

successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I do urge the Speaker, respectfully, and the majority leader to bring the bill up quickly.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP OF HUDSON COUNTY

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launch of a wonderful new group in my district, the Multiple Sclerosis Support Group of Hudson County.

Multiple sclerosis is a progressive immune disorder. For people with MS, the internal systems designed to keep their bodies healthy wind up attacking other parts of their body. Their immune system eats away at the protective covering of their nerves.

Severe cases of MS result in paralysis, vision loss, and diminished brain function. Nearly a million people in the United States are living with multiple sclerosis.

The MS Support Group of Hudson County aims to bring people together to help support, encourage, and uplift people who are diagnosed with MS, as well as their caregivers, friends, and families.

I am proud of my constituents' work on behalf of the people in their community. Groups like this serve an important role in society, and I am honored by their commitment to helping one another.

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READ ACROSS AMERICA 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. Madam Speaker, Saturday kicked off Read Across America Day and officially began National Reading Month.

The National Education Association celebrates readers, authors, and stories annually during March. For the past 20 years, NEA's Read Across America Day is a nationwide reading celebration that takes place annually on March 2, which is Dr. Seuss' birthday.

Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by bringing together kids, teens, and books to celebrate reading with young people. The message is clear: Through the magic and wonder of books, you can be anything and go anywhere. This month helps make students excited and engaged in reading.

Children across the country have celebrated Read Across America Day,

and I hope they keep it going for 365 more days because, as the beloved Dr. Seuss said: "The more that you read, the more things that you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

FAIRNESS FOR HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRANTS

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, we often hear about the immunotherapy revolution, medicine's next frontier, which is right now, for extending or even saving lives. Dr. Sadhak Sengupta and his wife, Sudarshana, two talented scientists from Rhode Island, are on the cutting edge of this research.

Dr. Sengupta is the director of brain tumor immunotherapy research at Rhode Island Hospital and an assistant professor at Brown University. He has been working as a scientist in the United States since 2002, and he holds numerous patents.

Despite these achievements, Dr. Sengupta has been unable to get a green card simply due to the country of his birth, India. For years, we have reached the per-country cap on employment-based green cards for India, and the current backlog is, right now, measured in decades.

Sadhak and Sudarshana dream of launching a startup, but 17 years after moving to this country, they still live in uncertainty. Madam Speaker, that is why I support the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act, a bill to remove per-country green card caps and treat all immigrants equally.

It is the right thing to do for the Senguptas and for all Americans and their families who will benefit from their research and their greatness of spirit.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FAITH CHRISTINE BARCROFT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor the life and legacy of my good friend, Jack Barcroft's wife, Faith Christine Barcroft.

Mrs. Barcroft resided in Gatesville, in the 25th District of Texas that I represent. At the young age of 39, she passed away on February 20, 2019, from glioblastoma.

Glioblastoma is a very aggressive cancer that can occur in the brain or spinal cord. It is the most common type of brain cancer, and almost 200,000 people die of it each year. Madam Speaker, this number is far too high, and it breaks my heart that my dear friend fell victim to it.

Before and after her diagnosis, Faith was a loving wife, mother, and daughter. She was often described as adven-

turous, welcoming, and she always put her family's well-being above her own. This family has experienced an immeasurable loss, and the entire Gatesville community and I are praying for them.

While we cannot bring Faith back, we can continue to raise awareness for glioblastoma and the pain it causes families like the Barcrofts. Unfortunately, there is no known way to prevent this type of cancer, but we must not give up. We must bring attention to this unforgiving diagnosis and pray that one day, research will uncover a cure.

Please keep this loving family in your prayers.

May God bless the Barcrofts.

In God we trust.

OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM IS RIGGED

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

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, constituents, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike, have told me that they feel that our political system is rigged against working, middle-class, and low-income Americans. And in many ways, they are right.

It is rigged by politicians who make it harder to vote, and it is rigged by massive corporations that fund candidates who will give them tax breaks and access to Washington.

H.R. 1 will move our country forward. It will ensure every American can cast a ballot, end partisan gerrymandering, and reduce the influence of the ultrawealthy, corporations, and special interests. And it will allow us to finally get to work on the issues that matter most to my constituents: creating an economy that works for all, providing healthcare to all, and combating climate change.

As part of this effort, I am proud to introduce a bill that will help working Americans make it to the voting booth. By requiring every State to hold at least 15 days of early voting, this measure will raise turnout and make our elections fairer and more representative of our people.

Let's return government to the people. Let's pass H.R. 1 right away.

HONORING THE FIRST RESPONDERS TO THE RECENT FLOODING IN TENNESSEE

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the first responders who have been working around the clock tirelessly since the recent flooding in Tennessee.

Last week, I visited a few counties to see the damage and hear from the local officials firsthand. The damage to our infrastructure, homes, and businesses

was substantial. The flooding stranded many Tennesseans, who had to be rescued by boat.

It breaks the heart to see so many lose everything they own.

First responders and local leaders are out every day and have been since the flooding started. In many communities, mayors—in fact, in one community, Mayor Carroll was out in a boat delivering food and water to residents of Perry County.

