

helped the county along its long way to recovery.

Please join me in thanking Casey Dittrich for his proactive and diligent service to Antelope County, Nebraska.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1215

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) at 2 p.m.)

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We use this moment to be reminded of Your presence and to tap the resources needed by the men and women of this assembly to do their work as well as it can be done.

May they be led by Your holy spirit in the decisions they make. May they possess Your power as they steady themselves amid the pressures of persistent problems.

The issues facing our Nation this week are monumental to us but a part of the long history of political and policy debate that have created a great narrative of participative democracy.

Send Your spirit of wisdom to the justices and upon the Members who serve in this people's House, that the bills that lead forward might prove to be beneficial to our Nation and its people.

And may all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. VELA 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.

#### GERALDINE PENA CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Geraldine Pena of La Feria, Texas, as she celebrates her centennial birthday today. She was born on April 1, 1919, in Tucson, Arizona.

Geraldine, affectionately called Gerry, dropped out of high school to support her single mother and four younger siblings. After marrying her husband, Ralph, the couple relocated to his hometown of La Feria. There, she devoted her time to raising six children.

As her children grew older, Mrs. Pena was able to become more actively involved in the community, always lending a hand when possible. She was also an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 409, and her involvement included local, State, and national conventions in Texas and Hawaii.

She is the proud grandmother of 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, with more expected in the coming years.

I am pleased to honor Geraldine Pena for her legacy of unselfishness and generosity. Her devotion to her family and community is admirable, and I hope her 100th birthday celebration is filled with love and happiness. She is joined by family traveling from California, Illinois, Arizona, and across Texas.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Geraldine Pena a happy birthday and wishing her good health and prosperity.

#### RECOGNIZING LINCOLN HEIGHTS AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC PLACE

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an historic moment for North Carolina's Fifth District last week, when Lincoln Heights School in Wilkesboro joined the National Register of Historic Places.

From 1913 to 1927, Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington built nearly 5,000 schools in African American communities by matching seed funds provided by public and private entities. Lincoln Heights is among the few of these schools remaining. Constructed in 1924, students attended from six surrounding counties after facing discrimination and lacking educational opportunities near their homes.

As a National Historic Place, Lincoln Heights reminds us of the disgraceful history of segregation in our country, but our country is not defined by this injustice. Rather, as a nation, we are shaped by brave men and women who stand for justice when society fails.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHAEL KRATSIOS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolinians are grateful that President Donald Trump has nominated Michael Kratsios, son of John and Maria Kratsios of Columbia, to be the U.S. Chief Technology Officer. He is a very successful and qualified leader to develop technology initiatives for the White House.

Under Michael's leadership, the White House has been able to develop plans for artificial intelligence, quantum computing, 5G, STEM education, and advanced manufacturing. Michael is a global leader and has proven that he is the best person to serve our country in this position.

Among many accomplishments, Michael led the American Artificial Intelligence Initiative, which secures American leadership and artificial intelligence research and development and opens the door for greater innovation.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has praised the nomination of Michael Kratsios as putting a "knowledgeable leader at the helm of American technology."

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 1, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 1, 2019, at 11:20 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 276.

Appointment:  
Board of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy.  
With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

**CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH SUDAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-25)**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014, with respect to South Sudan, is to continue in effect beyond April 3, 2019.

The situation in and in relation to South Sudan, which has been marked by activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of South Sudan and the surrounding region, including widespread violence and atrocities, human rights abuses, recruitment and use of child soldiers, attacks on peacekeepers, and obstruction of humanitarian operations, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13664 with respect to South Sudan.

DONALD J. TRUMP,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 1, 2019.

**RECESS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1605

**AFTER RECESS**

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHERMAN) at 4 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MORALE, RECOGNITION, LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT ACT OF 2019**

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1433) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve morale within the Department of Homeland Security workforce by conferring new responsibilities to the Chief Human Capital Officer, establishing an employee engagement steering committee, requiring action plans, and authorizing an annual employee award program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1433

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Homeland Security Morale, Recognition, Learning and Engagement Act of 2019" or the "DHS MORALE Act".

**SEC. 2. CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES.**

Section 704 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 344) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (b)—
  - (A) in paragraph (1)—
    - (i) by inserting "including with respect to leader development and employee engagement," after "policies";
    - (ii) by striking "and in line" and inserting "in line"; and
    - (iii) by inserting "and informed by best practices within the Federal government and the private sector," after "priorities,";
  - (B) in paragraph (2), by striking "develop performance measures to provide a basis for monitoring and evaluating" and inserting "use performance measures to evaluate, on an ongoing basis,";
  - (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting "that, to the extent practicable, are informed by employee feedback" after "policies";
  - (D) in paragraph (4), by inserting "including leader development and employee engagement programs," before "in coordination";
  - (E) in paragraph (5), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: "that is informed by an assessment, carried out by the Chief Human Capital Officer, of the learning and developmental needs of employees in supervisory and non-supervisory roles across the Department and appropriate workforce planning initiatives";
  - (F) by redesignating paragraphs (9) and (10) as paragraphs (12) and (13), respectively; and
  - (G) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following new paragraphs:
    - "(9) maintain a catalogue of available employee development opportunities, including the Homeland Security Rotation Program pursuant to section 844, departmental leadership development programs, interagency development programs, and other rotational programs;
    - "(10) ensure that employee discipline and adverse action programs comply with the re-

quirements of all pertinent laws, rules, regulations, and Federal guidance, and ensure due process for employees;

"(11) analyze each Department or Government-wide Federal workforce satisfaction or morale survey not later than 90 days after the date of the publication of each such survey and submit to the Secretary such analysis, including, as appropriate, recommendations to improve workforce satisfaction or morale within the Department,";

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

"(d) CHIEF LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT OFFICER.—The Chief Human Capital Officer may designate an employee of the Department to serve as a Chief Learning and Engagement Officer to assist the Chief Human Capital Officer in carrying out this section."; and

(4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—  
(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

"(2) information on employee development opportunities catalogued pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection (b) and any available data on participation rates, attrition rates, and impacts on retention and employee satisfaction;

"(3) information on the progress of Department-wide strategic workforce planning efforts as determined under paragraph (2) of subsection (b);

"(4) information on the activities of the steering committee established pursuant to section 711(a), including the number of meetings, types of materials developed and distributed, and recommendations made to the Secretary;"

**SEC. 3. EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE AND ACTION PLAN.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**"SEC. 711. EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT.**

"(a) STEERING COMMITTEE.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish an employee engagement steering committee, including representatives from operational components, headquarters, and field personnel, including supervisory and non-supervisory personnel, and employee labor organizations that represent Department employees, and chaired by the Under Secretary for Management, to carry out the following activities:

"(1) Identify factors that have a negative impact on employee engagement, morale, and communications within the Department, such as perceptions about limitations on career progression, mobility, or development opportunities, collected through employee feedback platforms, including through annual employee surveys, questionnaires, and other communications, as appropriate.

"(2) Identify, develop, and distribute initiatives and best practices to improve employee engagement, morale, and communications within the Department, including through annual employee surveys, questionnaires, and other communications, as appropriate.

"(3) Monitor efforts of each component to address employee engagement, morale, and communications based on employee feedback provided through annual employee surveys, questionnaires, and other communications, as appropriate.

"(4) Advise the Secretary on efforts to improve employee engagement, morale, and