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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 22, 2015, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2015

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 19, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Kurt Gerhard, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, offered the following prayer:

O God, who calls all people to live together in love and to seek reconciliation with each other in times of conflict:

Inspire in us the will to persevere in accomplishing Your vision for the good of creation.

Comfort our fellow citizens who grieve, experience daily injustice, and suffer in mind, body, or spirit.

During this session of the 114th Congress, in this, the people's House, may the hearts of the duly elected Representatives be blessed with the integrity of purpose and the steadfast commitment to seek and serve the people of the United States of America for the betterment of this country and the world.

We ask this all in the name of the one God, the God of all nations.

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. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon on Tuesday next for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 12 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, June 23, 2015, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1873. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Carriage of Digital Television Broadcast Signals: Amendment to Part 76 of the Commission's Rules [CS Docket No.: 98-120] received June 17, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1874. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Coordination of the Scheduling Processes of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines and Public Utilities [Docket No.: RM14-2-000; Order No.: 809] received June 17, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1875. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of the Australia Group (AG) November 2013 Intersessional Decisions [Docket No.: 141229999-4999-01] (RIN: 0694-AG45) received June 17, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1876. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-042; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1877. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 14-149; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1878. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State,

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transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-037; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1879. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-038; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1880. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-030; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1881. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Blueline Tilefish Fishery; Secretarial Emergency Action [Docket No.: 150311250-5474-01] (RIN: 0648-BE97) received June 17, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1882. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Sixty-Month Period of Employment Requirement for Government Pension Offset Exemption [Docket No.: SSA 2007-0040] (RIN: 0960-AG50) received June 17, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2042. A bill to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units before requiring compliance with such rule, and to allow States to protect households and businesses from significant adverse effects on electricity ratepayers or reliability (Rept. 114–171). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KATKO (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama):

H.R. 2843. A bill to require certain improvements in the Transportation Security Administration's PreCheck expedited screening program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. SLAUGHTER):

H.R. 2844. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain provisions relating to multiemployer pensions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 2845. A bill to promote access to benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 2843.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3—To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 2844.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 clause 1—general welfare of the US

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 2845.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 167: Mr. KIND, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 237: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 712: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 893: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 985: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. NEAL, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. FINCHER.

H.R. 1130: Mr. JOLLY, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 1174: Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. LEE, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 1193: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1226: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 1498: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 1610: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida and Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 1624: Mr. ROONEY of Florida and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 1725: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1752: Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 1926: Ms. KAPTUR and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1953: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 2063: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2096: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 2315: Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 2477: Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 2522: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 2610: Mr. REED, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 2615: Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. LEE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. BASS, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 2646: Mr. BARR, Mr. TROTT, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 2742: Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 2835: Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H. Con. Res. 33: Mr. MESSER.

H. Con. Res. 49: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H. Con. Res. 57: Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. LAMALFA.

H. Res. 210: Mr. DENHAM and Mr. MARINO.

H. Res. 291: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. LEE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. BASS, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CONYERS.

H. Res. 328: Ms. MENG.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE, LEGACY AND WORK OF HARLEM ACTIVIST MINNIE MOORE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life, legacy, and work of Harlem Activist Minnie Moore was a dear friend, a dynamic political activist and an excellent community service provider. She was a devout Christian that lived her life with an indomitable spirit of love and giving. She was a compassionate, hard working, and socially responsible individual that gave several decades of service that strengthen the entire community. On June 20, at Harlem's historic Abyssinian Baptist Church, the Africana community gathers to memorialize Minnie Moore's contributions to the Harlem community. Minnie Moore was born on June 28, 1921 to the late Claudia and Joseph Gassaway. She married her childhood sweetheart, Cleveland Moore (now deceased) and came with him to Harlem, New York from Dothan Alabama during the Great Migration north.

As a life-long resident of Harlem, New York for more than 70 years, the impact of her meritorious service spanned many decades. In the early sixties Minnie was instrumental in incorporating the New York City Housing Authority Saint Nicholas Houses first tenants' association. Over a 10-year period she served in various offices including treasurer, vice-president and president. For many years Minnie was also a faithful member of the Mt. Nebo Baptist Church under the spiritual direction of the late Rev. William D. Gardner.

