

Of all the joys in his life, nothing compares to that for his wife, Cindy; his daughter, Megan; and son, Josh.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Pastor Schenewerk for his words this morning. They are most inspirational.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY

(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, Sunday is National Ice Cream Day. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation designating the third Sunday in July as National Ice Cream Day in the United States.

The sweet treat holds a special place in the hearts and refrigerators of many Americans. In fact, almost 90 percent of Americans have ice cream in their refrigerator as I speak.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania produces 10.8 billion pounds of milk annually, and 10 percent of our Nation's milk supply goes to the production of ice cream.

In the Fifth District, the Penn State Berkey Creamery has been researching dairy and producing ice cream for more than 150 years. They were the first collegiate institution in the United States to offer lessons on making ice cream; and in 1978, two men by the name of Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield took one of their courses and later went on to launch their company, Ben & Jerry's.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Penn State for being an industry leader, and in honor of National Ice Cream Day, I hope all Americans will celebrate with a scoop on Sunday.

HONORING LONG BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPTAIN DAVID ROSA

(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, I rise today in honor of Long Beach Fire Department Captain David Rosa, who was killed July 2 after suffering a gunshot wound while responding to a fire at a senior living facility.

Captain Rosa was a 17-year veteran of the Long Beach Fire Department assigned to station 10 in the heart of the city of Long Beach, California. During his tenure, David faithfully served the city of Long Beach and its surrounding communities, working as a paramedic and trainer.

Last week, I attended his memorial service and saw an outpouring of love. He was a beloved member of our community and admired by his family and his firefighter family.

I extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to the Long Beach Fire Department, station 10, and Captain Rosa's friends and family, especially his wife and two sons.

RECOGNIZING NATHANIEL PRYOR REED

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the passing and the important contributions of a great Floridian for his unrelenting determination to protect the Florida Everglades. Nathaniel Pryor Reed was a man whom I was proud to know, and he was one of Florida's most influential environmental leaders.

He served six Florida Governors and two United States Presidents, advising them on environmental protection and conservation. He worked instrumentally in the legislation of the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. He was an avid fisherman and a conservationist. He served on more nonprofit boards than I can count, and he was a founding member of the Everglades Foundation, serving on the board of directors since its inception 25 years ago.

He championed the bipartisan saying: "The Everglades doesn't care what party you belong to, she cares what you do."

Nathaniel ended every phone call by sending his sincerest best wishes, and he always truly meant it. Today we send him our sincerest and remember his unwavering commitment to America's Everglades and his service to our Nation.

LASER INTERFEROMETER GRAVITATIONAL OBSERVATORY NAMED HISTORIC SITE BY AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Observatory, or what is known as LIGO, for its achievements in the field of gravitational discovery.

The American Physical Society recently named LIGO, which is located in my district in Richland, Washington, as a historic site for its groundbreaking detection of gravitational waves. These waves passed through the Earth on September 14, 2015, nearly 100 years after Albert Einstein predicted their existence. This discovery has opened up new opportunities for learning about the universe.

I am amazed by the work being done in central Washington. In addition to

this recognition, three LIGO scientists, Rainer Weiss, Barry Barish, and Kip Thorne, also received the 2017 Nobel Prize for Physics.

A plaque that will be placed at the site reads: "The precision required to detect these tiny disturbances in space-time, caused by emerging black holes, was made possible by the coordinated labor of over 1,000 scientific and technical workers."

I want to thank the American Physical Society and the Nobel Committee for recognizing the hard work and dedication of these men and women, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating LIGO's scientists and employees.

GOVERNMENT OVERREACH

(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, the Endangered Species Act was passed 45 years ago. We have seen a recovery of approximately 2 to 3 percent of species since then, but when the baseball All-Star Game is in town, nobody is an all-star at 3 percent.

In my home State of California, an increasing trillions of gallons of fresh drinking water flow unused into the ocean, still fish species don't recover with all this new water introduced in the last 30 years. People's needs are decimated as people need to ask for a glass of water in a restaurant or soon decide if they will shower or wash clothes on a given day in their homes. Electricity is much more expensive than need be.

Home prices are so high in California, people cannot even live where they work, in many cases sometimes commuting 3 hours to where they work. No new lands, they say, are suitable other than building on ag land or on floodplains. This, while the State attempts to commit tax dollars to what they deem affordable housing.

The ESA back then that was passed with bipartisan support in 1973 was well-intentioned, we all agree, on preserving species. Liberal courts, non-governmental organizations, and complicit Federal agencies have weaponized it to stop productive Americans, harm jobs, and increase imports.

