

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President. Members are further reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

THE NATION'S CATTLE MARKETS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the state of our Nation's cattle markets.

Following the August fire at Tyson's beef packing plant in Holcomb, Kansas, live cattle prices hit a 5-year low. At the same time, retail beef prices rose. It makes sense: if you can process less cattle, then there is an oversupply in the live cattle market and less processed beef, which increases retail beef prices.

But the Holcomb processing plant represented only 5 percent of America's processing capacity, and yet live cattle prices fell 11 percent, while retail prices hit their highest levels since 2015.

I asked Secretary Perdue to investigate the cattle market following the Holcomb fire, and he agreed. The USDA expects the investigation to wrap up by the end of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to do the right thing by America's ranchers and also to look into this cattle market. Montana ranchers produce the world's best beef, but current conditions in the market are hurting them. They deserve an explanation and to be treated fairly.

I look forward to a full accounting of the cattle market.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the high cost of prescription drugs in this country.

This year, I have held 26 townhalls across Arizona's First Congressional District. At each and every one, I hear from families, seniors, and veterans who are concerned about the overwhelmingly high cost of their prescription drugs.

I hear from people like Karen from Globe, Arizona, a 74-year-old widow who cannot afford her prescriptions and often goes without them; or Elizabeth from Tucson, Arizona, who said: "I don't have much hope." An American saying "I don't have much hope" is unacceptable in America.

Between the years 2012 and 2017, the average annual cost of prescription drug treatment increased by more than 50 percent—way above inflation rates—while the annual income for Arizonans increased by only 12 percent. In 2017, 26

percent of Arizona residents stopped taking medication that is prescribed, due to cost.

The skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs has become a crisis in this country, and something must be done. It is critical that we come together to identify commonsense, bipartisan solutions to address these costs and ensure that hardworking families can access the care and prescriptions they need at affordable prices.

I am working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to bring down these costs by identifying a holistic approach that allows Medicare to negotiate for lower prices, caps out-of-pocket drug expenses for seniors, and improves access to lower cost generic drugs. Throughout this process, we must protect innovation and allow for the research and development of new drugs on the market.

As we discuss these solutions, we must also remember the ways this crisis disproportionately affects medically underserved rural and Tribal communities. We need to identify solutions to address their unique needs because Americans deserve quality, affordable care regardless of their ZIP Code. No one should ever have to make the choice between the medication they need and putting food on the table.

Mr. Speaker, I am working hard to ensure this is a reality for all Americans. Let us all start to begin to have hope again.

A BURDEN ON SMALL BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. KEVIN HERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2513, the so-called Corporate Transparency Act. I fear that, in the pursuit of "transparency," my colleagues have crossed a line.

This bill would be more appropriately titled the Small Business Registration and Surveillance Act because that is exactly what it would do. This bill would require America's small business owners—those with 20 or fewer employees—to register their confidential information with a Federal law enforcement and intelligence agency they have never heard of and allow that agency to surveil them without a subpoena or a warrant.

As a former small business owner for 34 years, I know that paperwork is incredibly burdensome and small business owners have to file paperwork themselves. Unlike the big banks, they don't have compliance departments to fill this information out.

NFIB estimates that this legislation will cost small business owners \$5.7 billion over 10 years. CBO estimates that this bill will have a significant impact on 25 to 30 million small businesses in America. This is a slap in the face to the small business owners who are

doing everything they can to achieve the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 2513.

RECOGNIZING BETTY REID SOSKIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of esteemed public servant, activist, and great American Betty Reid Soskin.

Betty is a constituent, a friend, and a pillar of Contra Costa County in the Bay Area in California. She is fondly known as the National Park Service's oldest serving ranger, at 98 years old, and is assigned to the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California.

As an interpretive park ranger for the past 13 years, Betty has educated thousands of visitors about the Rosies and her own experience as a young Black woman working in Richmond during World War II. She worked as a file clerk for the Boilermakers Union A-36, a Jim Crow, all African American union auxiliary.

Betty has been an activist her whole life. She fought for civil rights during Freedom Summer, was an activist against the Vietnam war, helped with faith-based racial healing work in the Unitarian Universalist church, and became a delegate to the 1972 Democratic National Convention.

Betty also served as a legislative aide for a Berkeley city council member and as a field representative for two California State Assembly members, which led to her involvement in designing the Rosie the Riveter National Park. Her advocacy ensured that marginalized communities' narratives and stories were included in the park's historical exhibits and resources on the war efforts in Richmond, California.

In 1995, Betty was named a Woman of the Year by the California State Legislature. She was also named one of the Nation's 10 outstanding women in 2006 by the National Women's History Project.

In 2015, she was formally recognized by President Barack Obama, who gave her a silver coin with the Presidential seal.

Born in 1921, Betty has lived through many pivotal moments in U.S. history and is a crucial voice in speaking to the value of American democracy, the realities of the African American struggle, and the importance of continued progress.

