

By working hand in glove with the White House around an investigation that centers on the President and his administration, the chairman has blown the integrity of this investigation. Through his actions, he has shown he cannot lead an impartial investigation. His actions demonstrate why Congress must establish a bipartisan, independent commission to investigate President Trump's political and personal business ties to Russia.

The majority of the American people favor an independent commission, outside of Congress, according to polling done by the Associated Press. This is a serious matter. Our democracy is at stake. Our national security is at stake.

Congress must call a bipartisan, independent commission to investigate these troubling connections between President Trump and Russia.

HONORING STEPHEN P. COUNIHAN

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of Stephen P. Counihan, and I rise with my colleagues all around the greater Boston area, as we seek to raise the spirits of Stephen, who is currently battling cancer. "Coughni," as he is affectionately known, is currently the tennis coach at Suffolk University, where he has led four championship teams to great renown in the greater Boston area. But it was in the 1970s, as a standout defenseman at Bowdoin College where Counihan got the name "Coughni-Orr" because of his remarkable presence on the ice and his cool capacity under pressure.

Now, Stephen is facing one of the great challenges of his life, as he deals not only with the chemotherapy, but the potential surgery that we are looking at in the month of April ahead.

Coughni, I want you to know that all of your colleagues from Beta Theta Pi, from Bowdoin College hockey team, from the greater Bowdoin community, in fact, the entire Boston area, stand with you today. Win one more championship for us, Coughni, so we can all celebrate together when we have you back collectively.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA: NCAA CHAMPIONS

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's men's basketball team for winning the 2017 NCAA Division I National Championship, in the face of a spirited challenge from Gonzaga University.

As a proud alumnus of UNC-Chapel Hill, the Nation's first public university, I was delighted to cheer on the en-

tire team—players, coaches, and staff—during their outstanding performance yesterday in the Nation's most competitive and most popular collegiate athletic tournament.

The Tar Heels have now played in a record 20 NCAA Final Four games, the most of all time, and last night marked their sixth NCAA National Championship and seventh overall National Championship. The years 1957, 1982, 1993, 2005, and 2009 are seared in the minds of North Carolina basketball fans, and I know I speak for our entire State when I say how delighted we are to add 2017 to that list!

The teamwork, camaraderie, and determination of this year's team were evident throughout the entire season as they struggled to overcome their heartbreaking defeat in the last seconds of the 2016 National Championship game. While their tournament finishes may have been a little closer than we wished, the team managed six wins against a formidable slate of opponents. These 15 young men played hard, played smart, and played together.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the names of the players, coaches, and staff.

UNC MEN'S BASKETBALL ROSTER

Nate Britt, Upper Marlboro, Md.; Theo Pinson, Greensboro, N.C.; Joel Berry, II, Apopka, Fla.; Kennedy Meeke, Charlotte, N.C.; Isaiah Hicks, Oxford, N.C.; Tony Bradley, Bartow, Fla.; Shea Rush, Fairway, Kan.; Kanler Coker, Gainesville, Ga.; Brandon Robinson, Douglasville, Ga.; Seventh Woods, Columbia, S.C.; Aaron Rohlman, Gastonia, N.C.; Stilman White, Wilmington, N.C.; Luke Maye, Huntersville, N.C.; Justin Jackson, Tomball, Texas; Roy Williams, Head Coach; Steve Robinson, Assistant Coach; Hubert Davis, Assistant Coach; C.B. McGrath, Assistant Coach; Brad Frederick, Director of Basketball Operations; Sean May, Director of Player Personnel; Jonas Sahratian, Strength & Conditioning Coordinator; Eric Hoots, Director of Player Development.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we could not be prouder of our team's victory last night.

To paraphrase the greatest basketball player of all time and a fellow UNC alumnus, Michael Jordan, who was perhaps channeling Yogi Berra, "The ceiling truly is the roof."

Hark the sound, and Go Heels!

THANKING SNAPa

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I will meet with leaders from the School Nutrition Association of Pennsylvania, commonly called SNAPa, which is a state-wide organization of school nutrition professionals.

SNAPa works to advance quality child nutrition programs through education and advocacy. Organized in 1955, SNAPa is an all-volunteer board of directors elected by its member, which currently stands at more than 2,300 individuals.

As chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition and a senior member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, I know the essential services that SNAPa works to provide. Students throughout the Commonwealth receive high-quality, low-cost meals thanks to SNAPa.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to remember that, for some students, the only meal that they receive is at school. This organization works to keep our children healthy and ensure that they have healthy food options through school meal programs. SNAPa is recognized as the authority on school nutrition in Pennsylvania.

