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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Pastor Tony Perkins, Greenwell Springs Baptist Church, Greenwell Springs, Louisiana, offered the following prayer:

Father, we thank You for today.

I thank You for the men and women in this distinguished body, whom You have given the privilege of serving the people of this country. May they understand the unique, but fleeting, moment they occupy in the history of man.

The challenges of our day are certainly many, and, as a result, the burden that those in this Chamber carry is very heavy. May they look to You as the Apostle James encouraged when we need the wisdom to face challenges and solve problems.

As citizens of this country, we pray for them, that You will give them wisdom, wisdom which is from above.

I ask that the Holy Spirit guide them like the pillar of fire and the cloud that led the children of Israel.

I pray they will recognize and declare dependence upon You, governing with an understanding of the Psalmist's words: "Blessed is the nation, whose God is the Lord."

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings 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 Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CAPUANO 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of International Women's Day, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of two women from Cincinnati.

Long ago, Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in Cincinnati. When she later met Abraham Lincoln in the White House, he reportedly said: "So you are the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war."

More recently, Elina Govil, a high school student from Indian Hill, is fighting to provide at-risk girls in conflict zones with access to a proper education.

To assist Elina in her efforts, as a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I introduced the Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act, bipartisan legislation that could help millions of young girls across the globe.

Children who are denied an education, because they live in an area that is torn by chaos and war, have little chance of ever attaining a stable existence. Girls, in particular, are subject to exploitation and the pitfalls of human trafficking, violence, and poverty.

Thank you, Elina, for helping girls everywhere to have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I, too, am here to recognize International Women's Day.

We all know that women have made some progress over the years: the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Lilly Ledbetter Equal Pay Act. We have made progress, but we know there is more to do.

This Congress and this President have to improve the Family and Medical Leave Act. We have to make sure the laws that we have are enforced, equal pay is made, and equal actions happen in the workplace. We are not doing it, and we all know that.

And the truth is—when I am home—I tell people, when you look to Congress to lead, it is always a mistake. Most of the progress in this country comes from the bottom up. We are almost always last. I will give you an example.

Years ago, George Bush vetoed the Family and Medical Leave Act four times. I was the mayor of my city, we did it on our own. The Federal Government didn't make us do it, and the State didn't make us do it.

So I am here today to simply ask all Americans, at every level, to do what you can to equalize opportunity and treatment in this world. We don't have to wait for our government. There are people like me, ROSA DELAURO, and others who are going to continue to push, and we will make progress. But we all have our own individual responsibilities, and I call on all Americans to do that.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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REMEMBERING TOM BERNIS

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise, today, to remember Tom Bernis, a friend and respected community leader, who passed away last month.

After graduating college, Tom established the firm Bernis, Clancy and Associates, which has grown into one of today's premier engineering firms in the area. Over the course of his career, Tom was considered by many to be an expert in civil engineering. He found great joy in his profession and shared it with others through teaching.

However, Tom is, perhaps, most known for his impact on the community. He was a member of over a dozen clubs, boards, and civic organizations, many of which he served as president or chairman. He served as village engineer for five different central Illinois towns throughout his lifetime and was also actively involved in his congregation, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, for over 50 years.

In 2000, Tom became a Member of the Illinois House of Representatives, where he represented Illinois' 104th House District.

Tom knew what it meant to serve. He lived his life in a way that put others before himself, always looking for ways to help, to get involved, and to improve his community.

I am inspired by the legacy of Tom Bernis and the numerous lives he touched throughout central Illinois. I pray for his wife, Jeannie, and their family during this difficult time.

HONORING DORIS A. DAVIS

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, on this International Women's Day, I rise to honor the life of the Honorable Doris A. Davis, who passed away last month, after providing decades of public service to the city of Compton.

After serving as Compton's first African-American city clerk, Ms. Davis then went on to become the first African-American mayor of a major metropolitan city in the country.

During her time in office, Mayor Davis worked tirelessly to increase tax revenues and job opportunities in Compton.

Upon leaving office, she founded the Daisy Child Development Centers, a nonprofit organization that provided assistance to single parents and families in and around Compton.

Mayor Davis was always an active participant in our community—belonging to over two dozen organizations, including the NAACP, the Urban League, and the League of Women Voters—and her legacy of public service will live on.

ESTABLISH A UNIFORM RULE OF NATURALIZATION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I wish to commend Attorney General Jeff Sessions and the Trump administration for finally taking action against California's lawlessness on sanctuary cities and immigration practices.

California is clearly violating Federal immigration laws. States don't get to dictate to the Federal Government when and where these laws are enforced.

California needs to be held accountable for their willful defiance of Federal immigration law and its sanctuary State insurrection.

Several laws have been passed by the Federal Government over the years on immigration. Actually enforcing a law on the books, arresting and deporting illegal immigrants shouldn't be shocking. The Supreme Court has held that immigration regulation was a Federal responsibility exclusively in 1876.

Under the Obama administration, Arizona, in order to try to fix the immigration problem in this country, passed a bill called S.B. 1070, but the Supreme Court ruled that they couldn't enforce the border themselves.

Now we have California going the other direction, trying to cause no enforcement to be done on immigration in our State. The Federal Government is ruling and working to overcome that as well.

So I commend Attorney General Sessions for taking action on California's lawlessness.

HONORING DR. GEORGE NIELD

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

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Dr. George Nield, on the occasion of his retirement as the FAA Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation.

Dr. Nield has been a tireless advocate for a commercial space industry that is more robust than ever and has been a great partner for those of us on the Hill who have worked to create an environment where the commercial space industry can thrive.

Dr. Nield is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, and his time in the Air Force included assignments as an engineer at the Space and Missile Systems Center and Air Force Test Center, and as an assistant professor at the Air Force Academy.

He later held many roles at NASA, managing the Flight Integration Office for the Space Shuttle program, and later working on the International Space Station program. Prior to com-

ing to the FAA, Dr. Nield was a senior scientist in the advance programs group of Orbital Sciences Corporation, now Orbital ATK.

George Nield has long understood the important role space plays in our country and dedicated his career to ensuring that the United States is the world's preeminent spacefaring nation. For the past 10 years, he has devoted himself to an industry that helps the United States Government complete its missions, grow our economy, and improve the quality of life for all Americans and those around the world. Our country is losing an important advocate for space. I wish him well in his retirement.

SENSE ACT WILL HELP RESTORE PENNSYLVANIA LANDS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment Act, also called the SENSE Act.

The SENSE Act will have a tremendous impact on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Decades of historic mining has left behind piles of coal refuse or waste coal, which is essentially a worthless material, but its presence has led to environmental degradation in many cases.

Today, the coal refuse-to-energy industry uses waste coal to generate affordable energy. This means hundreds of good-paying jobs and remediated waste coal piles across the Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania is home to 14 of the 19 coal refuse-to-energy plants in the United States. And we have already seen enormous environmental and economic benefits thanks to this industry. We are keeping Pennsylvanians employed and working to restore our beautiful streams and countryside.

Mr. Speaker, one-size-fits-all government regulations do not work.

The SENSE Act crafts responsibly tailored regulations to address the application of an EPA rule for electric generating units that utilize coal refuse to generate electricity and serve critical environmental cleanup and remediation purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

SATISFYING ENERGY NEEDS AND SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT ACT

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 762, I call up the bill (H.R. 1119) to establish the bases by which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall issue, implement, and enforce certain emission limitations and allocations for existing electric utility steam generating units that convert coal refuse into energy, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.