

scribes in Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, and for other purposes.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VA PROCUREMENT EFFICIENCY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2006) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the procurement practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2749) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of contracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENSURING VETERAN ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION IN STRATEGIC SOURCING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2781) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certify the sufficient participation of small business concerns owned and controlled and owned by veterans and small business concerns owned by veterans with service-connected disabilities in contracts under the Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HAPPY 40TH ANNIVERSARY TO LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS

(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, I would like to congratulate Log Cabin Republicans as it celebrates 40 years of advocating and advancing equality and justice for LGBT Americans. Formed by a small group of LGBT conservatives in California, Log Cabin Republicans emerged to defeat what is known as the Briggs Initiative, a measure prohibiting gay teachers from teaching in public schools.

This measure was rejected, thanks to the tireless work of this organization and President Reagan with his forceful opposition to the discriminatory policy.

Since then, Log Cabin Republicans have expanded their presence and created over 50 chapters across our great Nation, including in my hometown of Miami. Together we have won many great victories and have taken a historic stride toward equality with the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and the legalization of marriage equality.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud ally of the LGBT community, I commend Log Cabin Republicans for advancing our principles of limited government, individual freedoms, and personal responsibility to create a more inclusive party that ensures fairness and equality for all Americans.

Happy 40th to LCR.

RECOGNIZING THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 27th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990.

This landmark, bipartisan civil rights legislation enables people with disabilities, including me, to experience more inclusive and fulfilling lives.

The prohibition of discrimination on the basis of a disability has helped to promote equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that we have made incredible progress since 1990, but we still have work ahead. Too many people with disabilities still lack ac-

cess to affordable housing, public transportation, education, healthcare, and employment. Full access and inclusion remains a fundamental aspiration, but it is not yet a reality.

Mr. Speaker, we must remain vigilant in defending the intent of the ADA so that future generations can live in an inclusive, accessible world, where the unique talents and abilities of individuals with disabilities are innately recognized.

REMEMBERING KATE FRONEK

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Kate Fronek, an extraordinary 13-year-old from Eden Prairie who just passed away this last week.

Kate was an active girl who played hockey, lacrosse, and soccer throughout our Eden Prairie community. She attended Central Middle School, and people often noted her love for music.

This past February, Kate was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. In the following months, she underwent multiple rounds of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. Amid these challenges, Kate was brave and spirited, and friends and family remember her positively and, above all, her warm smile.

But over the weekend, in memory of Kate, neighbors and friends began putting orange balloons outside their homes, on the streets, and the bridges as a part of a tribute. Driving around Eden Prairie and seeing the streets lined with these balloons to honor her memory shows that she clearly touched very many lives.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to extend my thoughts and prayers to the Fronek family. She will be missed, but her spirit will not be forgotten.

PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS SHOULD BE TRANSPARENT

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, last week, The Washington Post reported that President Trump was considering pardoning his aides, his relatives, and even himself. Any of these actions would disrupt the investigation of Special Counsel Mueller.

Beyond simply pardoning those convicted of crimes, the President has the power to grant a pardon before charges are even brought, as President Ford's pardon of President Nixon demonstrated.

There is no requirement that Presidential pardons be publicly announced, meaning that President Trump could grant pardons in secret to prevent his associates from cooperating with the special counsel. That is why I am introducing the “Presidential Pardon

Transparency Act." The President may have the power to pardon, but the American people have a right to know how and when he does it.

This bill requires the White House to publicly disclose every pardon the President grants. Our Founders established the Presidential power to pardon to protect the American people from their government, not for the President to protect himself. This bill upholds that principle.

REMEMBERING ROY HERRINGTON

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, recently, the Appling County community mourned the loss of lifelong resident Roy Herrington.

He was a loving husband to his wife of 59 years, Georgia, and a dedicated father to his three children: Tami, Jeff, and Julie. Roy was an active member of the community. He was a member and a deacon at the Baxley First Baptist Church; a past director of Appling County Chamber of Commerce; and a recipient of the Chamber Award of Excellence in Agriculture.

Roy was awarded the Appling County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year award in 1981.

During my time traveling the 12th District of Georgia, Roy was one of those people who I would always make sure to visit to gain insight on serving the great folks of the 12th District.

