

the illegal alien was deported yet again for illegal reentry. This first-degree rape of a 12-year-old girl would have been prevented by proper border security.

In Mobile, Alabama, Sonya Jones was recently killed by an illegal alien charged with vehicular homicide and leaving the scene of a head-on collision. Sonya Jones was a teacher at Living Word Christian Center Kingdom Academy. One of Sonya's colleagues said that she had a smile that would light up the hallways.

The illegal alien who killed Sonya Jones is a prime example of how dangerous asylum laws and catch-and-release policies are to Americans. Sonya Jones' illegal alien killer entered America illegally and was captured by law enforcement but then released when he lied to claim asylum. As is so overwhelmingly often the case, Sonya Jones' illegal alien killer failed to show up in court on the asylum claim and, instead, disappeared, leaving at least one dead American in his wake.

Last week, in Washington State, Kittitas County Sheriff's Deputy Ryan Thompson was shot and killed by yet another illegal alien who legally entered America in Texas in 2014 on a temporary agricultural worker visa but illegally overstayed his visa after it expired. Deputy Ryan Thompson was married with three children and is the first law enforcement officer to be murdered in Kittitas County since 1927.

In 2005, in Milton, Pennsylvania, beautiful 20-year-old Carly Snyder loved animals and dreamed of being a veterinarian. Her dream ended when an illegal alien forcibly entered Carly's apartment, punched her in the face, knocked her to the floor, and stabbed her 37 times. Carly went into shock and died at the scene.

Mr. Speaker, Washington should have more sympathy and concern for the lives of Americans than illegal aliens. Unfortunately, Washington does not and, instead, puts illegal aliens on pedestals, above the interests of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, Americans have every right to expect Congress to defend American rights, and the most basic right is the right to life, the right to be protected from illegal alien killings that could so easily be avoided.

Tragically, Congress turns a blind eye to the lives and innocence of Americans stolen by illegal aliens. That is wrong.

President Trump is right to declare a national emergency to help save the lives of at least 30,000 Americans who are alive today but will be dead a year from now if we do not protect and secure America's southern border. As such, I will not hesitate to proudly vote to sustain President Trump's veto of socialist legislation that supports open-borders policies that aid and abet illegal aliens who kill Americans and aid and abet evil drug cartels that market their poisonous, deadly drugs that take American lives.

Mr. Speaker, Americans who die at the hands of illegal aliens had dreams, too.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 28 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Tony Lee, Community of Hope AME Church, Hillcrest Heights, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we come today with a spirit of humility and gratitude. We come with the realization that this is the day that You have made, and we will rejoice and be glad in it. We thank You for the opportunity we are afforded to serve the least of these and the responsibility to remember the forgotten and lift the downtrodden. We ask this day for the courage to do the hard things and the vision to see beyond ourselves.

Empower the Members of this House to make a difference. Let their efforts be expressions of Your grace, reflections of Your justice, and manifestations of Your love.

It is our prayer, that when our time on this terrestrial sphere is over, that the works of this day will speak for us and we will hear You say, "Well done my good and faithful servants."

Lord, hear our prayer. In Jesus' name.

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 Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. UNDERWOOD 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND TONY LEE

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, let me begin by wishing you a very happy birthday on behalf of the 435 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to introduce Reverend Tony Lee. He is the founder and senior pastor of the Community of Hope AME Church.

Reverend Lee is a pillar of our community in Prince George's County and the entire region, not just as a faith leader, but as an advocate for those in need.

I have had a longstanding relationship with him, partnering on a wide variety of issues, including domestic violence, building trust between the community and law enforcement, tackling poverty, and moving forward on social justice issues. And, during the month of January and February, we worked together during the government shutdown, serving working families who were struggling to make ends meet.

I have had the privilege of worshipping at Community of Hope many times over the years. The name of the church reflects its character: a community where we live and raise our families, where we pray and teach hope as a critical ingredient necessary for faith and our daily lives.

He is a preacher who speaks to people in a language they understand. He draws people into church who would not otherwise do so, going into every neighborhood and going down every street.

Reverend Tony Lee is the son of proud parents, Orlando Lee and Reverend Nancy T. Lee, who are joining us in the Capitol today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ESCOBAR). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IS NOT UNCONSTITUTIONAL

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I read with dismay this morning that the Justice Department and the current administration has decided to continue to treat the Affordable Care Act as an unconstitutional wrong committed by the House and the Senate and signed into law by the last administration. I can't believe that they are taking this position.

This has been a long national struggle that we have gone through. We have had this debate, we have had this discussion, and we have had this fight. And to say now that it continues to be unconstitutional, the way that they have said all along, we don't need to do this again. We have 10 to 20 million

Americans with preexisting conditions that depend on the workings of the Affordable Care Act to keep covered so that they don't have to file for bankruptcy when they get sick, so that they can move from job to job without worrying about their healthcare coverage. Let's not do this again.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues here in the House to reject the idea that the ACA is unconstitutional.