The Congressional Western Caucus has a package of modest reforms to reset back to bipartisan goals of the Endangered Species Act, but we will hear how it is gutting the ESA when it is, instead, a series of course corrections applied to a 45-year-old law that has been reinterpreted and weaponized—accountability, transparency in data use, how it is gathered, how success is measured, instead of just being a roadblock for no-growthers, lawyers, and environmental groups.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Congressional Western Caucus Chairman GOSAR and Mr. BISHOP for their work in

this effort in making this happen and, hopefully, being fruitful in adjusting the Endangered Species Act.

URGING NATO ALLIES TO HONOR FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

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

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with grave concern regarding the security of our world.

Recently, the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act, which included my amendment urging our NATO allies to step up and participate in the cost of their own defense. President Trump was correct to raise this issue at the NATO summit in Brussels.

America's commitment to our NATO allies is absolutely ironclad—it always has been—but for too long, the United States has shared an unequal financial burden in contributing to the global and regional security that NATO provides.

In 2014, each member country agreed to spend a minimum of 2 percent of their GDP on defense, but currently, only 5 of 29 member countries meet this threshold. With new challenges from an increasingly belligerent Russian state, instability across the Middle East and North Africa, and emerging cybersecurity threats around the world, it is time for our allies to honor their commitments.

As negotiators continue to finalize the NDAA conference report, I urge the inclusion of my amendment that passed the House to ensure our allies pull their own weight in support of our collective defense, which will strengthen NATO and help achieve peace through our collective commitment.

DISPARAGING NATO ALLIES IS NOT PRODUCTIVE

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, we just heard my friend from Michigan talk about how NATO allies have to live up to their obligations.

NATO allies have been living up to their obligations. In fact, article V of NATO has only been invoked once, and it was on behalf of the United States by our NATO allies.

The way to get NATO working is not to blow up a NATO summit, and it is not to disparage NATO allies—allies of half a century. Now we see that same wrecking ball strategy in the United Kingdom, our oldest ally on the face of the Earth.

This is no way to conduct foreign policy. It is destructive, and it will hurt the United States' interests that have been served long by our allies and by NATO in particular.

I hope the President of the United States comes to his senses and under-

stands talking discretely is far better than blowing it up.

UNFUNDED MANDATES INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2017

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 50.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 985 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 50.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0915

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 50) to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes, with Mr. MAST in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall not exceed 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, in 1995, Congress passed the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, or UMRA, to prevent the imposition of burdensome and costly Federal unfunded mandates. Over the course of this Congress, the Oversight and Government Reform Committee has developed a record that clearly shows UMRA has fallen short of its original goals.

Last year, the committee sought input on UMRA and received several hundred responses from Governors, State legislators, and county officials regarding the impact of Federal laws and regulations.

Too often, State and local governments are confronted with the rotten choice of raising taxes on their residents or cutting services residents depend on in order to comply with Federal mandates. Unfunded federal mandates strain State and local budgets, and subvert the principles of American federalism.

Federal agencies treat States as servants to their regulatory whims, rather

than as partners to consult before imposing new, burdensome mandates.

In an April 2017 hearing, a Kentucky county executive testified that Federal agencies treat their responsibilities under UMRA as an exercise to "check a box," rather than an opportunity to engage in a meaningful intergovernmental partnership.

H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act, is designed to solve these problems. It will improve the quality of regulatory and legislative analysis and close the current loophole which allows an agency to bypass UMRA analysis by not issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking.

According to the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office, 35 percent of major rules are issued without a notice of proposed rulemaking. That means more than one-third of the regulations with the greatest impact on the economy are excluded from UMRA's cost-benefit and other analyses.

H.R. 50 also expands the definition of direct costs to ensure economic analysis considers foregone profits, costs passed on to consumers, and behavioral changes.

Requiring Federal regulatory agencies and the Congressional Budget Office to include all anticipated costs in cost estimates will help ensure that analyses are complete and provide an accurate description of the full effects of regulations and legislation.

H.R. 50 enhances transparency, accountability, and communication between the Federal Government and State, local, Tribal, or private sector partners. It requires Federal agencies to engage in a more thorough regulatory process by codifying key provisions of President Clinton's Executive Order 12866. These principles were reaffirmed by President Obama in Executive Order 13563 and are consistent with President Trump's executive orders on regulatory reform.

Under UMRA, agencies are required to consult with State, local, and Tribal governments when developing significant regulatory mandates. H.R. 50 extends this requirement to the private sector, which is similarly burdened by unfunded Federal regulatory mandates.

The bill also requires independent agencies like the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, and the Federal Communications Commission to comply with UMRA.

Finally, H.R. 50 extends judicial review to help ensure agencies carefully consider the least costly and least burdensome regulatory alternative, giving courts the authority to stay regulations for noncompliance with UMRA. These changes are critical to achieving what Congress set out to do when UMRA was passed in 1995.

Requiring greater transparency and improving analysis prior to imposing Federal mandates is not a partisan goal. State and local governments headed by Republicans and Democrats