

Prior to being elected to Congress, I served for 4 years as a board member of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. I have seen firsthand the bold efforts to reform disciplinary tactics and reverse the trend that plagues so many school districts.

For example, Miami-Dade has created sites across the county for suspended children to attend rather than forcing them to waste their time out of school.

I applaud the board, led by Chair Perla Tabares Hantman, and Superintendent Alberto Carvalho for their leadership on this issue and their willingness to participate in this important discussion.

I look forward to working with them to promote proper and safe school discipline that benefits the students, their parents, and their teachers.

STEM EDUCATION

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and also recognize the great work being done in the 26th District of Florida to encourage these classes.

□ 1215

It is no secret that jobs that require a STEM-related background are projected to outpace other fields as many companies struggle to hire qualified candidates. We need to encourage our students to pursue these fields early on in school and ensure that our educators have the necessary tools to help cultivate an interest in STEM classes for our students.

In an effort to reach the goal of graduating more STEM students, Miami-Dade County has launched an innovative new training and certification program for teachers in collaboration with Florida International University.

FIU has developed a program that promotes STEM teacher training for first-year college students, where they are paired with Miami-Dade County public school teachers to give them firsthand experience in the classroom. The goal is to encourage more STEM majors to go into teaching.

I applaud the work being done in Florida's 26th District and look forward to further promoting STEM education in south Florida's classroom.

Congratulations, again, to FIU and to Miami-Dade County public schools.

STARTUP DAY ACROSS AMERICA

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Wednesday, August 19, as Startup Day all across America, and I encourage everyone to visit at least one small business in your community on this day.

Startups are quickly developing right before our eyes. Throughout our country, there are countless small businesses that range from retail to health care, and these companies are changing the workforce as we know it. Entrepreneurs are leading the way to a brighter future by using innovative solutions and reinventing the way we look at small businesses.

Our local businesses employ our friends and neighbors, helping them to pay their bills and provide a better life for themselves and their families. As a member of the Small Business Committee, I recommend that we never forget the vital role that our local businesses play in keeping our neighborhoods strong and prosperous.

Again, I encourage everyone to participate in Startup Day across America on Wednesday, August 19, and help these small businesses continue to grow.

225TH BIRTHDAY OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate August 4 as the 225th birthday of the United States Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard is one of our Nation's five branches of the armed services and can trace its origins back to August 4, 1790, when the first U.S. Congress appropriated the funds to construct 10 vessels. These ships were designated with enforcing tariff and trade laws, while also preventing smuggling and protecting the collection of Federal revenue.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly proud to represent Coast Guard Sector Key West, a base located in south Florida that covers 55,000 square miles. The coasties stationed at Sector Key West are tasked with the same responsibilities as their predecessors and also have the crucial job of combating drug smuggling from the Caribbean and South America. This is no easy task, but I am proud of the work the Coast Guard continues to do to stifle drugs from entering our communities.

Semper Paratus—Always Ready—this is the motto of our beloved Coast Guard, and our Nation owes a sincere debt of gratitude to the coasties and all those who protect our great country.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EMMER of Minnesota) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

You speak as one who whispers to a beloved. You speak to the heart, but through the ages, people have not and do not listen. You give us Your Word as a gift, filled with promise; yet time and again, Your Word goes unheeded.

Encourage the Members of this House to listen carefully to Your Word and, rather than play with numbers or spin on language, face the truth straightforwardly, studying with honesty long and hard, and with humble attention remain completely open to Your impelling spirit.

And in the midst of complex and conflicting situations, may each Member, with confidence, be able to say to You: "Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening."

May all that is done within the people's House 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 one, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE 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.

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT DAVID WYATT

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Staff Sergeant David Wyatt, who was taken much too soon from his family and friends on July 16. David, a marine and loving father, was born November 7, 1979, in Morganton, North Carolina.

David was a graduate of Russellville High School in Russellville, Arkansas, my alma mater. He was a veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan. For his service, Staff Sergeant Wyatt earned numerous medals and commendations for exemplary service in the infantry. He was a dedicated marine.

While performing his duties on July 16 as the battery operations chief, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Staff Sergeant Wyatt was gunned down during the tragic Chattanooga shooting that killed him, along with three other marines and a Navy sailor.

It is devastating that this decorated marine was taken in the homeland that he served so valiantly overseas to protect. His death shook the Arkansas River Valley in yet another senseless act of violence that can never be explained, justified, or tolerated.

The Russellville and Adkins communities and the entire Third District of

Arkansas mourn the loss of my fellow Russellville Cyclone and his fellow servicemen. My prayers are with his wife, Lorri; his two children, Rebecca and Heath; and his parents, Lew Wyatt of St. Augustine, Florida, and Deborah Boen of Atkins, Arkansas.