HEALTH CENTERS PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN THE U.S.

(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, I rise today to speak about the essential role community health centers play in neighborhoods throughout the Nation.

America's health centers serve 28 million patients who have the greatest difficulty accessing healthcare. This includes 24.9 million low-income patients; 3.5 million patients in or near public housing; 1.4 million homeless patients; nearly 1 million patients who work in agriculture; and 6.2 million uninsured patients.

Madam Speaker, community health centers are located in areas of high need and are open to everyone, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

Congress recently made historic investments to the Health Center Program, which increased access, expanded services, and improved quality.

Health centers also play an important role in rural America where the need is great, but services are often scarce.

And, each year, community health centers generate approximately \$54 billion in economic activity and save the healthcare system an estimated \$24 billion within our most underserved communities.

Madam Speaker, we must ensure that all Americans receive the services they need, regardless of where they live, and community health centers do that.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, climate change is not a distant threat; it is reality. In the Pacific Northwest, our families and communities are facing acidic oceans; unhealthy, smoky air; decreased snowpack; droughts; and extreme weather patterns.

Recent reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the U.S. Global Change Research Program make clear: human activity is contributing to climate change. The science supporting these reports is convincing and alarming, but there is hope. We have the opportunity and, in fact, the imperative to take action

that will protect our planet and grow our economy.

I am honored to serve on the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, and I will work with my colleagues to reduce emissions, to transition to 100 percent clean energy, to create good-paying jobs, rebuild our Nation's infrastructure in a sustainable and resilient manner, invest in clean and efficient transportation systems, and support frontline communities, particularly communities of color and low-income communities, that have often faced a disproportionate share of the burden of our past inaction.

The future of our planet and the health of our communities depend on the actions we take today. For our children, our grandchildren, and future generations to come, let's not wait.

AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE TRANSPARENCY

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, over the past few weeks, I have released the transcripts of the interviews from Peter Strzok, Bruce Ohr, and Lisa Page from the Judiciary Committee's investigation into apparent wrongdoing at the FBI and DOJ. I have said I would make additional transcripts from the investigation public, and I am here today to keep that promise.

As I stated then, our interview transcripts were pertinent to congressional investigation. But the 115th Congress ended, the investigation was closed, and copies were shared with certain Members of Congress.

Madam Speaker, I request that the link www.dougcollins.house.gov/papadopoulos be placed in the RECORD so the American people can review the transcript of George Papadopoulos. The American people deserve to know the origins of the probe against President Trump's campaign.

I will continue to release as many transcripts as possible. The American people deserve transparency.

MAKE QUALITY HEALTH INSURANCE MORE AFFORDABLE

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, Saturday, March 23, we celebrated the ninth anniversary of the passage of the Affordable Care Act, which has expanded health insurance to over 20 million people in the last 5 years. But quality health insurance remains unaffordable and out of reach for far too many Americans.

Today, I introduced the Health Care Affordability Act to help fix that and reduce premiums for Americans who purchase private health plans through the marketplace.

My legislation would cut premiums by hundreds or thousands of dollars per year for more than 10 million people. It does this by increasing the tax credits people get to make premiums more affordable and allowing more people to qualify for tax credits.

This important improvement would guarantee middle-class consumers would pay no more than 8½ percent of their income on premiums. This would be a huge help to families.

For example, in my district, a typical family of four currently pays \$1,741 per month for marketplace coverage. With my bill, their monthly premiums would drop by nearly half.

A typical 60-year-old couple in my district making \$80,000 currently pays over a third of their monthly income for marketplace coverage. My legislation would reduce their monthly premiums by over \$1,700.

This legislation moves us forward by making lower cost coverage available to at least 9 million uninsured Americans, while reducing premiums for an additional 10 million Americans.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in making quality health insurance more affordable by cosponsoring this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING GOLAN HEIGHTS AS PART OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

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

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the United States' recognition of Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Now is a critical and appropriate time for the United States to formally recognize the Golan Heights as part of Israel. At a time when Iran and terrorist organizations, including Hezbollah, are using the turmoil created by the civil war in Syria to expand their presence in the region, it is clear they hope to seize the Golan Heights to then launch attacks against Israel.

Recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights is vital to the security interest of the United States and Israel.

I co-led a letter last December to Secretary Pompeo outlining the critical nature of recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan and encouraging the administration to do so. This recognition should have occurred under several previous administrations, but the strong leadership needed was not present.

I am glad that we finally have a President that is taking the necessary steps to foster stability and peace in the Middle East. I applaud President Trump and his administration for issuing the proclamation recognizing the Golan Heights as part of the State of Israel.