

NOT VOTING—13

Bass	Cummings	Pearce
Bishop (GA)	Deutch	Rogers (KY)
Cheney	Duncan (SC)	Wasserman
Costa	Gutiérrez	Schultz
Courtney	LoBiondo	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1156

So the bill was passed.

The house of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Can the Chair tell us when the House may muster the courage to take up the issue of gun violence?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not stated a proper parliamentary inquiry.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

APPOINTMENT AS INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Speaker, majority leader and minority leader, their joint appointment, pursuant to clause 6 of rule II, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of Mr. Michael Ptasienski, McLean, Virginia, as Inspector General for the U.S. House of Representatives.

BALTIC STATES CELEBRATE THEIR CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the upcoming centennial anniversaries of the statehood and independence of the three Baltic States.

This year marks 100 years since the restoration of the state of Lithuania on February 16, and the proclamations of independence of Estonia on February 24, and Latvia on November 18. Thus, in the aftermath of World War I, in 1918, Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia de-

clared their independence and marked their beginnings as new republics and their emergence as modern democratic societies.

Despite a history of turmoil, the people of the Baltics have always stood up for their values and worked to maintain their independence, freedom, and sovereignty.

Today, 100 years later, the three Baltic States are strong allies of NATO and full-fledged members of the European Union. They are committed to making the transatlantic community an area of cooperation, partnership, and prosperity. The United States is proud to be strong allies of the Baltic States, and our nations stand together to defend our shared values of freedom and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I extend sincere congratulations and send best wishes to Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia on their centennial observations and anniversary.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, what will it take? What will it take for this body to finally grapple with this issue?

Columbine wasn't enough. West Virginia wasn't enough. Colorado, in a movie theater, wasn't enough. A nightclub in Orlando wasn't enough. Newtown wasn't enough.

Mr. Speaker, this has become a national disgrace. Ninety-five percent of the American people say that they believe in sensible gun reform, gun laws that make sense. Ninety-five percent. The minority party does not represent 95 percent of this Nation.

You are in that number as well, yet you still turn your back on the American people. The NRA stands for "no Republican action."

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY MARKS ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud Bobcat to recognize Montana State University, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary tomorrow on Founders' Day.

Montana State University, a land-grant university in my hometown of Bozeman, was formed in 1893. Originally, the agricultural college of the State of Montana, the school started with eight students in a small classroom in a local high school.

The college quickly grew to include many other degree paths, including engineering and nursing; two programs for which the school is particularly known.

Today, Montana State University serves over 16,000 students each year. This year's spring enrollment set a new record for the tenth year in a row.

Montana State University is a cornerstone of the Bozeman community, and we are fortunate to have such an institution in our State.

The fact is that the success of my business, as well as that of many others, would not have been possible without Montana State University.

Go, Cats, go.

WE NEED SENSIBLE GUN LAWS

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart, imagining the pain felt in Parkland, Florida. No parent should have to send their children to school each day wondering if they will return home.

While details of the shooting in Florida are still emerging, it is clear this horrific act of violence was perpetrated by an individual in crisis.

I lost my older sister to suicide with a firearm at a young age. What I have learned since is that helping to prevent people in crisis from temporarily having a gun saves lives.

Today, I urge my colleagues to support the Gun Violence Restraining Order Act, allowing family members or law enforcement officials to petition a judge to temporarily remove firearms from an individual in crisis.

For those who keep repeating after each mass shooting that it is too soon to discuss gun violence reform, please consider that for many families, including my own, it is far too late.

We owe these families more than just our thoughts and prayers. We owe them sensible gun laws that protect our children from needless gun violence.

JENNIFER'S STORY OF TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Jennifer's childhood was violently chaotic. By her early twenties, she was living on the streets, begging and stealing to survive.

After a local gang member suspected that she may have stolen his money, her life became even more horrific and hellish. The gangster beat her mercilessly with a baseball bat until she collapsed, and then he and other gang members pistol-whipped her and burned her with cigarettes. They tattooed their names all over her body, branding her as property. For 6 years, they held her in slavery, forcing her to have sex with countless men for money.

Desperate, Jennifer tried to kill herself, but when the rope broke, she resolved to escape. Luckily for Jennifer, she found a shelter and was able to rebuild her life. She covered up the traffickers' names with flowers and the words "free yourself."

We, as a society, owe it to Jennifer and survivors like her to protect them

and put the slave masters in the jail-house, where they belong.

And that is just the way it is.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR JAPANESE INTERNMENT

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, over 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated on American soil during World War II.

On the annual Day of Remembrance, we are reminded of the brave men, women, and children who lost everything. They lost their homes, their belongings, their businesses, really keeping only what they could carry with them.

