’s House with their blood.

As I walked through that same entrance last Saturday, Mr. Speaker, the church was developed into a shrine to those who were lost. The pockmarks in the marble are there from the shrapnel from the vest.

But that church is a symbol of unity in Egypt, not division, as it was visited by President el-Sisi, a devout Muslim leader of all Egyptians, who came to share his concern, his affection for Egyptians no matter what their religious background. Best summarized by the wise Pope of the Coptic church—Mr. Speaker, we have to remind ourselves that the word “Christian,” of course, comes from the Greek word “aigyptios,” which means Egypt. The Coptic church is as old as St. Mark’s arrival in Alexandria in the first century.

That wise old Pope told us, and I think really, Mr. Speaker, captured the whole spirit of the Egyptian people and the resolve that is taking place in that country under President el-Sisi when he said, Egyptians take two things from the Nile River on which they have lived some 5,000 years. They take water, and they take moderation in their beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I wanted to come to the House Chamber and pay tribute to the Egyptian people for being on those front lines in the fight against radical Islamic terrorism, pay tribute to the Christian and Muslim Egyptians who have sacrificed so much, including people with pre-existing conditions, but it is the right thing to do, and we have got the right group of men and women here to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.
Coinciding with the birthday celebration of the Prophet Muhammad on New Year’s Day 2015, President el-Sisi went to the Islamic world’s most respected institution, Al-Azhar University, and called upon the world’s 1.6 billion faithful Muslims and the faith’s imams to support a religious revolution. He called on the leaders to reject the mindset of death and jihad.

Mr. Speaker, in both Egypt and America, we come from dust and to dust we shall return. We are made in God’s image, and God has granted us such unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. While we are breathing, each of us has an obligation to serve our fellow man, work to value our societies and make them the best that they can be.

In January, we witnessed a change in leadership here in the United States. We had a former President who grew up in Hawaii and grew up riding the waves in Hawaii. He rode a wave into the White House and then drifted along, bobbing up and down those waves for 8 years. Now, Mr. Speaker, we have a President in the White House who is not riding the waves; he is making waves. It is my hope that he will execute a new direction and take new actions to win the global war on terrorism.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, whether it takes 3 months or 30 years, I won’t rest until we unify the civilized world to reject jihad, reject the terror we saw at St. Paul’s Cathedral in Cairo. Mr. Speaker, we need to condemn those who condone it. We need to condemn those who finance it. We need to reject it when we see it taught in the mosque. We need to reject it on Facebook. We need to reject it in the media. We must condemn those who say it is wrong but stand silent.

Mr. Speaker, there are no bystanders in this fight, and there is no substitute for victory. Mr. Speaker, all across the world tonight, we Egyptians, we Americans, we wave Fridays back. TGIF, Mr. Speaker, TGIF.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:
Mr. CUBRELO of Florida (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of family obligations.
Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED
Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a joint resolution of the House of the following title, which was therewith signed by the Speaker:
H. J. Res. 40. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Social Security Administration relating to implementation of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007.

ADJOURNMENT
Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o’clock and 4 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, February 17, 2017, at 1 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.
Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

577. A letter from the Principal Civilian Deputy ASN(RD&A), Department of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Navy’s annual report to Congress on Re- pair of Naval Vessels in Foreign Shipyards, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 7310(c); Public Law 110-417, Sec. 1022, (122 Stat. 4584); to the Committee on Armed Services.

578. A letter from the Chair, Board of Gov- ernors of the Federal Reserve System, transmit- ting the Board’s semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, pursuant to Public Law 106-569; to the Committee on Fi- nancial Services.

579. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secret- ary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Food and Drug Administration’s FY 2016 Performance Report to Congress for the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

580. A letter from the Regulations Coordin- ation Division, Global Migration and Quarantine, Office of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Depart- ment’s final rule — Control of Communicable Diseases; Delay of Effective Date (Docket No.: CDC-2016-0068) (RIN: 0920-AA63) received February 14, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 80(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

581. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s withdrawal of 40 CFR 430-436; 40 CFR 622.940; 40 CFR 624.10; 430-436.45-OAR (RIN: 9060-AT15) received February 13, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 80(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

582. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Thiamethoxam; Pesticide Tolerances (EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0705; FRL-9965-70) received February 13, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 80(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

583. A letter from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation’s Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 551a(a)(1); Pub- lic Law 101-576, Sec. 308(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)(1); (116 Stat. 2494); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

584. A letter from the Regulatory Liaison Officer, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmit- ting the Department’s final rule — Leasing of Sulfur or Oil and Gas in the Outer Conti- nental Shelf (Docket ID: BOEM-2016-0031) (RIN: 1010-AD06) received February 15, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 80(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

585. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf-Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments (Docket ID: BOEM-2016-0055) (RIN: 1010-AD56) received February 15, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 80(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.


587. A letter from the Federal Register Lia- ison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department’s temporary rule — Implementation of Statutory Amend- ments Requiring the Modification of the Definition of Hard Cider (Docket No.: TTB-2016- 0014; T.D. TTB-147; Re: Notice No.: 168) (HIN: 1913-AC31) received February 15, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 80(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104- 121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
Under clause 2 of rule XII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. THORNBERRY: Committee on Armed Services. H.R. 393. A bill to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces (Rept. 115-13). Referred to the Com- mittee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally re- ferred, as follows:

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself and Mr. WALBERG): H.R. 1101. A bill to amend title I of the Em- ployee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to improve access and choice for entre- preneurs with small businesses with respect to medical care for their employees; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. DAVIS of California, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PORTER, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. Slaughter, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. WELCH, and others): H.R. 1102. A bill to establish a National Border Security and Terrorism Prevention and Response Board to be known as the National Border Security and Terrorism Prevention and Response Board; to the Committee on Homeland Security.