Mr. Speaker, we are losing our great generation, but as Members of Congress and as Americans, we must not forget the lessons they have taught us. Every village, every community, has a man of peace and influence. In Appling County, that man was Roy Herrington.

Baxley, Georgia, is a better place because of Roy Herrington. He will be remembered often.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL HOUSING WEEK OF ACTION

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today in support of National Housing Week of Action and to stand up for a better deal for hardworking Americans.

Access to affordable housing directly impacts the ability of Americans to have a better job, better wages, and a better future. However, far too many families are struggling to keep a roof over their heads as the cost of rent is rising, mortgages are harder to get, and wages remain stagnant.

Due to cuts in Federal rental assistance, only one in four people eligible for it actually are receiving it. Our constituents deserve a better deal. I join Democrats in standing up to create millions of good-paying jobs, full-time jobs by investing in our crumbling

infrastructure, and offering apprenticeship programs to new workers.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to fight for affordable housing programs so all Americans can have the ability to achieve the American Dream.

REMEMBERING HEROES JACOB CHESTNUT AND JOHN GIBSON

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, every day on Capitol Hill, we have heroes among us, our Capitol Police. Five weeks ago, three of these heroes saved lives. They killed a deranged man who opened fire on the Republican baseball team. Two heroes were wounded, Crystal Griner and David Bailey. Our brave Capitol Police prevented a massacre.

Another massacre was prevented by the Capitol Police on June 24 of 1998, 19 years ago today. My hometown of Sugar Land, Texas, still hurts over a hero we knew well, Detective John Gibson. He was killed a few feet from where I am standing.

Like Crystal and David, Detective Gibson was assigned to protect a member of House leadership, my neighbor, and my predecessor, Majority Leader Tom DeLay. Gibson heard Officer Jacob Chestnut being killed by an intruder. He shot the attacker, despite being mortally wounded.

Our Capitol Police are true heroes. May we always remember two special heroes, Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson.

NO APPROPRIATIONS FOR BORDER WALL

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the House appropriations package that will provide \$1.6 billion for the construction of President Trump's border wall.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have heard from many military leaders who all agree, a wall won't make our borders more secure or our Nation safer.

There are more effective ways and technology that would be a better investment of our limited resources. Moreover, the President has failed to provide a cost for this wall, and it would be irresponsible for Congress to write him a blank check, especially after he promised over and over that the American taxpayers would not foot the bill.

This wall only serves as a symbol of xenophobia and hate, while doing nothing to address our broken immigration system. Immigrants strengthen the fabric of our Nation, they serve in our military, they teach in our schools, and some, like myself, are fortunate enough to serve as Members of Congress.

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SNAP UPDATE AFTER PATHWAYS HEARING

(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, last week the Nutrition Subcommittee hosted a hearing on how eligible SNAP participants can improve their education and labor force involvement as they aim for independence.

Over the past 2½ years, the House Agriculture Committee has done a comprehensive review of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. We have looked at how it is administered and how it can be improved. We have also looked at how we can help Americans climb the ladder of opportunity and get out of poverty.

The subcommittee hearing looked at ways to sync employers with work-capable SNAP participants whose education, skill set, and backgrounds match their needs. This comprehensive approach brings together resources, funding, data, policies, partnerships, and, perhaps most importantly, shared performance measures that continue to allow the development, scaling, and sustainability of these pathway programs.

Stable employment that provides a living wage is essential to helping individuals and families rise out of poverty. As chairman of the subcommittee, I am committed to exploring ways to couple services with employment and education to empower work-capable recipients and help them achieve self-reliance.

FIRST, DO NO HARM

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, over this weekend, I heard nonstop from people—people from all walks of life—who are living each day in fear that this Congress is going to strip them of the healthcare insurance they so desperately need, causing them to lose access to affordable care.

These good, decent, and hardworking people have told me again and again, in no uncertain terms, that they or someone whom they love dearly will suffer or die if our Republican colleagues carry out their catastrophically ill-conceived plan to repeal and replace or repeal and delay. They scoff at the oft-repeated Republican plan that they would merely be choosing not to have coverage, for they know the bitter truth.

To strip these people of the very coverage that keeps them, their children, and their parents alive would be as immoral an act as was ever perpetrated under the guise of governance.

When it comes to setting healthcare policy, this Congress, like every decent