

positions of public protection and provision empower them this day to honor You in serving all.

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 Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT 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 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARTIN COBB

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

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life of Martin Cobb, an 8-year-old boy from Richmond, Virginia, who was taken from us way too soon. He was killed in a heinous act while trying to protect his 12-year-old sister from a violent attacker.

From the very beginning, Martin was a fighter against all odds, surviving open heart surgery at 3 months old, when the doctors did not believe he was going to make it.

Martin was a student at Elizabeth Redd Elementary School and he enjoyed the kind of things that most kids grow fond of: playing with toy cars and riding his bike around the neighborhood.

Martin didn't have a father at home, and so his mother referred to him as the "man of the house." As a loving son and brother, relatives say he had the "heart of a lion."

We will always remember him as a true family man, someone who loved his sister so much that he gave his life to protect her. In the face of grave danger, his only thought, his only instinct, was to help his sister.

At 8 years old, he may have been small in stature—some say he looked no older than 4 or 5—but in his last moments, Martin showed he was a bigger man than most men ever dream to be.

We honor Martin by remembering his incredible bravery. But let us also commit to honoring him by redoubling our

efforts to foster safer neighborhoods and communities that produce more Martins and less assailants. Our children should be able to grow up enjoying childhood, not fearing for their lives.

In Martin's front yard there now reads a sign, "A Real Hero Lived, Fought, and Died Here."

Martin may no longer be with us, but I hope and pray his strength, his courage, and his spirit endure in each and every one of us.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN BUFFALO

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate three highly impressive students from City Honors High School in Buffalo, New York. Seamus Degan, Rex Herzberg, and Hakeem Salem made western New York proud by being selected to participate in the Congressional Science Student Forum, which was hosted yesterday on Capitol Hill.

In recent months, these students have worked hand-in-hand with local researchers at esteemed medical institutions in western New York, including Roswell Park Cancer Institute, to research cutting-edge medical issues, form hypotheses, and conduct hands-on experiments.

Mr. Speaker, when students start learning and experimenting with science, technology, engineering, and math as young adults, they are creating a lifelong commitment to learning and dedication to making a difference in the future. It is why it is so critical that Congress provide adequate funding to STEM education programs in our schools nationwide.

I commend these students for their achievement and look forward to hearing more from these promising innovators in the years to come.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for nearly 2 years, House committees have been investigating the terrorist attack in Benghazi that killed four brave Americans. These committees have done good work. However, many questions remain unanswered as the White House continues to stone-wall our efforts by withholding information.

National Review editors recently summed it up best:

The White House misled the American public about a critical matter of national interest, and it continues to practice deceit as the facts of the case are sorted out.

That, to answer Hillary Clinton's callous question:

What difference does it make?

The administration's obstruction and dishonesty are unacceptable and warrant a new level of investigation. Creating a select committee to investigate this tragedy is long overdue, and with a former Federal prosecutor such as TREY GOWDY at the helm, it gives me great hope that Americans and the families of the victims will hear the truth and see accountability. They want, need, and deserve no less.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise because today in the House we will bring up a vote on approximately \$310 billion of permanent tax credit extenders, including the very popular research and experimentation credit, a bipartisan-supported tax extender, but this is something that is being brought up without a pay-for at a time when the United States of America now has 2.6 million citizens who have lost their long-term unemployment benefits.

In my State of Pennsylvania alone, we have 125,000 families who lost that lifeline because, Mr. Speaker, you refuse to bring this up for a vote because it doesn't have a pay-for.

Fair is fair, Mr. Speaker. We support many of these extenders, but we can't leave these American families out in the cold like this.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to celebrate National Foster Care Month, I would like to recognize the dedicated foster families, social workers, and service providers for their work to support the nearly 400,000 youth who are part of our country's foster care system.

Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Foster Care Review, and CHARLEE of Dade County are just a few of the many organizations that work each and every day in our south Florida community to find a stable home with a devoted and loving family for our youth.

While May has been designated as National Foster Care Month, the work to ensure that every child has a safe and permanent family does not stop when the calendar turns. In fact, before the end of this year, Mr. Speaker, at least 23,000 of these vulnerable members of our society will age out of the foster care system. Research has shown that these young individuals are at a heightened risk of poverty, homelessness, incarceration, and early parenthood.

I encourage my congressional colleagues and every person across our Nation to work together so that we can

change these tragic facts and figures for the betterment of our youth and the improvement of our society.

FREE THE NIGERIAN GIRLS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I think we all understand and believe that our children are our most precious resource.

Over the last couple of weeks, hearts and minds of many around the world have been captured by a heinous thug by the name of Abubakar Shekau, the leader of the Boko Haram, who has been a vile, disgraceful, violent, and uncaring terrorist thug.

