

communities resilient from scammers is critical.

Robocalls are becoming more sophisticated every day. It is becoming easier for Americans to fall victim to scamming. That is why Congress must act.

Today the House is voting on a bill I cosponsored, the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act, or the TRACED Act.

The TRACED Act strengthens penalties for criminals who conduct spam robocalls. This bill also requires telecommunications companies to develop new ways to certify all calls are from legitimate people. Working together with phone companies, consumer groups, and the Federal Government will protect our community—and go after the bad guys.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, non-partisan bill.

WE MUST RECOMMIT TO ENDING THE GLOBAL
HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, this week we recommit ourselves to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We have made progress to prevent infections and enhance treatment, but more work must be done.

Supporting the Global Fund and fully funding its programs is an important piece of the puzzle. The Global Fund is a partnership organization that works with governments and private sectors to end the AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria epidemics. By developing low-cost, high-impact treatments and technologies, we can save lives.

Since the creation of the Global Fund in 2002, deaths caused by these diseases have been reduced by one-third each year in countries where the Global Fund invests. I was proud to cosponsor the bill and see the House support the Global Fund.

This is an important issue to many across southeast Wisconsin. Earlier this year, I met with Pastor Bob Griffith and Pastor Lawrence Kirby to discuss the United States' commitment to battling these health epidemics, whether that be at home in southeast Wisconsin or throughout the world.

Pastor Griffith's and Pastor Kirby's work in the Racine and Kenosha communities is admirable. They advocate for those in poverty and for our global community dealing with these diseases.

We thank Pastor Griffith and Pastor Kirby for their dedication to this cause, for bringing awareness to the fight.

We must continue working together and ensure education, treatment, and assistance is available to those who need it.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCH-
ESTER ROCKETS FOOTBALL
TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time I have risen on this House floor to congratulate the Rochester Rockets football team on a State championship that they just won, just this past week, at Huskie Stadium in DeKalb, Illinois.

Rochester played the Chicago St. Rita Mustangs for the title, winning it by a score of 42 to 28. The Rockets came out strong with three touchdowns early, giving them a 21 to nothing lead at the end of the first quarter.

With four touchdown passes between quarterback Clay Bruno and receiver Hank Beatty, the Rockets proved that they meant business. The dynamic duo put on an offensive showcase with Bruno completing 18 of his 25 passes for 313 yards, and Beatty hauling in 12 catches for 212 yards. Rochester's offense was as dominant as ever, making it nearly impossible for St. Rita to create any sort of momentum.

In addition to a powerhouse offense, the Rockets' defensive line showed up to work. Senior, Logan Peters, had 11 tackles, and sophomore, Johnny Neal, had 7. Neal was playing JV halfway through the season and got a 14-yard sack on the quarterback and a fumble recovery.

This is the Rockets' eighth State championship in 10 years, and this is the first one that they achieved in the higher 5A classification. Leave it to Coach Derek Leonard and the entire Rochester Rockets team and the community to get bumped up, by maybe a student or two, into a higher class and just go ahead and win a State championship there, too.

Congratulations to Coach Leonard. Congratulations to all of Coach Leonard's assistant coaches and to the entire Rockets community on another well-deserved State championship.

CONGRATULATING COACH BRENT WEAKLY

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Brent Weakly and the Central A&M High School football team on their Class 1A State runner-up title. Last week they played a great game with the Lena-Winslow Panthers, but lost in the 1A State championship.

This year was the team's first year since 2001 that the Raiders have made an appearance at the IHSA State championship game, and while they didn't bring home a win, they held their heads high following last Friday's game.

A&M's quarterback, Connor Heaton, threw for 192 yards and two touchdowns. Connor has come a long way since I used to drop my kids off with him at the same babysitter in Taylorville a few short years ago.

□ 1030

Receiver Jacob Paradee had 11 receptions, a tie for most all-time in a Class 1A championship game. His 157 receiving yards broke a 1A record that was set back in 2006.

All said and done, A&M had its best season in 18 years. Coach Weakly said

it best of his team: "Hats off to our kids. They kept competing. . . . I'm really happy and proud of them."

I am happy and proud of them, too. We are proud of the coach, his entire coaching staff, and the entire Central A&M community.

Congrats on a great season.

MARKING ONE YEAR OF RECOVERY FOR
TAYLORVILLE, ILLINOIS

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it has been 1 year since an EF-3 tornado ripped through my hometown of Taylorville, Illinois.

More than 700 structures were damaged and 33 were destroyed that night, but not a single life was lost.

I thank God for looking over Taylorville that night, and I am thankful for the critical decisions made by our former fire chief, Mike Crews, and our current mayor, Bruce Barry. Their actions likely saved countless lives.

It is a night I will never forget, not only because of the destruction I saw when arriving back into my community minutes after the tornado ravaged it, but it is also the damage I saw the next day in daylight.

