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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, February 11, 2019, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of all creation, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Be mindful of Your people, especially the Members of this people's House as the next funding deadline nears. Inspire those who are in negotiations so that next Friday would bring moments of celebration and not consternation.

Lord, You are ever present, especially to those most in need. Show Your mercy to the weakest among us: the children, the poor, the elderly, the homeless.

Send Your spirit upon all Members that they might be inspired to do what they are able, to care for those whom You have favored from Biblical times—the powerless and most vulnerable.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. HARDER) come for-

ward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARDER of California 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.

AMENDMENT TO THE VETERANS' CHILD CARE ACT

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan amendment to the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act, which I sponsored with my colleagues from New York, ANTONIO DELGADO and ELISE STEFANIK.

Our amendment guarantees that if our veterans suffer a mental health crisis, such as one caused by PTSD or depression, childcare for their kids is covered during the crisis.

Let me tell you why this is so important to me and the veterans in our community.

A few weeks ago, I visited the Stanislaus County Veterans Service Office and I spoke to multiple veterans suffering with mental health problems. A veteran in my district told me PTSD was his invisible injury.

Roughly 20 percent of our veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan suffer from depression, PTSD, or traumatic brain injury. That is triple the national average, and it affects our communities in numerous ways. For example, in my district we struggle with veteran homelessness.

So, today, we are doing something about it. This bipartisan amendment helps ease the pain of mental health emergencies for our veterans and makes sure their kids are taken care of.

By passing this amendment, we can show our veterans, whether they are from Stanislaus County, Essex County, or Ulster County, that we can actually work together in a bipartisan manner to give them the respect and honor they have earned.

HOUSE MUST VOTE ON BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

(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 Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

I applaud my colleague Congresswoman ANN WAGNER for reintroducing this bill, and I am proud to be a co-sponsor.

This bill penalizes the intentional killing of a child who is born alive. To be clear, I cannot believe I even have to state those words.

□ 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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Mr. Speaker, we have seen horrific actions in New York and Virginia to allow late-term abortion. This is essentially the execution of a defenseless child after birth. It is unconscionable.

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would require a child who is born after an attempted abortion to receive treatment and be transferred to a hospital.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day in America when we have to discuss such a reprehensible act.

Any doctor who would leave a child to die should face the full extent of the law. This bill would ensure that.

We must protect the most vulnerable, and I urge the House to take action on this bill.

IMPACT OF SHUTDOWN ON NOAA WEATHER SERVICE STATION EMPLOYEES

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, we just experienced our government's longest shutdown. For 35 days in California, nearly 40,000 Federal workers were furloughed and denied paychecks because of the shutdown, and that number included Federal employees at the NOAA weather service station in my district on the central coast of California.

Now, recently, I met with those workers to hear how the shutdown impacted them, and I can tell you that, although they were affected by the loss of pay, they definitely did not lose their sense of service.

For over 1 month, right in the middle of rainy season, with the potential for serious flooding, these public servants didn't get a paycheck. They didn't miss one day of work, not one shift; and that is why, in large part, in our region, we were safe.

I can tell you, from what I saw when I met these employees, these are employees who are not just doing their job for the paycheck. They do it for the weather; they do it for the science; they do it for the job security; but most importantly, they do it for the service to our Nation.

As negotiations in Washington continue, we must learn from, we must be inspired by, and we must be motivated by not just my NOAA employees, but every Federal worker across this country who has that sense of service.

We do that here in Congress. That is how we not only avoid government shutdowns, that is how we should govern.

CONGRATULATIONS COACH DAWN SEILER

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, in South Dakota, we take

great pride in our girls high school basketball, due to the incredible hard work of so many players and coaches.

One of those hardworking coaches is Dawn Seiler, who has been coaching the Aberdeen Central Golden Eagles for 20 years. Before that, she coached the McIntosh Tigers for 15 years.

Under Coach Seiler, the Golden Eagles of Aberdeen have made it to 18 State tournaments. And after her 596th career victory, she is the all-time winningest coach in girls high school basketball history in the great State of South Dakota.

Coach Seiler has inspired generations of talented young women to do their best, both on and, more importantly, off the court.

Aberdeen is proud of their coach, and they should be.

Coach Seiler, congratulations on your historic accomplishment.

HELPING GRIEVING PARENTS

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, the death of a child is a loss like no other, and I extend my heartfelt sympathy to any parents who face such circumstances, but our current laws leave no time for parents to grieve and begin the recovery process before returning to work.

The current Family and Medical Leave Act allows Americans to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for the birth of a child or the care of a loved one experiencing a serious health condition. We need to extend these same protections to parents grieving the loss of a child, which is why I introduced the Sarah Grace-Farley-Kluger Parental Bereavement Act.

This is bipartisan legislation. I was proud to be joined by three Republicans and two Democrats in introducing the bill. This is a commonsense and compassionate step we should all agree on.

I am particularly inspired by the families of those in whose memory the Sarah Grace-Farley-Kluger Act is named. They have turned the pain of the loss of a child into advocacy on behalf of other families facing the same terrible tragedy.

I urge my colleagues to join us in this bipartisan effort to support parents in the toughest times imaginable.

HONORING JUDGE MICHAEL L. KARP

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chatham County Superior Court Judge Michael L. Karpf for 40 years of exceptional service to our area's justice system.

Judge Karpf has shown an unwavering commitment to fairness and wisdom during his tenure as a judge.

He has served on the Chatham County State court since 1993, where he has had an enormous impact. Namely, he created the major crimes division, rotating judges and significantly increasing the efficiency in our court system.

His colleagues remember him as a consensus builder who could lead a bench that works well together, an oftentimes unique accomplishment.

Earlier this month, he retired to senior judge status, meaning that he will take cases on an as-needed basis.

I wish Judge Karpf the best of luck and know that the court will be in good hands as his son, Benjamin, takes the role his father had as superior court judge.

FIGHTING FOR MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

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

Mrs. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to be joined by Katie Brenny at the State of the Union Address this week, a fifth-generation cattle farmer from Mazeppa, Minnesota.

In order to maintain their farm, Katie and her husband, Ted, work day jobs to afford healthcare and retirement savings, and farm by flashlight in the early morning and late at night.

Like Katie's family, too many hardworking and middle-class Americans face similar barriers to economic security. We should be working in Congress to find common ground and solutions on the issues that affect America's working families:

Affordable healthcare no matter where you live;

Reliable options for you to get to work;

Broadband at home;

Farm policy that prioritizes family farmers; and

The promise of retirement security.

I will work with anyone who has a good idea on these issues when it benefits the lives of Americans. I hope that we take seriously the spirit of collaboration to get results for the middle class.

MARGARET MASEK CELEBRATES 105TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 105th birthday of western Nebraska native Margaret Masek.

A graduate of Gering High School, Margaret has 7 children, 21 grandchildren, and 46 great-grandchildren.

In her 105 years, she has experienced the Great Depression, both World Wars, and the landing on the Moon.

After more than a century of life, Margaret says her greatest accomplishment is her children's education and