

been officially designated as Black History Month by every President since, and while the month is not itself sufficient to honor the legacies of African-Americans, it makes a good start.

This year is especially important, as is this day, as we honor the 200th birthday of Frederick Douglass, a towering presence in African-American history. Born into slavery, secretly teaching himself to read and write, Frederick Douglass would become a powerful voice for abolition, and for the equality of all people.

But during this month, we must honor not only Frederick Douglass and the other leading figures of our movement, but also the thousands of ordinary African-Americans who formed the tide that swept slavery from our nation, the many people who continue in the effort to eradicate racism today, and all those who will do so in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend AL GREEN for convening this special order session, so that we can appropriately honor Black History Month, and recognize the sacrifice and courage of African-Americans throughout our nation's history.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LOBIONDO (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today after 1:30 p.m. and for February 15 on account of attending a family funeral.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

#### BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on February 9, 2018, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 1892. 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.

H.R. 1301. Making appropriations for the Department of Defense the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

H.R. 582. To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 15, 2018, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3982. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standardizing Phytosanitary Treatment Regulations: Approval of Cold Treatment and Irradiation Facilities; Cold Treatment Schedules; Establishment of Fumigation and Cold Treatment Compliance Agreements [Docket No.: APHIS-2013-0081] (RIN: 0579-AD90) received February 12, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3983. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Calendar Year 2017 reports to describe activities under the Secretary of Defense Personnel Management Demonstration Project authorities for the Department of Defense Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratories, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2358 note; Public Law 110-181, Sec. 1107(d); (122 Stat. 358); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3984. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Policy, Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects: Delay of the Revisions to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects [Docket No.: FR-6077-1-01] received February 1, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3985. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 2018-2020 Enterprise Housing Goals (RIN: 2590-AA81) received February 7, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3986. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Student Assistance General Provisions, Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, and Teacher Education Assistance of College and Higher Education Grant Program [Docket ID: ED-2017-OPE-0112] (RIN: 1840-AD28) received February 12, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3987. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission report for Fiscal Year 2017, pursuant to the Buy American Act, 41 U.S.C. 10a(b); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3988. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's direct final rule — Revision to Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act Regulation [Docket No.: CPSC-2015-0006] received February 1, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3989. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Arkansas; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R06-OAR-2017-0435; FRL-9973-23-Region 6] received February 9, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3990. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — OHIO: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [EPA-R05-RCRA-2017-0381; FRL-9974-25-Region 5] received February 9, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3991. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Emergency Preparedness and Operations Reliability Standards [Docket No.: RM17-12-000; Order No.: 840] received February 12, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3992. A letter from the Chairman, United States Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting the Board's report titled, "A Report to Congress and the Secretary of Energy on Management and Disposal of U.S. Department of Energy Spent Nuclear Fuel", pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987, Public Law 100-203; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3993. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Supplemental Report to Congress on Market Data for overseas Cost-of-Living Adjustments, pursuant to Public Law 114-323, Sec. 411; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3994. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination by the Secretary to exercise the authority to waive the restriction on assistance under Sec. 620(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 with respect to Antigua and Barbuda; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3995. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-255, "Washington Metrorail Safety Commission Board of Directors Appointment Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3996. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-254, "East End Grocery and Retail Incentive Tax Exemption Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3997. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-253 "Jackson School Lease Renewal Authorization Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3998. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-252, "East End Commercial Real Property Tax Rate Reduction Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3999. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-251, "General Obligation Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes for Fiscal Years 2018-2023 Authorization Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4000. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-250, "Africare Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the