

and those fighting, still, the storms of wildfire that plague our Western States. Blanket those who fight to overcome these natural disasters with Your spirit of strength and endurance, and preserve them all from harm.

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 New York (Mr. ZELDIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ZELDIN 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 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HURRICANE IRMA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was grateful this weekend to visit and thank volunteers at local shelters in the Midlands of South Carolina for helping families displaced from their homes due to Hurricane Irma.

At the South Carolina Emergency Preparedness Center in Pine Ridge, Governor Henry McMaster ably received updates to make thoughtful decisions to protect citizens. Emergency Management Division Director Kim Stenson professionally hosted over a dozen State agencies with FEMA Coordinator Willie Nunn. Adjutant General Robert Livingston and the Army National Guard were vital in preparation efforts.

While visiting the Dent Middle School Red Cross shelter, we were welcomed by Principal Tamala Murrill Ashford, Red Cross Executive Director Rebecca Jordan, Beth Shwedo, and volunteers dedicated to service.

State officials and the South Carolina Army National Guard have been successful leaders for preparation. Attorney General Alan Wilson led efforts to reduce price gouging. I appreciate everyone for ensuring that citizens had the resources for safety.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the

11th in the global war on terrorism. Our prayers for all those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE A BETTER DEAL

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve a better deal. They deserve better jobs, better wages, and a better future. That is what Democrats are committed to doing, and it starts with creating millions of full-time, good-paying jobs that give more Americans the opportunity to get ahead. That is why we have proposed doubling Federal support for apprenticeship programs.

Apprenticeship training is one of the most cost-effective ways for getting workers started on a successful career path. Over their lifetimes, folks who completed an apprenticeship will earn \$300,000 more than folks who don't.

Now, you would think that a President who once hosted a game show called "The Apprentice" would see the wisdom of this approach, but that is not the case. Earlier this year, President Trump actually proposed a budget that cuts job training by nearly 40 percent. That is not a better deal. It is not even a good deal. It is a raw deal.

We can do better. Let's make the expansion of apprenticeship programs a national priority. Let's give young people and folks who are changing careers the tools they need to get ahead. Let's give the American people a better deal.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, today I want to address a topic of grave and tragic importance. Every 12 minutes in the United States we experience a suicide-related death; and, shockingly, for every suicide death, there are 25 attempts.

These are heartbreaking statistics and, sadly, they hit very close to home. In Utah, for example, we have the fifth highest rate of suicide deaths in the country. These are our neighbors, our coworkers, and, in some cases, our family and our friends.

I think that most of us, if not all of us, have been touched by some of these tragic stories, and I believe that we have a responsibility to do everything we can to help those in need. That is why I introduced the National Suicide Improvement Act earlier this year.

This bill hopes to streamline and provide easy access to potentially life-saving resources by designing a new, national three-digit dialing number similar to 911 for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline.

I believe this legislation has the ability to save lives and to benefit our

loved ones who struggle with mental illness or suicidal thoughts. Let us do everything we can to help our fellow citizens who are in need, and that is what this legislation will do.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS ARE FIGHTING FOR A BETTER DEAL FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, the Trump administration has turned its attention to so-called tax reform, and the American people will face a clear choice.

House Republicans want tax cuts for the wealthy and the well-off. That is a raw deal.

House Democrats are fighting for tax cuts for working families and middle class Americans. That is a better deal.

The American people deserve a country where, if you work hard and play by the rules, you can provide a comfortable living for your family; but for far too many Americans, that basic contract has been broken. That is why House Democrats are fighting for better jobs, better wages, and a better future.

House Democrats are fighting for higher pay, lower costs, and tools for the 21st century economy, and House Democrats are fighting for a better deal for every single American.

CAMPAIGN FOR DECENTY

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

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the Campaign for Decency, which was launched by Lisa Cholnoky, a part-time resident of my district who is with us here today in the gallery.

Operating out of the First Congressional District of New York, in Shelter Island, the Campaign for Decency is a nonpartisan organization that seeks to bring civility back to our Nation.

Ms. Cholnoky was inspired to launch this campaign after witnessing much of the bitter division in our country and the inability of many Americans to engage in civil, productive discussion. As Americans, we cherish our freedom to dissent, but must always bear in mind that these debates must be productive and substantive.

In July, Ms. Cholnoky mailed out 535 Decency buttons to every single Representative and Senator. She describes the campaign as "a simple reminder of the basic standards of decency that every American deserves, regardless of their political views."

I am proudly wearing this button here today to join in Ms. Cholnoky's call for unity both here in Congress and together as citizens of the greatest country on Earth.

This campaign sets an example for us all to abide by as we strive to reach across the aisle in a bipartisan fashion.