

lands. Members on both sides of the aisle should take umbrage at President Obama's lameduck machinations to withdraw from the multiple-use framework more than 230,000 acres of public lands in Minnesota—with the mere stroke of a pen. By treating public lands regulation as a means to build a Presidential legacy through midnight regulation, the previous administration flouted the spirit of participatory and inclusive lands-use statutes as designed by Congress. Lawmakers should correct the course by passing the excellent H.R. 3905."

Finally, the Associated General Contractors of Minnesota:

H.R. 3905 changes no environmental review processes, relaxes no environmental standards, and specifically restates Congress' prohibition on any mining activity in the Boundary Waters and surrounding protective buffer areas. H.R. 3905 would reaffirm longstanding congressional intent that actually espouses that this area be designated for mining and timber sales.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everybody to vote against this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GALLAGHER). Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended, and on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 3905 is postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1892. An act to amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100-458, section 114(b)(2)(c), the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis for Public Service Training and Development for a six-year term:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The message also announced that pursuant to the provision of section 1151 of title 2, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, reappoints the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 115-77, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following individuals to the Frederick Douglas Bicentennial Commission:

The Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

Dr. David Anderson of New York.

CONGRATULATING LA TOYA CANTRELL, THE MAYOR-ELECT OF NEW ORLEANS

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

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with extreme joy and excitement. My hometown, which is New Orleans, a part of my congressional district, next year, will celebrate our 300th anniversary. Over the years, we were under French control, we were under Spanish control, we were back under French control, and then we had the Louisiana Purchase. But as we walk into our 300th year, we have an elected—and we will be under the control of—female mayor for the first time in New Orleans history. That female is LaToya Cantrell.

She is a community activist and she is very focused on the future. I just want to congratulate LaToya on being elected to be the mayor of the city of New Orleans, and just to assure the people of New Orleans that we are going to go forward in our 300th year together and continue to improve the greatest city in the world, and that is New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, congratulate LaToya Cantrell on her election to be mayor of the city of New Orleans.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TROOPER DAMON ALLEN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as Americans gathered around their Thanksgiving tables, joined hands with their families, and gave thanks for their blessings, a Texas Highway Patrol trooper was murdered.

While returning to his patrol car during a routine traffic stop, Trooper Damon Allen was shot in the back by a dastardly criminal, the driver of that vehicle. Trooper Allen was working alone, as most troopers in Texas do. The multiple shots killed Trooper Allen.

The crook had illegally procured a weapon in Trooper Allen's homicide. The criminal, like most do, quickly fled the scene, leading Texas Rangers and other law enforcement on a chase across Texas, but he was finally apprehended.

Mr. Speaker, this wasn't the first time that the criminal had targeted our men and women in uniform. A slew of previous convictions are on his rap sheet, including drug possession, evading arrest, and violence toward law enforcement. The killer is now where he belongs: in the jailhouse. The bandit will face Texas justice.

Texas Department of Public Safety Officer Allen was a devoted husband, a father of three, and a 15-year member of Texas law enforcement. He served with courage, placing the badge—the star—over his heart and reporting for duty every day.

We pray for Trooper Allen and his family. Trooper Allen, like all peace officers, placed his life between us and the lawless. We should remember him and thank God that such men have lived.

And that is just the way it is.

THE TAX REFORM BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here for a Special Order. The issues of the day in Washington, D.C., are many. Tonight I would like to choose to talk about what is happening with the tax reform bill that is coming before the United States Senate. We are hearing rumors that it will be here this week, maybe a possible vote on Friday.

It is important for us, as we look at the first tax reform bill in 31 years, to understand that we do need changes to our Tax Code, that the Tax Code has become too complicated and too complex. It needs to be simplified. The Tax Code has become burdensome to small and medium-sized businesses. It is not always the most cooperative Tax Code for entrepreneurship or innovation. It lacks incentives for helping us in certain sectors of the economy to help us grow.

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But the most staggering problem in the Tax Code today is that it has direct and substantial benefits for the wealthiest people in the country.

I am of the mindset that we need to have a Tax Code, an economy, and public policies that are going to allow the free enterprise system to work efficiently, that will allow for growth, especially in communities that have been distressed for many decades and are looking for the private sector to come in and hire our workers. It is very important.

Like most issues in the United States, like most issues that we face here in Congress, we have to look at these issues in the context of what is happening in the free market and what is happening in the rest of the economy.

So it is important for us to know that over the last 30 years, since the last time we have done tax reform, we have had a lot of growth in the country. Globalization and automation has led to enormous amounts of wealth being created, and that wealth has gotten concentrated. It has gotten concentrated into a small group of people in the country and it has gotten concentrated in certain areas of the country.