it is a part of the Kingdom of Spain today. Because of this history, Catalunya has a pluralistic society, with a mix of Spaniards and Catalans, and where both cultures’ languages are regularly spoken.

Lastly, the deep economic ties Catalunya shares with Spain are evidence that Spain should be united. Catalunya relies heavily on Madrid for its financial sector, infrastructure, and its social security deficit. A united Spain is a friend of the United States. A strong, united Spain has been a reliable ally in fighting the spread of Islamic extremism. Our relationship with Spain is invaluable to our foreign policy interests, and we need to speak out on behalf of a unified Spain.

HONORING 50TH COMPANY, INFANTRY OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL CLASS OC 24–69

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a special group worthy of our recognition for the sacrifices they have made for our country.

This month, the surviving members of the 50th Company, Infantry Officer Candidate School’s Class OC 24–69 will have their first reunion at Fort Benning, 48 years after pinning on the gold bars of second lieutenants. The men in the 50th Company came from 42 different States, representing all walks of life and backgrounds. They accepted the risks and volunteered to become Army officers at the height of the Vietnam war.

After graduation, over half received orders to Vietnam. Two classmates made the ultimate sacrifice: James Du Pont and Thomas Edgren. Many others earned the Purple Heart.

At the reunion in Fort Benning, these men will renew the bonds forged 48 years ago. We urge you in me in pausing to reflect on their sacrifices and extend them our thanks.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH DENT

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the tremendous work of Elizabeth Dent, who has been an invaluable part of the staff of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture for the past 3 years. Elizabeth came to work with the subcommittee chair after working several years with a former appropriator, Congressman Jack Kingston.

Elizabeth has been a valuable member of the subcommittee team. She is diligent, dedicated, and keen to details, something that is very important to the appropriations work.

She is always eager to volunteer and lend a hand to accomplish whatever tasks may be needed in assisting in the agricultural community. She has become an integral part of the team, and she will be greatly missed on our subcommittee.

Elizabeth will be leaving the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture to work for the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee. I thank her for her outstanding work. The Senate Appropriations Committee is very fortunate to have her work on the staff. We wish her all the very best, and we look forward to working with her in her new capacity.

ACA BIRTH CONTROL MANDATE

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in defense of every woman’s access to healthcare and right to make her own healthcare decisions.

Last week, President Trump issued a harmful executive order that will allow employers to deny women insurance coverage for contraception. This rolls back progress under the Affordable Care Act that required insurance companies to cover birth control without a copay.

This is outrageous. Employers have no right dictating what healthcare women can and cannot have. That is a decision between a woman and her doctor.

Nearly 9 in 10 women will use birth control at some point in their lives. This order is a direct attack on their healthcare.

President Trump tried to sneak this change through, announcing it on a Friday afternoon before a long weekend. Well, we noticed, and so did millions of other women that this order will adversely impact.

We are paying attention and we are not about to stop speaking out and working to protect women’s access to healthcare.

FALLEN TTU OFFICER FLOYD EAST, JR.

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen hero, Officer Floyd East, Jr. Officer East was a police officer for the Texas Tech University Police Department. On Monday, October 9, Officer East completed his final patrol to protect and serve.

Officer East has been described by friends as someone you could rely on and someone who was always there to help or just listen. No doubt, he represented the very best of the values of Texas Tech.

His loss reminds us that policemen and women put their lives at risk every day. He left behind a loving wife, Carmen, who generously allowed him to dedicate his life to keeping us safe.

To his children, Ana and Monica: Our prayers are with you. Scripture tells us that “there’s no greater love than for a person to lay down his life for his friends.” That was God’s greatest gift to this world and that was your dad’s greatest gift. Our Red Raider family is behind you, and we will never forget Floyd and how he held the thin blue line, God bless your family.

ALDO’S STORY

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

Mr. SCHRADE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Aldo Solano of Woodburn, Oregon.

Aldo was only 6 years old when his family first immigrated to the United States from Colima, Mexico. Economic distress, corruption, and a lack of opportunities pushed his parents to leave everything behind and head to the Willamette Valley. They wanted a different life for Aldo and his siblings, one where they could go to school and pursue their dreams.