Yet we do not know where these girls are.

As women of the United States Congress, yesterday, myself, BARBARA LEE, MARCIA FUDGE, KAREN BASS, and JANICE HAHN went to the Nigerian Embassy to stand and reject the \$12 that Shekau wants to sell these girls for.

We ask that we have a concerted effort on this. We should also establish a victims' fund.

In the meeting, as we spoke to those from Nigeria, we asked President Jonathan to stand up to say they will find these girls and they will bring this terrorist to justice. We ask that today because no one knows where these girls might be.

I close by calling two names: Aisha Ezekial and Nguba Buba. I will be calling these girls' names throughout this week to remind us they must be found now.

LERNER IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

(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, the American people have known since April 23, 2012, over 2 years ago, by a letter of 63 Members of Congress to the IRS Commissioner, that the IRS has targeted political organizations which question the President.

Congress has the responsibility to the American people to determine the facts and prevent future threats to American families. Sadly, the administration has refused to cooperate with House Republicans to facilitate oversight investigation. Instead of helping to restore the American people's faith in impartial government, key IRS officials remain silent.

Last night, the House voted to hold former IRS employee Lois Lerner in contempt because she refused to tell the truth before Congress. Congress also asked Attorney General Eric Holder to appoint a special counsel to further investigate this scandal.

The administration should take this opportunity to restore accountability,

put politics aside, and help Congress provide citizens and the groups who are unfairly targeted with the answers they deserve.

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

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RESPONDING TO THE KIDNAPPINGS IN NIGERIA

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the whole world is watching Nigeria, and the whole world is outraged at the recent kidnappings of over 200 girls from a Nigerian school.

Make no mistake, this is human trafficking. They say they are selling them into marriage. They are selling them into sex slavery, rape, and human bondage.

As cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Human Trafficking, I hope the world will respond to this horrendous human tragedy with the same sense of urgency and compassion and the same level of assistance that was offered in the search for the missing Malaysian aircraft.

The U.S. Africa Command, Departments of Justice and State, and the FBI are offering assistance to the Nigerian Government; and we, as a Congress, should support sanctions against Boko Haram.

Decisive and swift action is needed to bring these young girls home and to prevent future mass kidnappings.

THE CFPB RURAL DESIGNATION PETITION AND CORRECTION ACT

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

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 2672, the CFPB Rural Designation Petition and Correction Act.

One of the most troubling aspects of the Dodd-Frank Act was its creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which is a new bureaucracy with broad powers that is unaccountable to Congress or the American people.

When I talk to financial institutions in Kansas, one of their main concerns with this agency is that the CFPB will fail to correctly classify rural banks and, possibly, leave them open to overzealous regulation as a result.

I am a proud cosponsor and supporter of this bill, which will allow these financial institutions a way to appeal the CFPB's decisionmaking process and ensure that rural lenders and their communities are not unintentional victims of poor decisionmaking by the CFPB.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stew Adams, who has been recognized by the Illinois Education Association as its 2014 Retired Teacher of the Year.

I am proud to say that Stew is a constituent of mine and has spent years teaching special education in the Rock Island/Milan School District.

In addition to his teaching duties, Stew was a tutor and a mentor to many young students in the Rock Island School District. He also contributed to the Rock Island Safe Schools program and has been an adviser to the Illinois State Board of Higher Education and Special Education and founder of the Western Illinois Retired Educators.

In addition to thanking Stew for his service to our community, I also want to take this opportunity to thank the teachers that I have had and have taught so many of our youngsters across our country during Teacher Appreciation Week. Their hard work and dedication to our children is both awe-inspiring and invaluable.

Our communities simply could not function without our educators, and I want to thank them.

COMMEMORATING MAY AS LET FREEDOM RACE MONTH

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

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate May as Let Freedom Race month at Charlotte Motor Speedway, and thank the folks who have worked hard to honor our brave men and women in uniform with this outstanding celebration.

Speedway Motorsports and Charlotte Motor Speedway are both in my hometown of Concord, North Carolina. While I am incredibly grateful for the impact both have on our local economy, I am also appreciative of their continued support for our Nation's military, veterans, and their families.

This Memorial Day weekend marks the 55th Let Freedom Race celebration, and more than 100,000 fans will gather at the speedway to celebrate and honor our military heroes.

This tradition will, once again, showcase America's military strength, while displaying our pride and appreciation for those we have lost, our veterans, those who continue to serve, and our military families.

We are so fortunate to have heroes who stand committed to serving in our Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the work done by the racing community to honor our veterans, and I join them and other North Carolinians to salute our warfighters who paid the ultimate price to protect our freedom.