

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 41 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

Reverend Lonnie Mitchell, Sr., Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Spokane, Washington, offered the following prayer:

O Lord God, pour out Your presence and Your power upon this opening session of the U.S. House of Representatives. Please empower our leaders to deliberate, collaborate, and, when necessary, compromise for the good of our Nation.

As President Lincoln said: With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let this Congress strive on to finish the work they are in, to bind up the Nation's wounds . . . to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among everybody and with all nations.

God, we the people in the land of the free and the home of the brave desperately need You now and forevermore. O that You would bless this session and the leaders in this House and all branches of our government.

Respectful of all faiths, in Jesus the Christ I pray.

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 Indiana (Mr. BANKS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BANKS of Indiana 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND LONNIE MITCHELL, SR.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome Pastor Lonnie Mitchell today to the people's House. He accepted the call to ministry in 1985 under the AME church and came to Spokane, Washington, in 1991. He moved his young family and has been there ever since, leading his congregation under the theme to be "the cathedral of love, where everybody is somebody and Jesus is the center of attraction."

He also started the AHANA Business and Professional Organization, which was formed for persons of color. He started Unity in the Community in Spokane, which is now the largest multicultural celebration in the inland Northwest, 22 years strong. He has his master's from Gonzaga University, which is our local Jesuit university, but is a proponent of bringing faith and government together to build and sustain healthy communities.

It was great to have him here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BANKS of Indiana). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CARE CORPS DEMONSTRATION ACT

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight the Care Corps Demonstration Act, a bill that Congresswoman MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM and I will be introducing this week.

Every year, millions of seniors and individuals with disabilities find themselves in need of long-term care and services. However, our Nation faces a critical shortage of caregivers. To address this growing problem, I have joined MICHELLE to introduce the Care Corps Demonstration Act.

This commonsense and bipartisan bill will create a grant program that will provide compassionate young men and women an opportunity to gain valuable experience working with seniors and individuals with disabilities across our great land.

Care Corps will not only help empower our young adults to meet our Nation's senior needs, but it will also provide them with essential educational assistance and give them an opportunity to start or further their careers as caregivers.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this bill so that our seniors and those with disabilities receive the care they so desperately need while empowering our youth to advance their careers.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SABOTAGING ACA

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently, we learned the Trump administration has diverted taxpayer funds allocated for the enrollment in the Affordable Care Act activities to create social media videos and content claiming that the Affordable Care Act is failing, a deliberate act of sabotage. Instead of making sure Americans remain healthy and improve the risk pool, the HHS is peddling online propaganda to discourage enrollment and health insurance.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, the ACA markets are stabilized, and there is simply no evidence of death spirals or collapsing markets. According to reliable polls, over 50 percent of the American people are in support of the Affordable Care Act. That is real news.

The President has repeatedly declared that he would let the ACA fail just to score political points. It is unbelievable that a sitting President would wish catastrophic harm on his own people, but, unfortunately, that is what is happening.

Colleagues, the ACA is not failing on its own. It is being actively sabotaged by the President and our Republican Congress. The administration has repeatedly wavered in its responsibility to administer cost-sharing reduction payments, relaxed enforcement of the insurance mandate, and refused to help State governments shore up their own healthcare exchanges.

The majority and the Trump administration should quit playing politics with our healthcare system.

HELLO GORGEOUS!

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michael Becker, to celebrate the positive impact that he has had in our community.

In 2006, Michael and his wife, Kim, founded the not-for-profit Hello Gorgeous!, which brings joy to women fighting cancer by giving them a red carpet experience complete with a makeover and spa.

Reaching 15 States with mobile day spas and affiliate salons, Hello Gorgeous! has provided unforgettable experiences to thousands of women all over the country.

The organization Michael and Kim built together and the mission they devoted themselves to brings happiness and hope where it is needed most. Their passion, drive, and faith inspire us all, and their selfless generosity is an example we should strive to follow.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to represent such kind and