Minnie was a 'fireball' and worked tirelessly to support many outstanding political figures during their burgeoning years. In the 1970's and 1980's during the 'War on Poverty', Minnie Moore worked diligently and side-by-side with me, and my brothers Percy Ellis Sutton, David N. Dinkins and Basil Paterson. Other Harlem elites include The Hon. George Miller, The Hon. H. Carl McCall, The Hon. Fred Samuels, The Hon. Hilton Clark and The Hon. Keith L.T. Wright.

She was ecstatic at the election of President Obama and held great appreciation in knowing her years of community service and political activism must have contributed in some measure to this monumental, historical occurrence.

Though she was the granddaughter of slaves and did not complete her college education, Minnie Moore touched the hearts of the entire Harlem community. Minnie established the Harriet Tubman Block Association, which provided an array of programmatic activities including educational and social services to children and families through summer youth programs; recreational activities; annual block parties; support to struggling artists; after-school homework assistance; on-going workshops on critical social and health-related issues; pantries, flea markets; and donations of holiday baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

In addition to serving as Executive Director of the Harriet Tubman Block Association, Minnie held many positions of service and leadership within the New York area including Past-Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star, Universal Chapter #7; Captain of the 127th Street Block Association, Member Officer of HARYOU; Secretary for Community Board #10: Executive President of the Park Avenue North Color Guard; Executive President of the St. Nicholas Cavaliers Junior, Senior & All-Girls Softball Teams; Democratic County Committee Member and an Alternate Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1984.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing our beloved Mother Minnie Moore and her contributions that has positively impacted the Harlem community and countless citizens across this Nation. Her dedication, commitment, and spiritual guidance is worthy of our Nation's highest esteem. Minnie was a family treasure and community icon. Her kindness, generosity and wisdom will truly be missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the twentieth anniversary of the Coalition for Social Justice (CSJ) based in Southeastern Massachusetts.

For twenty years, the CSJ has been dedicated to the praiseworthy goal of building a grassroots movement for progressive social change, rooted in low-income communities and communities of color that have been excluded from the economic benefits of the current system.

The CSJ has a dual focus: to recruit and develop its own leaders from low income backgrounds; and to organize effective campaigns to address the economic survival issues that low-income communities and communities of color face. CSJ's agenda includes: funding essential community services through progressive taxes, worker's rights, housing, health care, education, welfare, criminal justice reform, immigrant rights, and environmental justice.

CSJ has actively participated in advocating for the needs of working-class families. For example, in 2014 CSJ helped increase minimum wage in Massachusetts, and also helped earn sick time for all workers in Massachusetts. In 2011, CSJ helped to restore the children's clothing allowance of $150 per year per child so children were able to start the school year with suitable clothing. These examples represent only a small fraction of CSJ's commendable work.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the CSJ on its twentieth year anniversary. It gives me great pride to recognize them for all of the admirable work they do for those in need.

ON THE TRADE FACILITATION AND TRADE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, although I oppose H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015, I rise in support of Section 302 of the bill because it wisely allows Customs and Border Protection (CBP) the flexibility to determine when there is a suspicion that goods are counterfeit. The section clarifies that CBP shall consult with Intellectual Property (IP) owners and preserves the flexibility of customs to first consult as appropriate with the importer. However, it does not direct CBP to modify in any particular way its procedures regarding notice to importers prior to determining whether there is a suspicion that their detained goods are possibly counterfeit. This should result in earlier and more accurate decisions by CBP and preserve the ability of lawful importers to protect their confidential information from disclosure.

I am aware of cases where importers of genuine material have suffered significant and real costs because of CBP suspicions that the material was counterfeit. These losses occurred because shipments that were detained or seized were ultimately determined to be genuine and released long after their arrival and expected delivery dates. For example, in one case, a company suffered delays and increased costs for over 17 shipments that were seized or intensively examined by CBP over a three-month period after which all of the goods were ultimately determined to be genuine and were released long after their arrival and expected delivery dates. In another case, a company reported one shipment was seized and another one was detained for more than 30 days before both of these shipments were found to be genuine and were released. As a result of these long delays, the importers in each of these cases suffered significant costs for storage, brokerage, legal fees, product damage, and losses in customer good will.

