

in 2011, and then served as deputy chief of staff from 2013 until she left recently in March.

She focused on telecommunications as her expertise, and we primarily in our office dealt with 911 issues, especially the Next Generation 911 Advancement Act. She also spearheaded the Next Generation 911 Caucus in my office.

She is married to Bob and has two children, Gavin and Hadley. We already miss her activity and work in the office, and we pass on best wishes.

Next is Mr. Chris Sarley, who has a 14-year career on Capitol Hill. This is his tenth year with me, and I think it is uncommon in many offices for people to stay that long. I think it is a tribute to my chief of staff, Craig Roberts, and the fact that I don't meddle too much how they manage the office and get their job done.

Chris has served 10 years with me. In addition to handling health care and energy policy in my office, Chris has served the committee under Chairman WALDEN and Chairman Emeritus UPTON as policy coordinator for the Subcommittee on Environment since 2011.

Chris has been an invaluable member of my team, and some of his achievements include:

Before he came to my office, he worked on the Medicare part D rollout.

Under my office, he advanced several medical device titles in the 21st Century Cures Act.

He worked on what we call the ADAPT Act and the GAIN Act, which target the antibiotic threats that hopefully will not occur in our country, but we need to be ready to respond.

He was very involved in ADUFA, Animal Drug User Fee Act, and enabling the FDA to approve drugs used for pets and livestock.

But for all of us on the Energy and Commerce Committee, he was one of our primary House negotiators during the first major rewrite of a United States environmental protection law in over 2 decades, and facilitated passage of the Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, which amends the Toxic Substances Control Act, which is the Nation's primary chemical regulation law.

I think the public really would appreciate if they knew the work that our staff members do on long hours and over the weekends. We mention it all the time, especially when we are fighting across the aisle, because it is primarily the staff that is trying to get to the point where they can share language where we can then give a thumbs up or thumbs down, and it is very seldom that we say thanks for those. A Member is only as good as the folks he has who work for him and who he or she surrounds himself with.

I wanted to take this time, Mr. Speaker, to call out two great government employees who served their Nation well and served me well. And it also sends a signal about all our other staff members who do tremendous

work under great stress to serve this country.

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 44 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

Rabbi Richard Boruch Rabinowitz, Aish International, New York, New York, offered the following prayer:

May we humbly ask You, God Almighty, to help us focus on the beauty and good of this great country.

God, we thank You for giving wisdom to Presidents George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald J. Trump for proclaiming May as Jewish Heritage Month.

The Jewish people of this country are grateful and indebted to You, God, for the opportunity to contribute in making the United States a great nation.

Aish founder, Rabbi Noah Weinberg, of blessed memory, would say to young people: "When older people see your idealism, they might say, 'you'll grow up,' but what they really mean is 'you'll give up.'"

Rabbi Weinberg would say: "Never give up—get tougher instead."

Let us pray for the Members of Congress and this great Nation: God, please grant us clarity and courage to always do right and never give up on our principles.

God bless the United States of America.

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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska 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.

HONORING LYDIA STRUNK

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because this is Lydia Strunk's last week working on the House floor.

Before I talk about Lydia, I want to talk about the work that she and all the people here on the floor do for us, for the people's House, on both sides of the aisle. They are the ones who keep the floor running on time on a day-to-day basis. They make sure that the votes are counted and conducted impartially. They make sure that every Member, majority and minority, is treated fairly. And though the hours are long and unpredictable, they always set a fantastic tone of decorum.

No one better exemplifies this professionalism than Lydia Strunk. She has been a part of this institution since 2008, when she started out in the Republican Cloakroom. We all knew her so well then and enjoyed watching her rise to these great responsibilities that she now holds.

For more than 4 years now, Lydia has served as the Speaker's deputy floor director. As it turns out, she accepted this job on the night of her wedding. How is that for commitment?

Lydia's quiet dedication to the people's House comes through in almost everything that she does; and because she does her job so well, almost no one ever notices. Think about it. If you ever wondered how a joint meeting with a foreign leader or a State of the Union goes off without a hitch, it is because of Lydia's doing.

One of her jobs, of course, is to keep us on schedule. So I will make one last point before she tells me to wrap this up, because I assume that is what she will be doing in a minute.

I want to thank Lydia's family. I want to thank Lydia's husband, Jeff, and I want to thank, in particular, her children.

Graham and Evie, I want you to know that your mother is an incredible public servant. She has done so much for us, for this country and this institution, and we are grateful to you for sharing your mom—and your wife—with us. This whole House is in her debt.