But their spirits were not broken. Countless stories of bravery, courage, and resilience defined an entire generation, including the Nisei-only "Go For Broke" 442nd Infantry Regiment, becoming the most highly decorated unit in Army history.

The anniversary of this shameful blight on our history remains a powerful reminder of the fragility of civil rights and the threat that prejudice and divisiveness and bigotry continue to pose to our way of life today.

We must follow in the footsteps of those Japanese Americans who volunteered to serve this country, even with their loved ones incarcerated on American soil, and find the light and love of the Aloha spirit to stand up and fight against intolerance, bigotry, and hatred.

TY MUSE IS BROOME COUNTY'S DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

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

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ty Muse, the CEO of Visions Federal Credit Union, who was recently honored by the Boy Scouts of America and the Baden-Powell Council as the Broome County Distinguished Citizen of the Year.

Each year, this award is given to an individual in the Broome County community who sets a positive example for others and demonstrates concern and significant care for their community.

Mr. Muse moved to the Broome County area 5 years ago and hit the ground running. He has been honored for his commitment to helping young leaders throughout the region by sponsoring a free track program, donating to several local school districts and colleges, and working to raise awareness in financial literacy.

Madam Speaker, I extend both my congratulations and my thanks to Mr. Ty Muse for his hard work and dedication to the Broome County community and for his commitment to inspiring leaders of the future.

THE CFPB—HOW TO KILL A GOOD THING

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, a leader must believe in the mission of the organization he or she heads.

But Donald Trump turned this principle on its head by appointing Mick Mulvaney to head the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Mr. Mulvaney doesn't believe in the agency's mission to protect consumers. In fact, he once said that he doesn't "like the fact that the CFPB even exists."

When he was a Member of Congress, he cosponsored legislation to eliminate it. Now, as Director of the CFPB, he wants to zero out its budget for this year.

He eviscerated the CFPB's rules against predatory payday lending, and then dropped all the lawsuits against them. He halted its investigation into Equifax.

As Senator ELIZABETH WARREN pointed out, you should not put someone in charge of an agency when they want to destroy it. He is running it into the ground, and we must stop it. Consumers will pay dearly.

□ 1215

CONGRATULATING GREGORY OLSEN

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gregory Olsen from Chaska who was recently appointed to serve on the National Honey Board by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Greg will serve a 3-year term alongside 19 other members as the importer-handler representative. The National Honey Board is one of the 22 industry-funded boards authorized by Congress under USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. Its purpose is to expand domestic markets for honey and honey products.

The National Honey Board is responsible for research and development, advertising and promotion, consumer education, and industry information of the honey industry.

Madam Speaker, Greg brings important industry experience to the table and will assist the National Honey Board in their mission of successful innovative research, education, and promotional work for honey products that many people rely on in Minnesota and across the world.

Congratulations again to Greg Olsen.

CUTTING EPA'S BUDGET

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, 26 percent—that is how much Trump and Pruitt want to cut the EPA's budget, a starved agency cut again by a full one-quarter. That is massive cuts of staff, massive cuts to our health and safety, massive cuts to the EPA's ability to do its job.

The day after they proposed those cuts, we learned that Mr. Pruitt likes to fly first class on the taxpayer's dime. Over one stretch last June, taxpayer-funded travel for Scott Pruitt and his aides cost at least \$90,000. If the administration wants to look for cuts, maybe Scott Pruitt shouldn't be flying first class to his meetings. Maybe he should have to sit next to the constituents he represents.

Madam Speaker, the EPA's mission is to protect our environment. President Trump's dirty budget wants to cut its budget by \$3 billion.

Madam Speaker, we need to be able to protect our health and environment and prioritize funding to do so. It doesn't look like Mr. Pruitt is capable of doing that, even from 40,000 feet in the air.

AMERICANS ARE THRIVING BECAUSE OF TAX REFORM

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

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share just a few examples of how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is already helping businesses in Georgia's Third District. It is helping them to grow, and it is helping them to reinvest in their workers.

Last month, I had the opportunity to visit such a business, Custom Truck and Body Works, in Woodbury, Georgia. This is a unique company that builds specialty vehicles for first responders. Because of the changes made by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, this small business has been able to hire new workers, is beginning a facility expansion, and, in fact, told me they are still looking for folks to fill positions today.

This isn't the only business in the Third District that is thriving because of tax reform. Another small business, Shred-X, which is a small business that has 10 employees and provides recycling and shredding services to 3,000 clients throughout Atlanta and west central Georgia, plans to use the additional savings to buy a new truck and potentially hire a new employee. For a company of 10 people, this is a huge difference.

Madam Speaker, I am thrilled to see our Main Street job creators thriving because of tax reform, and I look forward to seeing our economy continue to thrive as Americans reap the benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

ADDRESS GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)