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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, November 18, 2019, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

As the Members of the people's House begin the day, grant them an abundance of Your grace. May they be filled with a spirit of wisdom, patience, and good will toward one another and the issues to be addressed this day.

Bless them, O God, and be with them and with us all this day and every day to come. May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

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 gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois 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

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

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today for former Representative Katie Hill and the people of California's 25th District.

Madam Speaker, 261 days ago, Republicans and Democrats came together in this Chamber to pass meaningful legislation to address our Nation's gun violence epidemic.

Madam Speaker, 261 days ago, Members representing cities, suburbs, and rural America did their job and voted to pass commonsense reforms that 89 percent of Americans support.

Madam Speaker, 261 days ago, Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL could have done his job and brought those bills to the floor of the United States Senate, but he did not; and now, once again, we watch shooting after shooting occur across our country.

Yesterday, Saugus High School in Santa Clarita, California, was added to the lengthy list of sites of senseless tragedy.

We fought for the will of the people—89 percent of Americans. We crafted legislation that will save lives. We passed the bill. We did our jobs. It is time for Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL to do his.

Enough is enough. Children are dying.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Ranger Regiment for their role in the historic elimination of ISIS leader al-Baghdadi.

On Saturday, October 26, the 75th Ranger Regiment, along with other Army Special Forces, flawlessly executed an operation that led to the removal of one of the world's most dangerous terrorists.

This operation is a moment of pride for all Americans because of the atrocities he and his group have committed against innocent men, women, and children. It is an especially proud moment for Georgia, in the First Congressional District that I have the honor and privilege of representing, because of the reported role of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Mr. Speaker, while the 75th Ranger Regiment is headquartered at Fort Benning, I am proud to represent one part of it through the 1st Ranger Battalion, stationed at Savannah's Hunter Army Airfield.

I thank all of those in the 75th Ranger Regiment for their service to our Nation and for their bravery.

While details will be restricted, I am proud of the regiment's continued role

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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in our Nation's defense and those who serve in the 1st Battalion and call our area home.

IN MEMORY OF U.S. ARMY
CAPTAIN ANTOINE LEWIS

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the late U.S. Army Captain Antoine Lewis of Matteson, Illinois, in the Second Congressional District.

I was shocked and saddened to learn that Captain Lewis was among the 157 people killed in the tragic plane crash in Ethiopia on March 10. His funeral was November 9 because his family just received his remains.

This incredible young man had so much more to give the world and constantly gave of himself to others. He possessed an irrepressible curiosity and a desire to make the world a better place.

Captain Lewis was a man of passionate commitment to his family, to the Matteson community, to our country, and to his faith. He was a one-man recruitment team when it came to getting so many in his own family to enlist. An honorable man, he represented the very best of America whenever he served in uniform or wherever he traveled in the world.

Captain Lewis was a patriot who proudly served his country. He had been stationed in Afghanistan, South Korea, and Canada.

He had an adventuresome and free spirit and was filled with wonder and curiosity about other people and cultures. While he was raised in Matteson, he belonged to the world.

He, like many others, went to Africa to offer hope and opportunity to others through mission work. As called to do by St. James, he put his faith into actions and deeds that uplifted others and worked to build a better world.

As we grieve with his family and friends, we are comforted by the knowledge that he did fulfill his desire to make the world a better place by the love he gave to every person and mission that he encountered.

HONORING AMERICA'S DEPARTED
HEROES

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Jeremiah Heesaker and Theresa Miller of Ely, Minnesota, for their dedication to our Nation's veterans.

Last week, in freezing cold temperatures, Jeremiah and Theresa led a small group of Minnesotans in laying wreaths decorated with American flags on top of 130 veteran graves in the Ely Cemetery. They laid all the wreaths out before Veterans Day weekend, hop-

ing to bring happiness to all the families who would be visiting the grave of a loved one.

For Jeremiah and Theresa, the care of our veterans is an issue close to their hearts. Jeremiah served in the Army in the 101st Airborne; Theresa's husband is also a veteran.

Mr. Speaker, American heroes deserve to be treated in death with the same amount of respect and admiration that they earned in life. I am grateful to Jeremiah and Theresa for taking action to honor America's departed heroes and their families this Veterans Day.

We must never forget those who have bravely served so that we can continue to live in the land of the free.

AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION
DRUGS FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was World Diabetes Day.

Diabetes is a disease that affects millions of Americans, including my own daughter, Katy, who was diagnosed as a type 1 diabetic when she was 8 years old, almost 20 years ago.

We have to do more to make sure that hardworking families have access to affordable prescription drugs, often, lifesaving drugs.

Sadly, under the Trump administration, the President has rolled back access to healthcare and undermined the Affordable Care Act, raising prices for lifesaving drugs and eliminating protections for those with preexisting conditions. That is the aim of this administration.

One in five Americans are skipping doses, cutting pills in half, and skipping their insulin because they just don't have the money it takes to keep themselves healthy.

It costs about \$5.60 to produce a vial of insulin. Americans sometimes have to pay hundreds of dollars just to have that drug that was brought into this country, invented in the 1920s, and hasn't changed substantially.

We have to make sure to pass H.R. 3, which will make sure that Americans have access to prescription drugs at an affordable price. It is the right thing to do. Congress has to act.

PROVIDING EFFECTIVE COUNSELING RESOURCES TO LEARNERS OF ALL AGES

(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 in support of the Counseling for Career Choice Act, a bill I cosponsored with my fellow Career and Technical Caucus co-chair, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN. The Counseling for Career Choice Act aims to empower students by providing effec-

tive counseling resources to learners of all ages.

Unfortunately, many students go to college without being fully aware of their education and career opportunities and options. According to the Coalition of Career Development, about one-third of high school graduates do not go to college right away and often struggle to find meaningful work.

Additionally, a business roundtable survey found that more than 90 percent of CEOs agree the skills gap is a significant threat to their organizations. There are approximately 7 million unfilled jobs in the United States, but equipping students with the necessary tools to succeed will help us close this gap.

With increased counseling opportunities, students can take control of their professional futures with confidence. Whether students choose the traditional college route or apprenticeships and trade schools, proper counseling can make a positive impact in the lives of students of all ages.

STOP EITC AND CTC SEIZURES

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit are some of the most effective, bipartisan antipoverty programs to come out of Congress; yet many hardworking individuals are unable to access well-earned EITC or CTC refunds.

In some cases, the U.S. Treasury has seized an individual's tax credits if they owed student loan debt. These tax credit seizures, in many cases, have pushed families into homelessness. Some have lost their homes; some have lost their cars; others can't even put food on the table for their loved ones.

I am filing a bill this morning that seeks to protect these most vulnerable people from EITC and CTC seizures. It would prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from automatically seizing an individual's EITC or CTC refund for the purpose of paying back student loan debt.

This is the right thing to do. No one should have to decide between paying off their student loan debt and providing for their family.

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APPRENTICESHIPS CAN HELP
CLOSE THE SKILLED TRADES GAP

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, it is National Apprenticeship Week.

We have 7 million unfilled jobs in this country, and many of them are in the skilled trades. We have got to close