

my dad who, again, was a World War II marine sergeant—a nice, crisp hand salute.

Now, this is the spirit of the man and the marine, the humble warrior that I knew and so deeply respected. It is good to see the young people in the House today. As I reflect upon General Mundy's life and his service, I am reminded that we are a free people because good men and women have willingly set aside differences to fight for that, which binds us together as fellow Americans.

General Mundy inspired many of us to serve, including his two sons, Brigadier General Carl Mundy III and Colonel Timothy Mundy, both of whom are on Active Duty as United States Marines.

So I join my fellow marines especially, including my father, Ike, and grateful Americans across our country, in expressing heartfelt condolences to the Mundy family.

It is with eternal gratitude and respect that I will offer a final hand salute in tribute and in memory to the 30th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, an American patriot whom I was so fortunate to count as my friend.

General Carl E. Mundy, Jr., United States Marine Corps, mission accomplished, sir.

Semper fidelis.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Autism Awareness Month.

Modern science has helped control or eliminate many once deadly and debilitating diseases and conditions, but our understanding of autism remains an unsolved puzzle.

More children than ever are being diagnosed with communication and behavioral disorders that lead to a diagnosis of autism. Autism now affects one in every 68 children, according to the CDC. My nephew Trey is one of them.

I have seen firsthand how autism strains families, stretches their resources, and makes life more challenging in many ways. I have also seen the amazing joy that an autistic child can bring to a family. Trey has sure brought a lot of joy to ours.

Families with autistic children do everything they can to help their kids maximize their God-given abilities, whatever they choose to be; but it is not always easy, especially in a world where many don't understand the unique challenges that autism presents.

Helping these families better navigate this treacherous world would make a huge difference for my brother and his family and millions like them, but doing so would be much more than just helpful to those families.

It would be good policy too. That is because autism imposes tremendous costs on families, many of which are shared by the schools their children attend and the many medical and developmental specialists involved in their care.

Studies have found that it can cost parents up to \$21,000 a year to care for a child with autism, more than it requires for one without. Children with autism have annual medical expenditures that exceed those without autism by up to \$6,000 a year.

The average medical cost for Medicaid-enrolled children with autism are about six times higher than for children without autism. In addition to medical costs, intensive behavioral interventions for children with autism can cost \$40,000 to \$60,000 per child, per year.

There are several steps that Congress can take right now to help ease these burdens for families. The House should pass H.R. 647, the Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, Act, which is legislation I have cosponsored, to allow for the creation of tax-exempt savings accounts for individuals with disabilities.

Congress also must reauthorize the Combating Autism Act, which expires in September. This vital legislation provides Federal support for critical autism research, services, and treatment.

Mr. Speaker, I have often said that autism is the polio of our time, and together, as a Nation, we can beat this challenging disease.

Families struggling with autism face challenges that many of us can't imagine. They neither need nor want our pity, but they deserve our help.

National Autism Awareness Month, which ends tomorrow, should serve as a call to action for us to address the urgent and long-term needs of people affected by autism and, hopefully, one day, piece together the autism puzzle, so as few children as possible are impacted by this disorder.

THE SECRET SCIENCE BILL

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, last evening, I had a couple of articles sitting on my desk and had the opportunity to read through them. I was somewhat—what's the term—oh, yeah, outraged at some of the comments in there, so that is the reason I am standing here on the floor today.

I want to walk through a concept and then try to ferret out why is the agency so terrified of this concept, something very simple. If you are going to make public policy, shouldn't it be based on data that is available to the public?

That public data, properly vetted, is used to make public policy, sort of this concept of almost the crowdsourcing of information.

So if there is a rule set made by an agency, we can all believe in it. We all know it has been properly looked at. It wasn't produced by a small silo of very smart elitists who may be ideologically set one way or another; but the data, the information that creates the rules that we all live under, belongs to all of us.

So how would you feel if you pull up a piece of paper and on that piece of paper is an article about a speech that Administrator McCarthy gave on Monday morning? And I do hope she is misquoted because we have treated her very kindly from the Science Committee and my subcommittee.

But if I came to you and read a line that McCarthy told the audience, on Monday morning, that she intends to go after a—one more time—go after a small but vocal group of critics, in light of what the IRS has done, doesn't that send chills down someone's back when you hear that an agency intends to go after its critics?

And then there is this arrogance that was, I hope, misquoted that only qualified scientists should be allowed to see, real scientists.

So you are telling me that a grad student or a leftwing group or a conservative group or just someone that has an interest in data shouldn't be allowed to see the datasets that are making public policy that literally cost trillions of dollars?

The concept of having a government that runs substantially on secret information is outrageous. So that is why I am trying to push forward on a bill—and maybe the title of the bill is a little inflammatory. It is called the Secret Science bill, a very simple concept that you make public policy with public data and that public data that we all have the right to vet and look at.