I thank Chairman RYAN as well as the other Ways & Means Committee members who remain as committed as I am to preventing counterfeit merchandise from crossing our borders. I look forward to working with them to ensure smooth implementation of this new policy.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE, LEGACY AND WORK OF REVEREND DR. JAMES E. GUNTHER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Reverend Dr. James E. Gunther, the well respected Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ecumenist and an elder among African American Lutheran Pastors. I am honored to acknowledge the life and contributions of one of Harlem's forward thinking religious leaders of the 21st century.

On June 20th, at Harlem's historic Transfiguration Lutheran Church, the Harlem community gathers to memorialize Dr. Gunther. He devoted his life to enlightening African Americans and is noted for illuminating our spiritual enlargement to embrace a global unification and cultural learning.

Reverend Dr. James E. Gunther served the Harlem community and was a man of purpose, passion and true conviction in service to others. Known as a "Poor, Humble, Parish priest, he served for a brief time at Nativity Lutheran Church and Tabernacle Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, as part of the Center City Lutheran Parish, before moving on to Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Harlem where he served for 38 years, retiring in 1998. A year later he was named Pastor Emeritus.

A life-long teacher, leader and visionary, he led a large parish with many Caribbean roots at the Transfiguration Lutheran Church. He was a member of the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) representing the Lutheran Church of America (LCA). A Humanitarian, he served as a Board member of the National Committee of Black Churchmen. Focusing on Economic Justice Working Group, the Division of Overseas Ministry and the Committee on Research and Planning, he served as a Board member of the National Committee of Black Churchmen.

Through Reverend Gunther, illustrious leadership, he founded and chaired the Harlem College Assistance Project from 1964–1977 sending more than 5,000 young black and Hispanic students to college. An inspiriting thought leader, he served on the Harlem Urban Development Corporation, the Board of the Roosevelt Island Corporation, the New York Urban Coalition and the Ministerial Interfaith Association.

A man way ahead of his time, Dr. Gunther, was born on May 5, 1932 in Philadelphia, PA. Educated in Philadelphia Public Schools, he continued his collegiate journey attending the University of Pennsylvania. He holds degrees from Philadelphia College of the Bible, Houghton College, the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and Harvard University with studies in Psychology, Religion, Theology and Church and Society.

A worldwide global vanguard, Dr. Gunther served on the Executive council of the LCA and represented the church at the 1977 Sixth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation in Dar es Salaam, East Africa, working on the Statement Human Rights and the Statement on South Africa. Dr. Gunther encouraged all that he met "To Think Globally While Acting Locally".

In addition, Dr. Gunther served as Trustee of Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA; Wagner College, Staten Island, NY and Muhlenberg University, Allentown, PA. He subsequently served as a Board Member of Augsburg Fortress Publishers, an Adjunct Professor at Christ Bible College, Malcolm King College (associated with Fordham University and Marymount-Manhattan College, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Reverend Dr. James E. Gunther, and his contributions and innovations that have positively impacted the quality of life for countless citizens across this Nation. His unwavering dedication, commitment, and spiritual guidance is worthy of our Nation's highest esteem.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "KEEP OUR PENSION PROMISES ACT"

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 2015

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Keep Our Pension Promises Act."

Pensions are one of the surest means to afford millions of middle class families an opportunity for security in retirement, to enjoy their golden years without being afraid that they haven't saved enough money or what they have saved could run out. Pensions guarantee our senior citizens will know they have a check arriving every month for as long as they live. This is true retirement security.

For forty years the federal pension law has ensured that retirees are given the highest level of protection. For forty years, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, or ERISA, controlled that pension benefits in multiemployer plans should be cut only when a plan runs out of money—and even then, the benefits of retirees should be the last to be cut. This has held tried and true because it was the right thing to do. Retirees worked their entire life to earn the promise and benefit of a guaranteed pension.