May God bless those he leaves behind, as they search for peace and understanding through this terrible tragedy.

LONG-TERM SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BILL

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have had more than 4½ years to craft a long-term surface transportation bill. Their dysfunction and inability to govern is starting to have a real impact on hard-working Americans and on our communities.

They continue to lurch from crisis to crisis; meanwhile, our Nation's crumbling roads and bridges—and our economy—suffer as a result. It is like *deja vu* all over again, another highway deadline this week.

Mr. Speaker, no more short-term month-to-month fixes. Enough is enough. In the last decade, Congress has passed 11 short-term funding bills to keep the highway trust fund solvent. If we are going to pass a long-term solution to rebuild our roads and bridges, it is going to take the courage of our convictions; it is going to take us working together across the aisle to get this done.

Our Nation's roads, bridges, and rails are in an urgent state of repair. One-third of America's roads are in poor or mediocre condition. One out of every four bridge is in need of significant repair.

The House Republican leadership needs to get serious and find a long-term fix to the highway trust fund. Our country relies on it.

FARM FAMILIES—LINKING THE PAST TO THE FUTURE

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the importance of farm families throughout the great State of Minnesota.

The University of Minnesota recently recognized the 2015 Minnesota Farm Families from across the State, and I am proud to represent five of these families who call the Sixth Congressional District home.

These farm families include the Bruce Bacon Garden Farm in Anoka County, the Scapanski Dairy in Benton County, the Buckentine Family Dairy in Carver County, the Reuter Family Farm in Washington County, and the Bernings' Green Waves Farm, Inc., in Wright County.

For many Minnesotans, farming isn't just a profession; it is a way of life. Family farms link the past to the future with each generation passing their work ethic, land, and traditions to the next. These farms make up the heartland of America and exemplify what makes Minnesota's agriculture industry great, which is why they should be celebrated.

Congratulations to the 2015 Minnesota Farm Families, and thank you so much for everything that you do.

REFORM OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I came to the floor and said it felt like open season on Black men in America. People around the country agree that the police killings undermine the efforts of good police and break the trust between police and their communities.

Black women and girls face the same threats and many more. Unsettling video of a police officer in Texas manhandling an unarmed 15-year-old girl in a bathing suit served as a wake-up call to all of us.

The arrest and death of Sandra Bland reminds us that the fight for equal justice under the law continues.

Black women also face a unique and, too often, unreported violence: sexual assault. In Oklahoma, an officer is on trial for sexually assaulting eight Black women. Tragically, this story is not unique. The challenges Black men face are real, but I was humbled to learn how unequal justice affects Black women.

Black women are the fastest growing prison population, and their stories must be told if we are going to break this trend.

Mr. Speaker, it is open season on all Americans.

FLOOD INSURANCE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to underscore a serious problem in Pasco County, Florida, this week that is devastating homeowners—flooding—after days of continuous rain.

After Tropical Storm Debby in 2012, the Army Corps of Engineers worked with county officials to implement some measures to mitigate flooding, but more needs to be done.

For instance, Pasco County officials have been working for 19 years to extend Ridge Road. One of the main justifications for the Ridge Road extension is a matter of safety. An extension is a much-needed evacuation route in the case of natural disasters, like flooding or hurricanes.

As of today, an evacuation issued for Efers, Florida, in my district, is ongoing.

The Ridge Road extension needs to be approved. Nineteen years is far too long. The Army Corps must stop dragging its feet.

The serious flood this week demonstrates the need for action. I hope that the Corps gets the message.

PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN MEDICARE

(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 to remind my colleagues of our responsibility to preserve and strengthen the Medicare Program for future generations.

Last week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released its annual Medicare trustees report, an update on the long-term solvency and effectiveness of this vastly important health insurance program.

While the report projected that the trust fund that finances Medicare's hospital insurance coverage will remain solvent until 2030, it also cautioned that a high number of Medicare beneficiaries could see their Medicare part B premiums sharply increase in January of 2016.

As a former healthcare professional and nursing home administrator, I understand the importance of providing access to quality care at a realistic cost. One of the ways we can make Medicare services more affordable is by targeting waste and abuse within the program.

With this in mind, I have consistently worked with my colleagues to introduce and support legislation aimed at reducing fraud and increasing administrative effectiveness.

I look forward to continuing these efforts and urge my colleagues to join me in finding new ways to safeguard and sustain Medicare.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EMMER of Minnesota) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 24, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 24, 2015 at 10:19 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 23.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 2499.

That the Senate passed without an amendment H.R. 1626.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.