We are working hard to help these Tennesseans return to normalcy, and I hope you will join me in keeping everyone affected by the floods in your prayers.

LIFTING OF SANCTIONS AGAINST OLEG DERIPASKA

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Trump administration's very curious lifting of sanctions against Russian energy magnate Oleg Deripaska.

The President and our allies must strengthen sanctions against Russia, not weaken them.

Russia illegally invaded the sovereign nation of Ukraine and has killed more than 10,000 people, including civilians. She has seized 24 Ukrainian sailors and not released them. Russia cyberhacks our firms and even our democratic election process.

That is why Congress passed significant sanctions in 2017 by an overwhelming majority to raise the costs on Putin's sinister aims. Yet the Trump administration caved to foreign influence and, astoundingly, announced it would lift sanctions on Deripaska.

Madam Speaker, America's first job is to protect liberty. It should not sell off our liberty to billionaires, especially mob bosses who enable cold-blooded murder in Ukraine. It does make you wonder what forces pull the strings of the Trump administration.

The free world must not be soft on the Russian command structure, and I look forward to hearing what additional sanctions our President proposes to replace his ill-advised removal on sanctions.

Stand fast, liberty lovers. Pay attention.

CONGRATULATING KAREN MILLER ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karen Miller from Richland, Washington, on her retirement and to honor her 20 years of service to the ratepayers of the Benton Public Utility District in Washington State's Fourth Congressional District.

Karen has been a tireless advocate for the Tri-Cities community and for

the reliable, affordable power generated by central Washington's hydroelectric dams. She has been at the forefront of the community's efforts to "Save Our Dams," spearheading rallies and events like RiverFest, to celebrate the countless benefits of the Columbia and the Snake River dams.

While I know the team at Benton PUD will sorely miss Karen's enthusiasm and friendship, I am confident her service to the community will continue.

I wish Karen and her husband, Ken, the best as they spend more time enjoying golfing, traveling Europe, and enjoying time with their beloved grandchildren.

Congratulations, Karen.

CELEBRATING GINNY WALKER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to wish Mrs. Ginny Walker a happy 100th birthday. It has been a delight getting to know Mrs. Walker and her family since they began splitting their time between homes in Greensboro and Land Harbor in North Carolina's Fifth District.

Mrs. Walker is a mother of two, grandmother of three, great-grandmother of six, and beloved by all of them. Shortly after moving to North Carolina, her husband, Delmer, started Delta Electronic Plating Company, and she went back to school to learn how to keep books and even helped in the plant and driving trucks.

Mrs. Walker remains an engaged citizen to this day, especially in bridge circles and First Baptist Church, where everyone enjoys her pies.

At 100, I hope to be as full of life as Mrs. Walker, and I wish her a wonderful birthday and many, many more to come.

CALIFORNIA'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL SYSTEM

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight some new legislation I am introducing this week, H.R. 1515, the High-Speed Refund Act.

Simply put, California's proposed high-speed rail system has been a total disaster. It will not meet the legal requirements of true high-speed rail from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The total projected cost has now ballooned to \$100 billion, tripling what the voters were told back in 2008.

The Trump administration has already canceled a \$929 million grant, but I think they should take the entire \$3.5 billion in Federal dollars that California is wasting under the Stimulus Act of 2009, 10 years ago. That is why my bill, the High-Speed Refund Act,

would require California to refund all Federal funding for high-speed rail and repurpose it to highway and transportation projects that would actually benefit people and be economically viable.

Madam Speaker, \$5 billion has already been wasted. Let's not make it \$100 billion. Undertaking the project was a huge mistake. I think Californians and the other 49 States deserve a refund and to have this money channeled into something that would be more useful for all Americans.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CLASSIC CHEVROLET

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, 10 years ago, March 2, 2009, big changes happened back home in Sugar Land, Texas. Bill Heard Chevrolet went to the dustbin of history. It was replaced by Classic Chevrolet. It opened on the same lot at Southeast U.S. 59 and U.S. 90A. Don Kerstetter got it rolling. Jeff and Tiffany Sebastian kept it rolling stronger.

In 10 years, Classic has made Sugar Land and Fort Bend County better. In fact, they have been fully engaged in our community. A few examples:

They participate every year in an annual Classic Chevy Chili Cook-Off, raising tens of thousands of dollars for first responders;

They support local schools, the Fort Bend Education Foundation, last Saturday, with Ray Aguilar of Classic emceeding the event;

They support the Boy Scouts, Child Advocates of Fort Bend boys choir, Impact A Hero for combat-wounded veterans, and on and on and on.

For 10 years, Classic Chevrolet has had no need to find new roads. All roads lead to Classic Chevrolet.

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HONORING REPRESENTATIVE WALTER B. JONES, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, we are here tonight to honor our colleague, Walter B. Jones.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Congressman PRICE for the effort he has put in to making this evening a time for us to honor Walter, our esteemed colleague.

Madam Speaker, Walter Jones will always be remembered for his dedication to North Carolina's Third District and his steadfast support for all of our Nation's men and women in uniform. I know that many of the speakers will