

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 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God, Father of us all, thank You for giving us another day.

All the world, and certainly all Americans, know that this is a time of rare historic significance here in the Capital.

Bless Your children, the men and women of the peoples' House, with grace, patience, good judgment, and honesty in the deliberations of this day and the many to come.

Lord, have mercy on us all. May all that is done 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSE J. GONZALEZ

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Master Sergeant Jose J. Gonzalez of La Puente, California, from my district,

who died on August 21 during combat operations in Faryab province in Afghanistan.

Master Sergeant Gonzalez was a Green Beret who served with distinction in the military for 17 years and deployed seven times during his career as a marine, Army infantryman, and special forces engineering sergeant.

He was recently assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

Master Sergeant Gonzalez served with incredible courage and bravery and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, the Purple Heart Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, and many other high honors.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to recognize and extend my deepest sympathy to Master Sergeant Gonzalez' wife, his children, his mother, his father, family, friends, and his fellow soldiers in the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, to the Gonzalez family, please know that the Congress of the United States grieves with you. The courage, character and sacrifice that he has made to our country will never be forgotten.

God bless the Gonzalez family. God bless America.

SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY

(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, as part of National Clean Energy Week, I am grateful for clean energy and its advances in South Carolina.

The success of President Donald Trump has been the achievement of energy independence for America.

South Carolina is home to seven nuclear power reactors that produce 95 percent of the State's emission-free electricity. In addition, nuclear energy facilities in South Carolina employ over 2,800 South Carolinians. Nuclear energy is a reliable source, providing over half of the State's electricity.

Solar energy is also a reliable form of clean energy. Currently, there is enough solar installed in South Carolina to power over 90,000 homes.

I have been impressed by visiting Cypress Creek Renewables, a solar farm in Gaston-Swansea, Lexington County, welcomed by Wannelle Lefkowitz; NARENCO solar farm in Orangeburg County, welcomed by Michael Cox; and Green Energy Biofuel in Aiken County, reprocessing cooking oil, welcomed by Joe Renwick; along with Ameresco, clearing woody debris at the Savannah River Site.

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

NEGOTIATED DRUG PRICING SHOULD BE ENACTED NOW

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, this week, the Committee on Ways and Means released a report highlighting the disparities between the cost of prescription drugs in the United States and other developed nations.

This report found that on average, drug prices in the United States were nearly four times higher than prices in similar countries.

The sky-high cost of prescription drugs affects all of our communities, and too many Americans cannot afford the medications they need. The Medicare Program alone last year spent \$135 for prescription drugs.

It is a lot of money, but it is also a lot of leverage, a lot of leverage that should be used to negotiate lower drug prices for Medicare and for the American people.

Negotiated drug pricing should be enacted now.

NATIONAL LITERACY MONTH

(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 to recognize September as National Literacy Month.

Reading is a fundamental part of learning and expanding our knowledge of the world around us. It is especially important to form strong reading habits in childhood that we can carry with us throughout our adult lives.

Parents, educators, and the local community can all play a role in encouraging young people to pick up a book and to exercise their imaginations.

A great resource that schools, museums, and public libraries can take advantage of is the Library of Congress' Surplus Book Program. This initiative offers surplus books of all kinds and for all ages to organizations and institutions nationwide to help build their book collections, and I encourage those interested to visit the library's website for more information.

Mr. Speaker, reading at a young age is important, but a passion for books can form at any stage of life.

During National Literacy Month, let's all pick up a new book and share the reading experience with the children in our lives.

WHISTLEBLOWER

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, a whistleblower brought a complaint to the DNI, who sent it to the inspector general—