Look, the vast majority of Americans will never look at it, but shouldn't you have the right to access it?

Then there is this outlier that the agency is using that is complete obfuscation of the truth: well, there is personal data out there, and we don't know how to protect it.

Every single day, whether it be the Census Bureau, the CFPB, the Commerce Department, they collect personal data. There are standards out there where you blind data. As a matter of fact, there are actually protocols for the protocols on blinding data that we all get to use. It is done every single day.

Somehow, the EPA doesn't want to have that conversation because, somehow, they don't want you, the American public, and the academic community of all ideological stints to have the right to access it.

Mr. Speaker, Administrator McCarthy was quoted as saying:

You just can't claim the science isn't real when it doesn't align with your politics.

She is absolutely right. I am not asking for ideological data. I am just asking for data to belong to the public and

so everyone has the opportunity to study it and understand it.

Who knows, maybe that studying of that data will find better ways, smarter ways, more efficient ways to protect the environment, more rational ways; but we will never know until the EPA finally steps up and makes that data available to every American.

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

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Benny Tate, Rock Springs Church, Milner, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, we bow our heads in Your presence. The Bible teaches us, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity, because a House divided will not stand."

May Your servants in this body not look to parties, personalities, preferences, or press, but may they focus on principles and people. Let no personal ambition blind them to their responsibilities and accountability.

God, we call our Representatives politicians, but You call them ministers. May all the Members of this body make full proof of their ministry. I ask for Your guidance on their decisions and grace on their families.

I pray the Members of this body will seek Thy will and ways and have the spiritual courage and grace to follow it. Lift them above the claims of politics unto the dimension of a higher calling and mission.

We pray this prayer, respecting all faiths, but pray it in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCNERNEY 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND BENNY TATE

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Benny Tate, the senior pastor of Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia. Under the leadership of Dr. Tate, Rock Springs Church grew from just 60 members to its current congregation of over 6,000.

Dr. Tate began numerous ministries at Rock Springs Church, including the Rock Springs medical clinic to care for those who cannot afford medical insurance; The Potter's House, which ministers to women battling drug and alcohol abuse; Rock Springs Christian Academy, offering quality education to kids K-12; and the Impact Street Ministries, which helps the homeless by serving meals and providing clothing and housing to those in need.

James 1:27 says:

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this, to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Dr. Tate's work is a shining example of what Scripture tells us the role of the church should be: to care for the poor, the fatherless, and widows.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Benny Tate, pastor of Rock Springs Church, for his 25 years of outstanding leadership and service to his community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

ARKANSAS' STORM RECOVERY

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

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask the Members of this House and all Americans to lift up Arkansas in their prayers as we recover from the storms that devastated much of central Arkansas on Sunday evening. Fifteen people lost their lives in these storms, and many more saw their homes and neighborhoods destroyed. The communities of Mayflower and Vilonia, vibrant, thriving towns, were particularly hard-hit.

I want to thank the first responders and all those on the ground in Arkansas who continue to assist with rescue

and recovery operations. We are deeply grateful for your service.

I know my sorrow and grief for the devastation and loss of life is shared by all Arkansans and all Americans. We have a long road ahead of us, but Arkansans are a tough, hardworking people, and together we will come out stronger.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HARDWORKING SHIPYARD WORKERS IN GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AND NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last evening the U.S. Navy and two shipyards, the electric boat shipyard in Groton, Connecticut, and Huntington Ingalls shipyard in Newport News, Virginia, entered into an \$18 billion contract to build 10 submarines over the next 5 years.

This event did not happen by itself. It was the result of exhaustive national security reviews that started under Secretary Gates, continued with the Nuclear Posture Review, and continued with the Quadrennial Defense Review. In every instance, the findings were that we needed to bolster our undersea fleet, which has declined from 100 ships at the end of the cold war to 53 today.

With rising maritime challenges in the Asia Pacific, with the decision by Vladimir Putin to recapitalize his military to the tune of \$700 billion, we must bolster our undersea fleet, which is the one area where the United States still has undisputed domination of that domain.

I want to congratulate the shipyard workers who have shown the Virginia class program is ahead of schedule and under budget, whether it was the USS *California*, the *Hawaii*, or, most recently, the *North Dakota*. Again, they have set, in my opinion, an example for Navy shipbuilding across the board and commercial shipbuilding, which the U.S. has got to step up its game and become part of.

Again, congratulations to the hardworking shipyard workers in Groton and Newport News, Virginia.

GET SERIOUS ABOUT REDUCING THE REGULATORY OVERBURDEN UPON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, Federal agencies in Washington, D.C., are setting new records. Unfortunately, these are not records that they should be proud of. In 2013, the Federal Register contained nearly 80,000 pages of new rules and regulations imposed on American businesses. We know that the result of this is that it stifles jobs, it slows economic growth, and it hurts