I sincerely thank SNAPa for advancing the availability, quality, and acceptance of school nutrition programs as an essential part of education in Pennsylvania for more than 60 years.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF HENRY HALGREN

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize the achievement of Henry Halgren from Fort Collins, Colorado. Henry is a sixth grader at Liberty Common School, a middle school, a public charter school that is very high-performing in my district. He is the victor from all of Colorado in the National Geographic Bee this last week.

He competed against over 100 kids at the University of Denver, and he was able to answer as a sixth grader the following question: Altamira Cave, known for its prehistoric paintings, is found in the province of Cantabria in the north part of what European country?

Henry knew that the answer was Spain. He got it right. He won a \$30,000 scholarship to CU, some prize money, and an atlas.

I am proud to say he will be coming here to Washington, D.C., to represent the Second Congressional District of Colorado in May. And if he is able to win against the competitors from other States, the prize for that is a \$50,000 scholarship and a family tour to the Galapagos Islands.

Congratulations not only to Henry, but to all the participants who showed such a keen interest in learning about the world around them and about our planet.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Henry and his family and everybody who participates in furthering the knowledge about geography.

RECOGNIZING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of April as the Month of the Military Child. I have the

utmost respect for the families of the military's men and women; specifically, the children of our Nation's military, who are the bedrock of military families. These children make sacrifices—relocations, new schools, and the absence of a parent on deployment—and they deserve our gratitude.

Due to the unique circumstances the children are put under, I stand before you today to commend the children of those currently serving in my district at Fort Riley in Kansas, and the children of those serving around the Nation. I call on my colleagues to provide continued support of our military children and families whose sacrifice is not always recognized, but certainly is revered.

CONGRATULATIONS TO READING RED KNIGHTS' VICTORY

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Reading High School men's basketball team on their first State championship in school history. The Red Knights finished their historic season with a 30-3 record, and beat Pine-Richland 64-60 in the Class 6A Boys Final to bring a championship to the city of Reading.

This is a group of outstanding young men led by senior guard and McDonald's All-American Lonnie Walker. This team is a staple in the Berks County community.

Lonnie may have said it best himself after the championship victory: "What we did wasn't even about Reading High basketball. It was about the city of Reading. It was about the community, all the schools, the young kids we inspired. This is for them."

I couldn't be more proud today to represent these young men. I look forward to the continued success of this team, and I look forward to watching Lonnie continue his basketball career at the University of Miami.

Congratulations to the Reading Red Knights team, the coaches, their families, the faculty, staff, and students that made this championship possible.

REMEMBERING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize that on this day, April 4, 49 years ago, Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated on a hotel balcony in Memphis, Tennessee.

We all know the story: the most prominent civil rights activist in the sixties, if not of our entire Nation's history, was shot dead in cold blood at the still very young age of 39 years old. It is a tragic tale of a man who had accomplished much and still had more to

accomplish, but we should note this day as remembrance to honor the sacrifice he risked and he made during a very difficult time in our Nation's history.

He demonstrated to the world that it was not the color of a person's skin that we should be judged, but by the nature of their character. He led by example in an era of violence that violence was not the answer.

The peaceful protests he organized were an illustration of how to go about achieving social change in America, building bridges of understanding. The image of the Selma bridge comes to mind.

His strong Christian beliefs helped him to see what many others could not, and opened the doors for millions to follow in his path.

Mr. King's work is not done. It is very saddening to still see so many in racial strife in these days in our Nation, but he showed the right way to lead, the right way to peacefully protest, and the right way to inspire to fulfill his famous dream.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 4, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 4, 2017, at 9:28 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 89.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1343, ENCOURAGING EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP ACT OF 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 240 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 240

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1343) to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its rules so as to increase the threshold amount for requiring issuers to provide certain disclosures relating to compensatory benefit plans. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115-11 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amend-

ment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services; (2) the further amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule and the underlying legislation. Americans have always been a people known for taking ownership. We take ownership of our lives and livelihoods, working hard to provide for our families. We take ownership in our communities, setting standards of conduct. We take ownership in all our political process, voting for the right candidates. We have even taken ownership in our world, fighting evil actors and regimes to maintain peace.

□ 1230

H.R. 1343, the bill we are discussing today, allows employees to take ownership in their companies. This is the American way.

Under SEC rule 701, private companies can offer their own securities to employees, enabling those employees to take a stake in the company. This is a great deal for both businessowners and employees. I doubt either side of the aisle would disagree.

Rule 701 allows employers to better recruit talented employees and pay them without having to borrow money or sell securities. For some companies, especially younger ones, compensating employees through equity is vital for survival.

These younger companies need the top talent but often can't pay the top salaries. Rule 701 allows them to offer potential recruits a tradeoff: accept a lower salary now for more equity in the company later.

By giving the employees a stake in the company, businessowners reward the employees for their continued hard