

With the same spirit as those who fled the shores of Europe to escape religious persecution, we welcome this day as one in which we can come together as a people in gratitude for our freedoms and our prosperity, but also in earnest petition for forgiveness, unity, mercy, guidance, and favor.

The National Day of Prayer is a day for all Americans to reflect on our many blessings and to recognize where our ultimate source of strength and hope comes from—our Creator.

At a time in history where our Nation is more divided than ever, I call for us to commit ourselves to prayer this day, to seek the God which has blessed this Nation for 242 years, and to begin again to live out this year's theme, to love and serve one another.

HONORING JUDGE DAMON KEITH

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give honor to a great public servant, Judge Damon Keith. Judge Damon Keith was a judge of the United States Court of Appeals.

He was born on July 4, 1922, a fitting day for someone who so believed in American democracy.

He attended Howard and was mentored by the future Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall.

In 1967, he was nominated to a seat on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan by President Johnson. This nomination came at the suggestion of Michigan Senator Phil Hart, the remarkable namesake of the Hart Senate Office Building.

Judge Keith's career was spent fighting for civil rights and civil liberties, particularly for communities within the 14th District. He stood for transparency in government.

Judge Keith will be sorely missed, but his years of tireless service as a champion for civil rights will never be forgotten.

In 2002, he issued an opinion on the secret hearings for alleged terrorists after the 9/11 attacks. He famously wrote: "Democracies die behind closed doors."

IN HONOR OF RAY ECKSTEIN

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

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the entrepreneurial spirit and compassionate philanthropy of Ray Eckstein, who passed away on April 20, 2019, at the age of 93.

After receiving a law degree from Marquette University, Mr. Eckstein founded Wisconsin Barge Line. He later sold the business and formed Marquette Transportation, leading him to relocate to Paducah, Kentucky. His

business had a profound economic impact and brought numerous jobs to the region.

Mr. Eckstein and his wife touched the lives of many through the establishment of the Ray and Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust. The couple's generosity has, no doubt, had a tremendous impact on the local community.

Over the years, they have gifted the area they loved with a hospice care center, regional cancer care center, and heart and vascular institute, all named in their honor.

Mr. Eckstein was widely known for his warm, compassionate spirit and devotion to his family. I join with all those who knew him to express our gratitude for his outstanding contributions to western Kentucky.

May God continue to bless the many members of his family through whom his memory lives on.

VETERAN SUICIDE—A NATIONAL CRISIS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as we enter the month of May, many of us will be gathering at the end of the month to honor and recognize those who have fallen.

In mid-month, we will celebrate the mothers of this Nation, many of whom are veterans and who have died in battle.

I rise today to speak about veteran suicide, and to view it as a national crisis. It is told that there are 20 veterans a day committing suicide.

So, as I stand here today, tragically, a man or woman who has worn the uniform, who is willing to sacrifice himself or herself for this Nation, for the freedom of our people, for democracy, is taking their life.

This is such a national crisis that I believe that this should be a major issue for all of us to ensure that we find the resources, including the resources for family members, early counseling, and a helping hand to ensure that those veterans who find themselves lonely or homeless and feel that there is no other way out but to commit suicide—many of them young—that we will find a way to legislate, but also to protect the men and women who stood for us.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise for the purpose of inquiring of the majority leader the schedule for the next week to come.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader.

□ 1230

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

On Tuesday, Madam Speaker, the House will meet at 12 p.m. for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate and 12 p.m. for legislative business.

On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.

We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. The complete list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business tomorrow.

The House will also consider H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019.

On October 22, 2018, the Trump administration continued the Republican assault on affordable, quality health coverage by issuing new guidance to carry out section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act.

That new guidance, Madam Speaker, undermines patient protections and threatens coverage for Americans with preexisting conditions. H.R. 986 blocks implementation of that guidance so as to preserve preexisting condition protections and ensure that healthcare remains affordable and comprehensive.

In addition, Madam Speaker, the House will consider H.R. 2157, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2019.

The legislation would provide relief and recovery assistance for Americans affected by recent natural disasters. It includes an additional \$3 billion above that which we passed and sent to the Senate some weeks ago to address urgent needs following flooding in the Midwest and tornadoes in the South that have occurred since the House passed its first disaster relief bill in January, which, unfortunately, has languished in the Senate.

Lastly, the bill includes an extension of the National Flood Insurance Program until September 30, 2019.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I would point out that the President's executive order on section 1332 does nothing to change the protections in law for people with preexisting conditions under ObamaCare. As the gentleman knows, the law protects people with preexisting conditions from facing any kind of discrimination, and the section 1332 waivers have nothing to do with that.

What they do is allow some States—and there have been a number of States who have requested—the ability to be more innovative and focus on lowering premiums while protecting preexisting conditions.

Those States that have taken advantage of that waiver have used it to, number one, provide healthcare in different ways, more innovative ways for their Medicaid population.

That is something we should all encourage because Medicaid in many States is the worst form of healthcare. In many cases, doctors don't even take Medicaid policies and don't see Medicaid patients, so they can't get access to care.