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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You have blessed us with all good gifts, and with thankful hearts we express our gratitude. You have created us with opportunities to serve other people in their need, to share together in respect and affection, and to be faithful in the responsibilities we have been given.

In this moment of prayer, please grant to the Members of this people's House, as they return home to meet with their respective constituents, the gifts of wisdom and discernment, that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

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 Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MITCHELL 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

ILLINOIS FLOODING

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, it has been a difficult week in northern Illinois. A little over a week ago, torrential rains fell on Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Four Illinois counties have been named disaster areas: Lake County, McHenry County, Kane County, and Cook County.

As difficult as it is, it is an incredibly impressive thing to visit these communities, particularly Algonquin, Port Barrington, and Fox River Grove, among others, all in the Sixth Congressional District. What you will witness is literally hundreds of volunteers following through and filling thousands of bags of sand to help their neighbors.

Municipal employees, first responders, local leaders, the Governor of Illinois, and members of the Illinois delegation have all come together in order to meet our neighbors' needs at this time.

For those of you who are people of faith, I ask that you would pray for these families as they are going through this difficult time. Also, I commend those at home who have lent a hand.

HONORING REVEREND DR. HOWARD W. PARKER, JR.

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to honor the Reverend Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr., who

has served as pastor of historic Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church located in Greenville, North Carolina, for more than 35 years, and will soon retire.

The son of Howard and Bernice Parker, Dr. Parker excelled academically, attending Shaw University, Winston-Salem State University, Wake Forest University, and United Christian College, ultimately receiving a master of divinity degree and an honorary doctor of divinity degree.

Under his devoted leadership, Mr. Speaker, Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church has grown in membership and has become a giant in the Greenville community. In addition to leading his congregation, Dr. Parker served as president of the North Carolina General Baptist State Convention, which represents more than a half a million Missionary Baptists in 1,700 North Carolina congregations.

Dr. Parker's commitment to the community has stretched far beyond the pulpit. He was twice elected to the Pitt County Board of Education and served as the board's chair. He serves as associate chaplain of the Greenville Police Department and is a member of the Greenville Initiative on Gang Violence.

Dr. Parker is married to the former Ruby LaVerna Grantham from Goldsboro. They are the proud parents of two adult children, Kelly and Andrea.

His distinguished career and life of unselfish and dedicated service to mankind has positively impacted the lives of so many. His contributions to the community are far and wide, and too numerous to mention.

I ask my colleagues this morning to join me in honoring Reverend Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr., and thank him for his important service to God and humanity. We wish him well in the years to come.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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CONGRESSIONAL PAYER STATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the formation of the Congressional Payer State Caucus.

I join my colleague, Congressman BILL FOSTER from Illinois, in leading this bipartisan caucus that will examine the disparity States like New Jersey and Illinois experience by paying more in Federal taxes than we receive in Federal spending. In fact, New Jersey is dead last, with a rate of return of just 77 cents for every Federal tax dollar sent to Washington.

The caucus seeks to recommend legislation to ensure that donor States keep more of their hard-earned funds. For example, working to maintain the State and local tax deduction when this body considers an overhaul of our Nation's Tax Code. Eliminating that deduction would further increase the disparity that already exists.

Alexander Hamilton wrote in the Federalist Papers about his fear that the Federal Government might monopolize taxation to the "entire exclusion and destruction of State governments."

The caucus will work to address this problem and for a greater return on the tremendous Federal revenue stream from economic activity and innovation in New Jersey and other States.

ENCOURAGING GIRLS TO TAKE UP COMPUTER SCIENCE

(Ms. ROSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, in Nevada and across the country, we are continuing to see a huge demand for workers in the technical industry, including software developers; engineers; and computer programmers, like myself. Despite the progress we have made, fewer than one in five computer science graduates are women.

I am proud to introduce my bill, H.R. 3316, the Code Like a Girl Act, because I believe in breaking down barriers and closing the gender gap once and for all.