This was all uprooted by Congress' December vote on the Omnibus funding bill. A provision that was stuck into the 1,600 page Omnibus bill, at the last minute, forced a decision between shutting down the government and cutting retiree's pension benefits for the first time ever.

An estimated 1 million participants, including retirees, are in multi-employer pension plans that federal officials say are in danger of running out of money in the near future. The provision Congress passed allowed for the first time for the benefits of current retirees to be cut as part of a deal to address the fiscal distress confronting some of the nation's multiemployer pension plans, having a direct impact on 1.5 million American retirees.

This was wrong and today I introduce the "Keep Our Pension Promises Act" with Senator BERNIE SANDERS of Vermont, to correct this short sighted effort.

This Act corrects the injustices bestowed upon our most vulnerable retirees by restoring anti-cutback rules so that retirees in financially troubled multi-employer pension plans are protected from having their earned benefits cut.

It will allow plans to partition off "orphaned" participants into a separate plan, giving participating employers relief from having to shoulder the full financial burden and risk of underfunded "orphaned" participants—ensuring the ability for plans to become financially secure once more.

Recognizing that funding is the ultimate concern, the act shores up the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp and creates a legacy fund to ensure participants in partitioned plans will continue to receive the benefits they depend upon. The costs to create this fund are covered by closing tax loopholes the very wealthy use to accumulate expensive artwork and avoid estate and gift taxes.

Further the bill ensures pension obligations are prioritized during bankruptcies, which will help the remaining employers in the plan by making it less likely they become responsible for underfunded orphan plans.

Our pension system has allowed our senior citizens the opportunity to enjoy their years of hard work in retirement and receive the payouts they spent a life time to earn. This effort recognizes that shared sacrifices are the appropriate course of action to address weakness in pension plans. I encourage my colleagues to support this measure and correct the misguided action passed in last year's Omnibus funding bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHARON, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Sharon, Massachusetts, a town whose slogan "A Better Place to Live Because It's Naturally Beautiful" is uncontroverted. Sharon's landscape represents a classic New England destination with its tree-lined streets, pristine white church spires encasing bells manufactured by Paul Revere, its forested high plains and the peacefulness of Lake Massapoag.

First settled in 1637 as part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Sharon was established as the 2nd precinct of its neighboring town Stoughton in 1740. On June 21, 1765, an act passed by the Council and the House of Representatives and signed by Governor Bernard incorporated the second precinct of Stoughton into the district named Stoughtonham. It was subsequently named after the Sharon plains in Israel due to its plentiful forests and greenery. Engrained in the history of Sharon is the strength of its townspeople who manufactured weapons for the Continental Army during the American Revolution. The heroism of the colonial townspeople of Sharon is exemplified by the historical figure Deborah Sampson, a woman who disguised herself as a man in order to display her patriotism by fighting for her country in the Revolutionary War.

Present day Sharon has become a beacon for its thriving culture. Local artists and businesses have contributed to the unique character of this charming Massachusetts town.

A boisterous population of 18,000 individuals inhabit Sharon, providing the town with

diversity of race, religion, and personalities. But one thing is a constant in Sharon: the friendliness of its townspeople. As my hometown, where I resided for over half a century, I had the pleasure of a place that valued the meaning of friendship. The people of Sharon are kind, tolerant, spirited and it is due to their love of neighborliness that Sharon has been able to remain a steadfast community, truly representing the very best that our Commonwealth and our country has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 250th anniversary of Sharon, Massachusetts. May this beautiful Massachusetts town flourish for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO COL. PETE HILGARTNER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember a truly selfless resident of Great Falls, Virginia, Col. Pete Hilgartner.

Not long after graduating high school Col. Hilgartner began his service to our nation by enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps. He received a fleet appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy and upon graduation in 1951 was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

During the Korean War, he served as an artillery forward observer and received the Bronze Star with Combat ''V'' for meritorious conduct against the enemy in these actions.