In an interview for a feature in Glamour magazine, Betty said, when she was Woman of the Year: "Democracy has been experiencing these periods of chaos since 1776. They come and go. And it's in those periods that democracy is redefined. History has been written by people who got it wrong, but the people who are always trying to get

it right have prevailed. If that were not true," Betty said, "I would still be a slave like my great-grandmother."

Betty's colleagues, fans, and friends deeply admire her activism, her leadership, and her dedication to social justice and to America. Her positivity, sense of self, and commitment to doing what is right and preserving and honoring our past continue to inspire us all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating and celebrating this wonderful American's dedicated service and in wishing her a speedy recovery and good health. Her strong spirit and perseverance are an inspiration to us all.

BLOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Blood Cancer Awareness Month this past September.

Including leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Hodgkin's lymphoma, and more, around 14,000 Americans are diagnosed with blood cancer types each month.

Although a staggering statistic, doctors and researchers across the globe have made significant advances since the 1960s. For some blood cancers, survival rates have more than quadrupled.

As with any illness, early detection is important; so I encourage everyone to see their doctor, get a check-up, and discuss whether they have had any symptoms that could be related to blood cancer.

Mr. Speaker, if you have had bone pain, frequent nose bleeds, or tiny red spots on your skin, I especially encourage you to see a doctor.

I will continue supporting researchers to make further advances in eradicating these diseases.

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October 2019 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Workplaces that welcome the talents of all people, including people with disabilities, are a critical part of our efforts to build an inclusive community and a strong economy.

In the First Congressional District of Georgia, I want to especially recognize Goodwill Southeast Georgia, which is working to raise awareness about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities.

Activities they are working on this month reinforce the value and talent that people with disabilities add to our workplaces and communities while affirming Goodwill Southeast Georgia's commitment to an inclusive community.

I encourage employers, schools, and other community organizations around

the country to observe this month with programs and activities, and to advance the important message that people with disabilities are capable of surpassing any obstacle.

□ 1030

CONGRATULATIONS TO SCOTT ISAACKS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Scott Isaacks for receiving the inaugural South Carolina Hospital Association Drive to Zero Harm Leadership Award.

As director and CEO of the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston, South Carolina, Mr. Isaacks oversees 3,100 employees, who are some of the best that the VA has to offer.

The first award of its kind in South Carolina, Mr. Isaacks and his VA medical center are being recognized for their exceptional work in creating a culture of high reliability and eliminating harm from all facets of care.

This high-quality care is particularly important to the First Congressional District of Georgia because of the large number of veterans using the VA medical center there in Charleston. Our veterans are our Nation's heroes, and they deserve the best when they return home, which is why I am so proud to see Mr. Isaacks working hard to achieve this goal.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Isaacks for his service to our veterans and congratulations on his award.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JAMES W. BOYKIN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mr. James W. Boykin, who passed away at the age of 80 on October 3.

In Jesup, Georgia, nearly everything and everyone seems to have been impacted by Mr. Boykin.

During his term serving as Wayne County commissioner, he was a staunch supporter of projects to boost recreation activities, and now there is even a community lake named in his honor.

He took over his father's construction company in 1975 and worked to grow the business for over 25 years, being largely responsible for its size and success today. But whether in business, government, church, or simply playing sports, Mr. Boykin was always well-respected and continuously mentoring all who knew him.

Through all of his passion to improve his community and the lives of others, he never let his four battles with cancer ever impact his attitude or dedication.

I am proud to have had someone like Mr. James Boykin in the First Congressional District of Georgia. His family and friends will be in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

STRENGTHEN OUR COUNTRY'S DEMOCRACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on strengthening America's elections and the democratic process.

The task we face is very simple: Congress should secure elections from foreign interference and break down barriers that prevent Americans from accessing the ballot. And the SHIELD Act, which Congress will vote on this week, protects elections from foreign meddling by increasing oversight of campaign contacts and online political advertising.

U.S. citizens have a right to be fully informed of their ballot box choices without concerns of foreign interference. The 2016 election taught us in the United States many lessons as foreign governments sought to influence the outcome of our election.

The SHIELD Act builds on lessons learned from the 2016 election by creating an obligation to report contacts between campaigns and foreign nationals.

Additionally, the SHIELD Act presents modern-day solutions for the problems of manipulative online political advertisements by ensuring the same standards applied to other political ads will extend to these new advertisements.

Mr. Speaker, the House will vote on the SHIELD Act this week, and I urge Members of the House to vote for the SHIELD Act to strengthen our country's democracy.

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 33 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. RUIZ) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Marilyn Monroe Harris, First Baptist Church of Teaneck, Teaneck, New Jersey, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our God, how excellent is Your name in all the Earth. We thank You for this day, and we pray for those who gather in these hallowed Halls and serve the United States of America. We pray that You sustain their physical bodies and wrap Your arms around their loved ones.

On this day, we ask that Your holy presence become manifest. Guide all with wisdom and discernment to implement just and sound policy. Engulf all with compassion for humanity and creation. Infuse our hearts with Your love. For it is Your love, O Lord, that is