

electromechanical assemblies built to customer specifications. In its more than three decades in operation, it has expanded the facility three times, acquired a plastic injection molding business, and developed quality employees and suppliers to serve its customers.

Recently, Contine Corporation received approval from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, as a SHARP participant. SHARP stands for Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program. This is one of the highest honors OSHA awards to a worksite.

Since 1995, OSHA has been recognizing small business worksites that have shown a continuous commitment to improving the safety and health of their workplace through the OSHA Consultation Program. Fewer than 1,600 worksites across the country currently share the honor of SHARP recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Constantine Ellrich, owner of the Contine Corporation; safety manager, Randall Groves; and the entire Contine workforce for its dedication to workforce safety.

Ensuring a safe and healthy working environment protects a business' viability, and, most importantly, it protects American workers.

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 35 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

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God, Father of us all, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Ever faithful to Your promises, we ask Your presence with Your people, now and forever.

The sun grows dim and the daylight is measured. In the darkness, phantoms loom. The eye cannot discern as the distance fades. Be for us light.

Help the Members of Congress make clear judgments that will propel us into a blessed future. Remove any shadowy cloud so that they might follow the patterns of Your inspirations.

O Lord of the ages, ever faithful to Your promises, be with us throughout these waning days of the session, and may all that is done in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings 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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WESTERMAN 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.

HONORING GREG ALIA DAY

(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 am grateful to recognize that this Thursday, December 14, is Greg Alia Day: a day to recognize law enforcement and their families for their dedication in promoting the protection of American families.

I appreciate the hard work and devotion of Kassy Alia in recognizing her husband in such a positive way with Greg Alia Day, truly giving back to the community and recognizing his service to the American people.

Greg was a fine young man and also a 7-year veteran of the Forest Acres Police Department. I was fortunate to have the privilege to travel with Greg and Boy Scout Troop 100 of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Columbia to Philmont Scout Ranch at Cimarron, New Mexico. I learned then what a dedicated person he was.

His legacy and courage will live on through the great work of his wife, Kassy; his son, Sal; and his parents, Dr. Richard and Alexis Alia.

To the many law enforcement and families across the country: We thank you for your service, dedication, and sacrifice, which I saw over the weekend with Sheriff Michael Hunt from Aiken, Sheriff Leon Lott from Richland, and Sheriff Jay and Kim Koon from Lexington.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. God bless the memory and service of Greg Alia.

RECOGNIZING GRAYDON CARTER

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the career of Hall of Fame Magazine Editor Graydon Carter.

Graydon Carter is one of the great journalists of our time. He retires today after 25 years as the editor at

Vanity Fair. He cofounded and was editor of Spy magazine, as well as the New York Observer. At Vanity Fair, he gave a venue to writers like Michael Lewis; Dominick Dunne; and Christopher Hitchens, one of the great journalists of our time.

Upon Christopher Hitchens' passing, Graydon said he was a wit, a charmer, and a troublemaker; and to those who knew him well, he was a gift from—dare I say it—God.

From his beginnings at Spy magazine and through his days at the New York Observer and Vanity Fair, he pointed out the shortcomings of Donald Trump. He gave him the epithet: short-fingered vulgarian.

For that and much more, Graydon Carter will be remembered as a great journalist, a great human being, a great raconteur, and a great friend.

GUNNERY SERGEANT DALE SIGLER

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gunnery Sergeant Dale Sigler from Moundsville, West Virginia.

Dale's life has been one of leadership and service to his community and country. At the age of 17, during the height of World War II, he got his parents' permission and enlisted in the United States Navy, even before he had finished high school. He served in the Navy until 1946 before returning home to finish his education. Upon graduation, he then joined the Marines and led an exemplary military career as a gunnery sergeant.

Dale retired after 20 years of military service, but his desire to serve the community didn't stop there. He went on to serve as a chaplain for the local chapters of The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Marine Corps League. He was recently awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedicated service.

Gunnery Sergeant Sigler, we salute you and offer you our deepest gratitude. You, sir, are truly a great American.

REPUBLICAN TAX SCAM

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax scam will raise taxes on 36 million middle class Americans, undermine Medicare, and explode the deficit. It will saddle our children and grandchildren with more than \$1 trillion in additional debt simply to pay for an unnecessary, un-American, unconscionable tax cut for millionaires, billionaires, special interests, corporations, and big donors.