In Vietnam, he commanded the 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, the most decorated combat battalion in the U.S. Marine Corp. His tour as Battalion Commander of a frontline Marine Infantry Battalion was one of the longest of any during the war and his battalion fought in numerous actions, including every major action that occurred in the 1st Marine Division sector from November 1966 to September 1967. His six and a half foot stature earned him the name ''Highpockets'' by his Marines, who loved him for his competency and his concern for his men's welfare. Under his command, his unit received two Presidential Unit Citations, for Operations Union, Union II, and Swift. Col. Hilgartner himself was awarded twice the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the Legion of Merit, and the Silver Star medal, for gallantry in combat during Operation Swift.

Upon completion of his first tour, Col. Hilgartner completed a Master's degree only to return for an additional tour as a staff officer in Saigon eventually achieving the rank of Colonel by the time of his retirement from active duty in 1972. From there he would transition into a successful career in the brokerage investment business, author of two books and serve as an active member of the community; holding multiple roles as a Virginia Hunter Education Instructor, President of both the McLean Rotary Club and Northern Virginia Brittany Club, and in the aftermath of September 11th led the Great Falls Memorial Committee helping create the Great Falls Memorial in the remembrance of those lost in the September 11th attacks.

Col. Hilgartner is survived by his wife, Sara Hilgartner, his five children by his first wife, Frances Haynes Hilgartner: Linda Bassett, Diana Boyd, Dale Cirillo, David Hilgartner, and Paul Hilgartner, 10 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, his stepson Greg Fernlund and his step-grandchildren. ''Uncle Pete'' was also a loving uncle and grandfather to his deceased brother Fielding's 5 children and 11 grandchildren.

Col. Hilgartner will always be remembered for his heroic service to his nation and will truly be missed by all of the many lives that he touched and enriched.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND WORK OF CLEMENTE PUGH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life, legacy, and work of my dear distinguished friend, Clemente Pugh who was affectionately known to all of as ''Clem''. As a strong believer in the power of knowledge, she demonstrated the importance of learning and expanding educational opportunities to women and African Americans throughout our great Nation. On June 20th, at Harlem's historic, The Riverside Church, family and community gathers to memorialize Clem's life and contributions to opening our minds to the importance of culture, honesty, and knowledge.

On April 11, 1925, Clemente was born to Alberta and Otho High in Raleigh, North Carolina. She attended Shaw University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. She began her career as a psychiatric social worker, moving on to becoming a public school teacher and eventually, a professor at Hunter and Lehman Colleges of the City University of New York. After 20 years of service at Lehman College, she was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus Education. She went on to earn a Master of Social Work degree in 1949 from New York's Columbia University and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1982 where she was awarded the prestigious title of Professor Emeritus of Education for her teachings.

Clem vividly strived for honesty and understanding. She made it her duty to present others with the awareness she obtained. Her tireless effort to engage, enjoy, and educate people touched the hearts of every person she met. A woman ahead of her time, Clemente Pugh tackled the many realms of ''isms'' including, racism, sexism and classism. Her life was devoted to acknowledging and improving how these infected opinions affect African American people. With her remarkable resilience, I am proud to have called Clemente and her husband, Douglas Pugh, my dear and very special friends. I know that her legacy will live on for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me as we pay tribute to such a treasure to our community. I pledge to continue to carry out her tradition of provoking thought and feeling for all who have lost their way, or simply need to be reminded of who we are, what we come from, and how we can overcome any obstacle presented before us.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 3 p.m., on Monday, June 22, 2015.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 2 public bills, H.R. 2843–2845, were introduced. **Page H4546**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H4546**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 2042, to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units before requiring compliance with such rule, and to allow States to protect households and businesses from significant adverse effects on electricity ratepayers or reliability (H. Rept. 114–171).

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Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Thornberry to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4545**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Dr. Kurt Gerhard, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Washington, DC.

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Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, June 22

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 5 p.m.), Senate will begin consideration of the nominations of Peter V. Neffenger, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, and Daniel R. Elliott III, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, and vote on confirmation of the nominations at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Tuesday, June 23

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Comstock, Barbara, Va., E937
Conyers, John, Jr., Mich., E935
Kaptur, Marcy, Ohio, E936
Keating, William R., Mass., E935, E936
Rangel, Charles B., N.Y., E935, E936, E937

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