Aldo has done just that. At Woodburn High School, he served as vice president of his class. While earning good grades, he participated in sports and other opportunities like 4-H Latino Summer Camp, encouraging young people to enter the STEM field.

After graduating, Aldo became a DACA recipient. Through DACA, he has been able to work for the Latino Health Coalition, where he worked to pass Cover All Kids, a State law to ensure access to healthcare for every child in Oregon. This winter, he will begin working towards a public health degree at Portland State University.

Without DACA, none of this would have been possible for Aldo. Young people across the country are relying on us. We need to pass a clean Dream Act that will recognize Aldo and over 800,000 DREAMers as equal members of our community.

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS MONTH

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

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize all pharmacists across America to ensure that Americans have access to important and often lifesaving medications.

As the only pharmacist currently serving in Congress, I am proud to recognize all pharmacists across America for their work. Pharmacists are doing to promote a healthy America. Every day, pharmacists provide vaccines for a number of illnesses and...
carefully counsel patients on prescriptions and over-the-counter medications to help heal sickness and reduce pain. Pharmacists are also considered one of the top two most trusted professions in America.

During October, as well as throughout the year, I encourage everyone to visit your pharmacist, ask questions about your prescriptions, receive advice about preventative care, and get to know the person who provides your medicine and works to keep you healthy.

Thank you, fellow pharmacists, for all that you do. Please know that your work is appreciated and you are an important part of keeping our Nation healthy.

GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, we are now a few days after the most violent and largest massacre in modern American history in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Many that you encounter has a story, amazingly, about who was there during that week. They obviously were not at that site, but they may have been in Las Vegas for work or otherwise. It will be on the minds of Americans for a long time.

Just this past Monday, I stood with Sheriff Acevedo, my chief of police, my sheriff, my constable; mothers who have lost loved ones and children; and a woman who has been abused and her significant other carried around a heavy weapon to scare her, threaten her, and abuse her.

Why we can’t have gun safety regulation, I don’t know, but I believe after Sandy Hook and after Pulse nightclub, we must pass real gun safety legislation. We must ban assault weapons, ban high capacity magazines. We must have universal background checks.

Madam Speaker, it is a shame that we cannot save lives. We need gun safety now, not money in your pockets.

OVERCOMING PROBLEMS WITH THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I want to commend President Trump’s decision this week with executive orders to do some of the work we have been unable to do so far in the House and the Senate, helping people overcome the problems with the ACA, the Affordable Care Act.

One of the measures he put forth was association health plans to allow employers’ employees to form health plans that suit them—indeed, to associate with their type of business, their type of industry on a small scale in their neighborhoods. It makes perfect sense, if you want to give people more choices.

Also, short-term, limited-duration health insurance plans, which allow people to have, if they are in between jobs, instead of limiting it to just 3 months, perhaps just a little longer. In the interim, while they are in between jobs, they have choices that they could afford with the elements in the plan they would like.

Finally, health reimbursement arrangements, which make it where employees—if they want to provide benefits to their—employers to their employees, that they can reimburse for more issues in their plan, such as helping them pay for their premiums, if that is how the employee wishes to have that.

Flexibility is what we need; choices are what we need; and then Congress needs to accomplish something in the Senate so we can bring it back and give this to the American people.

RESPONSE TO THE REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TENNEY). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, before my colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus and I begin our discussion about the response to the Republican tax plan, I wish to take a moment to express our sympathy for the people of northern California who are facing devastating and destructive wildfires.

I represent a Silicon Valley district where hundreds of our neighbors to our forth and south remain missing. Tens of thousands are suffering at this very moment from the destruction of more than 150,000 acres and counting, as well as an increasing number of family homes and businesses. It seems that our Nation has been struck by one national tragedy after another. Our prayers are with the California residents, and I know that everyone in this body is committed to their relief.

I also, on a personal note, want to recognize Liz Bartolomeo, who has been my chief of staff, a long time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, it is a shame that we cannot save lives. We need gun safety now, not money in your pockets.

The purpose of this hour is to discuss the Republican economic plan, and I want to commend President Trump’s decision this week with executive orders to do some of the work we have been unable to do so far in the House and the Senate, helping people overcome the problems with the ACA, the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, I wish her very well in her next steps, and I thank her for her service to our office and to the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

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