This bipartisan legislation invests in computer science education, opening doors for women to become part of a highly skilled workforce. Funding programs that encourage girls to take up computer science is one of the most important steps we can take to break down barriers and level the playing field for women everywhere. The Code Like a Girl Act will go one step further by teaching our girls that zero is false, one is true, and that we matter, too.

I encourage my colleagues to invest in our girls by supporting my bill.

MADE IN AMERICA WEEK

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the spirit of Made in America Week.

Since taking office in January, I have had the privilege and honor of meeting with American workers and small-business owners in my district, from manufacturers to the farmers who feed our community and our world.

Unfortunately, we have seen far too many of our jobs leave this country. I am focused on addressing the problems in our economy that are destroying jobs and stalling growth.

We have already made significant progress in reducing the regulatory burdens that make it hard for businesses large and small to survive. Congress has passed and the President has signed 14 Congressional Review Acts overturning excessive and ridiculous regulations. I look forward to passing comprehensive tax reform that is simpler and fairer for all Americans so individuals can keep more of their paycheck and for jobs to stay in America. I will continue to advance solutions to help Americans gain skills needed to compete in our changing workforce.

Mr. Speaker, let's remain focused on keeping jobs in America and products made in America.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF COLORADO SHOOTING

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, July 20, 5 years ago, we had a terrible tragedy in Colorado. Twelve young people were killed, 70 were injured, and countless suffered emotional trauma.

Today I want to recognize these 12. Despite the tragedy we suffered and the impact on our community, there were at least two bright spots: the response of law enforcement, firefighters, ambulance drivers, and medical personnel in dealing with what was a war zone.

Over the 5 years, the families have come together and become great friends, recognizing and celebrating the lives of the people who were taken by that crazed shooter.

I want to recognize them, I want to recognize the dedicated people who assisted them, and just let everybody know that we won't forget. Time goes on and the memories dim a little bit, but these were great young people. Our first responders were wonderful.

RECOGNIZING GREG ELLIOT

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

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly outstanding constituent in the field of healthcare, Greg Elliot of Charleston, West Virginia. He has been selected this year as one of the recipients of the prestigious Joe Warner Patient Advocacy Award.

The National Center for Assisted Living, the Nation's largest association of professional long-term healthcare providers, bestows this annual award on association members who have worked diligently to educate Members of Congress about the needs of long-term care patients, and to advance the quality in the long-term and post-acute care community.

Mr. Elliot is a second-generation owner of AMFM, which operates 17 long-term, skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers throughout West Virginia.

Greg is frequently in Washington visiting my congressional office, advocating on behalf of West Virginia seniors.

The third-party research institute, My InnerView, has ranked AMFM facilities in the top 10 percent in the Nation 46 times for customer or employee satisfaction.

Greg Elliot resides in Charleston with his wife of 16 years, Jennifer; his 10-year-old daughter, Elizabeth; and their two dogs.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Greg for his years of dedication and care to our Nation's frail, elderly, and disabled. His career reflects the ideals embodied in the Joe Warner Patient Advocacy Award.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER ON HEALTHCARE

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, many health insurance executives say they are raising premiums and leaving exchanges because of uncertainty and the threat of not paying the cost-sharing reductions and not funding them.

Brad Wilson, CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina told The Washington Post in May: "The failure of the administration and the House to bring certainty and clarity by funding CSRs has caused our company to file a 22.9 percent premium increase, rather than one that is materially lower."

We need a bipartisan solution to stabilize exchanges. We need to stop threatening not to pay the CSRs.

I introduced the Marketplace Certainty Act, which provides stability by permanently funding and expanding eligibility for these subsidies. This is pragmatic, commonsense legislation to stop premiums from skyrocketing, keep insurers in exchanges, and help people struggling to afford healthcare.

I urge Republicans and Democrats to put people over partisanship and solutions above ideology by working together, by sponsoring my bill, and helping American families afford healthcare.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION FOR RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)