I am also amazed by the generosity that we saw from so many people outside our community. Hundreds of volunteers came out to assist with the cleanup, and donations poured in from across the State and the Nation to help those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I especially want to thank Ed Legg and those others who make up Missions for Taylorville for coordinating getting these donations out to those families in need.

We gathered this past weekend at the Taylorville VFW Post as a community to remember that night, to thank our first responders and volunteers for their work, and also to remind everybody that many families are still in need of help.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year after this devastating tornado, I again thank all those who continue to help my hometown recover and to pray for the families still in need.

We are all Taylorville Strong.

SUPPORT RED CROSS' HOLIDAY
MAIL FOR HEROES

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the American Red Cross' annual Holiday Mail for Heroes program.

Each year in early December, the Red Cross hosts this important event that strives to provide our men and women in uniform with the support and encouragement that is particularly important around the holiday season.

We all look forward to gathering with family, friends, and loved ones during this time of year. For our servicemembers, this is a luxury.

These men and women spend many months at a time away from their families. That is difficult no matter what

time of year it is, but around the holidays, their sacrifice is magnified.

Today, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Rayburn foyer, we can all play a small role in brightening the spirits of those in our military by signing a holiday card.

Mr. Speaker, it is an initiative that I look forward to participating in every year, and I encourage my colleagues and their staff to participate as well.

For more than a decade, the Holiday Mail for Heroes program has worked hard to remind our heroes just how much we appreciate their service and their sacrifice.

Last year around this time, I had the privilege of sponsoring a congressional delegation abroad where we met with our troops and had the pleasure of spending time with them during the week of Thanksgiving. My colleagues and I traveled to Kuwait to serve and to share a meal with soldiers stationed there. It was an honor to meet with so many individuals who have committed their lives to protecting our great Nation.

We can all do our part to support our dedicated servicemen and -women now and throughout the year. A gesture as small as sending a card can brighten the holiday season for those who are deployed.

This holiday season, I encourage each and every one of us to take a moment out of our days to let a soldier know how much we appreciate them.

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 34 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. CUELLAR) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Prior to the great compromise, Benjamin Franklin addressed the Constitutional Convention: "We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom, since we have been running about in search of it. . . . In this situation of this assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us . . . have we now forgotten our powerful friend?"

Lord, You are the powerful friend referred to by Franklin, and we turn again to You to ask that Your wisdom might break through the political discussions of these days.

Bless the Members of the people's House and all of Congress with the insight and foresight to construct a future of security in our Nation's politics, economy, and society. May they, as You, be especially mindful of those who are poor and without power.

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 gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KELLER 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.

U.S. AND BULGARIA FRIENDSHIP

(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, last week, President Donald Trump warmly welcomed Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov to the White House and reaffirmed the strong alliance between our two countries.

Based on this successful meeting, the United States and Bulgaria announced a new strategic partnership framework to deepen our historic bilateral relationship which spans over 100 years.

According to a joint statement to face a growing concern about the security situation in the Black Sea, Bulgaria offered to provide a maritime coordination function at Varna in support of NATO's Tailored Forward Presence Initiative. This is so important and will be a welcome step in the formation of an intelligence hub in the region to counter destructive activity. The two also agreed to work more closely on energy diversification to advance Bulgaria's energy sector, reduce prices for citizens, and allow for Bulgaria to become a true gas hub and key source of regional energy security.

These two measures underscore the important role that Bulgaria continues to play as an ally and a valuable NATO

member. I am grateful that President Trump is prioritizing a relationship with a beloved ally like Bulgaria.

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

RECOGNIZING NAACP ATLANTIC CITY BRANCH

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to express my gratitude for the efforts of the NAACP Atlantic City branch to make south Jersey a place of inclusion, acceptance, and equality.

In the past few years, this organization has worked to improve access to the polls for marginalized voters, to protect maternal and infant health with the Infant Mortality Task Force, and to provide scholarships for the education of our vulnerable youth.

The NAACP of Atlantic City has also focused on tackling hatred in our community by organizing vigils to call out hateful and unacceptable actions against minorities and by addressing the environmental injustice disproportionately suffered by these groups.

This group has worked tirelessly to support minority groups in south Jersey, and our region is safer, healthier, more inclusive, and happier because of it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Atlantic City NAACP for their commitment and service to our community. South Jersey and the State of New Jersey appreciates all the work that they do.

DEMOCRATS ARE TRYING TO TEAR THIS COUNTRY APART

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, after weeks of secret depositions, selective leaks, and public hearings, the Democrats trying to tear down this country with their impeachment sham have not proven any of their assertions against President Trump.

Unfortunately for those Americans who expect Members of Congress to work for their benefit, the majority in this Chamber is instead obsessed with overturning the will of the people expressed in the 2016 election. That obsession caused substantive legislation to come to a standstill.

While some Democrat Members of this House have pointed to the number of bills passed as evidence of success, I would like to point out that just because people are busy, it does not mean they are working. While bipartisan bills to address issues like lowering prescription drug prices, better trade deals, and funding our national defense are ready to be voted on, Speaker PELOSI has instead chosen to focus on