

of the rectitude of our intentions, we fearlessly and confidently commit the issue to the decision of the Supreme arbiter of the destinies of nations.”

181 years ago, the Republic of Texas was born. God bless Texas.

□ 1045

NISSANY THEATRE AT THE BARN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a true treasure in central Pennsylvania, actually in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, the Nittany Theatre at the Barn. This one-of-a-kind theater has a storied history which started in the late 1800s as the service barn on a working farm.

The Boal family settled the region for which the town Boalsburg is named. This town was on the main road for travelers from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. The Boal Mansion estate, which dates to 1789, is a national registered landmark.

The fourth generation of the Boal family, Colonel Theodore Davis Boal, married a descendant of Christopher Columbus and brought the Columbus Chapel to the Boal Mansion from Spain in 1909. This included an admiral's desk said to belong to Columbus himself. By the 1930s, the estate's aging barn was retired from farm use, but it would eventually take on a whole new life.

Pierre Boal retired from the diplomatic service for the country following World War II. He wanted to make the family's estate into a regional museum to display the family's vast collection of treasures and artifacts. Mr. Boal hired Lillian Dickson-Major, an English stage and film actress and lover of history, to be the first curator of the new Boal Mansion Museum. She arrived in 1953 and immediately began preparing the estate for museum service. Lillian looked at the emptied barn and saw its potential as the site for a "most unusual theatre."

At the same time, theater professionals throughout the country and at nearby Penn State University wondered how theater would continue to survive in a world that was captivated by television and Technicolor motion pictures. Pierre and Lillian invited several Penn State professors and theater specialists to make their plans. To close the deal, Pierre Boal leased the old barn to the newly formed Centre County Theatre Association for the generous sum of zero dollars as a means to invite and encourage culture and theater in Centre County. Entrusted to oversee the construction of a state-of-the-art arena theater, the Centre County Theatre Association brought life to Lillian's vision of the barn as a "most unusual theatre."

After several years of preparations and construction, the theater opened at the barn in the summer of 1959 and

was a tremendous success. Many audiences enjoyed the summer performances in the old barn for decades. After a long run, the community theater company let the old barn go dark, but it was only for a brief time before Nittany Theatre at the Barn took up the cause to breathe new life once again into the historic community treasure. State-of-the-art advancements were made at the barn, merging the latest technologies with good, old-fashioned summer stock theater.

The house is stocked with 99 seats, retaining all the charm and intimacy that made the barn legendary. In addition, to enhance audiences' experiences, brand-new, state-of-the-art LED lighting and Broadway quality sound systems were installed. Nittany Theatre also partners with Penn State's School of Theatre to allow Penn State's young actors to share the stage with local seasoned actors.

Mr. Speaker, this theater is full of history and full of life. For nearly 60 years, audiences in Happy Valley have enthusiastically embraced summer theater in Pennsylvania's oldest arena barn theater. I congratulate all those who have kept this community gem open for business throughout the years. As they say in the business, "break a leg" this summer.

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 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

We use this moment to be reminded of Your presence and to tap the resources needed by the Members of this people's House to do their work as well as it can be done.

Send, O God, Your healing grace upon those torn nations and upon the Members of this assembly who struggle to see the shared hope for a better future in those with whom they disagree.

For many Americans, the holy season of Lent begins tomorrow, and foreheads are marked this day in recognition of our limits as men and women and as a reminder of Your power to forgive and heal the harms done through our failures.

All this day and through the week may our Representatives do their best

to find solutions to pressing issues facing our Nation. Please hasten the day when justice and love shall dwell in the hearts of all peoples and rule the affairs of the nations of Earth.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory. 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 Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BILIRAKIS 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.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 1, 2017.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: I would like to bring to your attention the attached resignation letter I have sent to Governor Steve Bullock of Montana.

I have enjoyed my tenure as Montana's sole Congressman, and I look forward to continuing my service to Montana and our nation as Secretary of the Interior.

If I can be of any assistance during this transition, please let me know. I would be glad to help however I can.

Sincerely,

RYAN ZINKE.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 1, 2017.

Gov. STEVE BULLOCK,
Office of the Governor,
Helena, MT.

DEAR GOVERNOR BULLOCK: I would like to inform you that I am resigning from my position as the United States Congressman for Montana's At-Large District on March 1, 2017, in order to assume the Secretary of the Interior position. Thank you for the support and partnership that you have provided my office during these last few years.

I have enjoyed my tenure as Montana's sole Congressman, and I look forward to continuing my service to Montana and our nation as Secretary of the Interior.

If I can be of any assistance during this transition, please let me know. I would be glad to help however I can.

Sincerely,

RYAN ZINKE.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the

House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE), the whole number of the House is 430.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we observe National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, I urge our south Florida community to attend the Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness Walk this Saturday, March 4, at Tradewinds Park. The walk will celebrate everybody's shape and also encourage screening for eating disorders.

Eating disorders impact millions of Americans and has a proportionate impact on teens and young adults. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I have led bipartisan legislation that urges the Federal Trade Commission to uphold its duty to protect the next generation by promoting fair and responsible advertisements, especially for products geared for children and teens.

I was so proud that last year we were able to enact into law the Anna Westin Act, which I introduced with my colleague TED DEUTCH, in order to allow an avenue for millions of young Americans impacted by eating disorders to seek the help that they need.

Let's celebrate and commemorate Eating Disorders Awareness Week, and I encourage everyone to help spread awareness and promote authentic healthy body images.

THE COST OF BORDER WALLS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Review reported that the cost of then-candidate Trump's wall along the southern border will be up to \$40 billion for every 1,000 miles of wall. With the potential of a 2,000-mile wall along the border, American taxpayers can expect to pay up to \$80 billion for a wall at the southern border—\$80 billion for a wall we were told Mexico would pay for, and Mexico said they will not pay for that wall.

Last year, a leading Republican Governor also suggested that we should explore building a wall along the northern border. The northern border wall would be 5,000 miles. A northern border wall would cost about \$400 billion using the MIT report estimates. Obviously, Canada, like Mexico, will not pay for a silly wall.

Mr. Speaker, \$480 billion to wall in the United States. What is it with Republicans and walls? What are they afraid of? What we need is a new infrastructure bill not to build walls, but to build bridges and roads and to build infrastructure to put Americans back to work and to grow the American economy.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP FULFILLS PROMISES

(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. Madam Speaker, last night President Donald Trump spoke to a joint session of Congress and to the American people in a powerful and positive address.

From day one, President Trump committed himself to fulfilling the promises he made to the American people, and last night he outlined his bold agenda. I was grateful to hear his plans to repeal regulations, reduce taxes, create jobs, repeal and replace ObamaCare, and promote veterans.

As the chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I appreciated his determination to rebuild our military by providing them with the resources they need to promote peace through strength.

The President's speech received an overwhelmingly optimistic response, with nearly 60 percent of viewers having a positive reaction. Additionally, 70 percent of the viewers said the President's policies would move the country in the right direction.

I look forward to working with the President and Speaker PAUL RYAN to achieve the bold, positive vision for American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Congratulations to Interior Secretary RYAN ZINKE and his wife, Lola, a great team for America.

PRESERVING AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, too often we forget that the Affordable Care Act is about more than numbers. It is about real people. So for the next 6 weeks, I will be highlighting the voices of my constituents who have flooded my inbox with heart-wrenching stories about why the law must be preserved, constituents like Paul from Snohomish, whose son-in-law died of cancer before the Affordable Care Act.

His disease started small, but, growing up, his family couldn't afford insurance, and he delayed seeking care. By the time he got a job with health coverage, the disease had progressed too far, and he died at the age of 29. Paul

wrote to me and said: "The certificate of death says my son-in-law died from cancer, but I believe he died from a broken healthcare system."

We can't go back to a time when getting sick meant going bankrupt. Across the country, Americans like Paul are telling Congress not to repeal the Affordable Care Act. We should heed their advice.

REDUCING PRICE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, as President Trump remarked in his joint address, we must work to bring down the high price of prescription drugs. Too often we have seen the price of lifesaving medication skyrocket due to bad actors taking advantage of monopolies in the market. We witnessed it in 2015 when Turing Pharmaceuticals hiked the price of Daraprim, a drug to treat HIV patients. We saw it again with Mylan Pharmaceuticals raising the cost of the EpiPen by 400 percent.

We cannot allow this to continue.

I am proud to join my colleague, Congressman KURT SCHRADER, to introduce the Lower Drug Costs Through Competition Act. Our bill is a bipartisan approach to tackle the issue of high drug costs head-on. Our legislation uses the free market to incentivize competition among drug makers, encouraging them to bring new generic drugs to market.

My constituents in Florida and folks nationwide need relief. Let's get this done.

IMMIGRANTS ALSO SAVE LIVES

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

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, yesterday President Trump launched a rather ridiculous effort called the Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement Office, or VOICE. They are going to be focusing on talking about people who were victimized by people who are here illegally.

First of all, the statistics aren't with him. It turns out that people who are undocumented are among the least likely groups to commit illegal acts, and studies show that they are one-fifth to one-half less likely to commit a crime.

So I want to start an effort that is similar. I am going to start a task force called SAINT, Saved by American Immigrants National Taskforce, to talk about Americans whose lives were saved by people who are here undocumented—people like Dr. Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa, who became a brain surgeon, saving countless lives; people like Antonio Diaz Chacon, who chased down a child abductor and saved a 6-