

COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, August 6, 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 August 6, 2015 at 9:28 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 720.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2559.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2131.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1531.

That the Senate passed S. 1707.

That the Senate passed S. 1826.

That the Senate passed S. 1596.

That the Senate passed S. 1362.

That the Senate passed S. 1576.

That the Senate passed S. 1347.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, August 7, 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 August 7, 2015 at 10:59 a.m.:

Appointments:

Commission on Care.

Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. REEVES,  
*Deputy Clerk.*

DEPUTY SHERIFF DARREN  
GOFORTH—TEXAS LAWMAN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Friday, in the blistering heat of Houston, Texas, 11,000 people, including the Governor, attended the event; many more stood outside. The ceremony was broadcast live on all four local TV stations. Helicopters flew overhead. Peace officers from the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom were there. The city and State gave their final tribute and respect for one of its fallen—Harris County Deputy Sheriff Darren Goforth.

Darren left behind a widow, Kathleen, and children: Ava, 12, and Ryan, 5.

Darren was assassinated the week before while he was putting gasoline in his patrol car, apparently targeted because he was a peace officer. He was shot in the back of the head 15 times. An individual was quickly captured, and he is charged with capital murder.

Darren Goforth was a happy guy. He loved his family. He loved his second career as a lawman and loved working on old cars.

Everyone liked Darren. Even a local thief posted on social media that Goforth was his favorite police officer.

Darren loved his kids and recently bought his son and himself Captain America t-shirts. Ryan, his son, wore his t-shirt at the funeral. Deputy Goforth was buried in his Captain America t-shirt underneath his uniform.

Peace officers like Goforth are a rare breed. They rush to emergencies and dangers while most flee from them. Their life is dedicated to serving and protecting others. They are willing to sacrifice everything for the rest of us. Darren Goforth was that type of peace officer.

Mr. Speaker, when the funeral was over and the bagpipers had played "Amazing Grace" and the buglers had played "Taps," it started to rain, as if the angels above were shedding tears for a remarkable guy, Deputy Sheriff Darren Goforth.

And that is just the way it is.

AMERICA'S 122ND LABOR DAY

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, Monday marked the 122nd year that we have honored and celebrated the hard-working men and women of America on Labor Day.

It is also an occasion to reflect on the tremendous progress that the labor movement has made in improving the lives of working families.

From strengthening pay and working conditions to fighting for fair health care and retirement benefits, unions have and will always play a critical role in growing the American middle class.

However, we still have a long way to go. That is why I support raising the minimum wage, expanding the earned income tax credit, and fighting for fair trade agreements so that we can lift up the millions of working families in America still struggling to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, it is simple. Those willing to work should be able to find good jobs. Through their hard work, they should be able to improve their family's quality of life. That is the core of the American Dream.

This Labor Day, let's recommit ourselves to building a nation and an economy where that dream is within reach for every American.

GOLD KING MINE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, early last month the negligence of the Environmental Protection Agency caused the release of over 3 million gallons of wastewater at the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado, causing arguably the biggest environmental disaster of this year.

While over the congressional August work period, I was able to visit the spill site and, with elected officials, was able to view it for myself. As you can see, there is still considerable effluent coming out of the mouth of that mine as of 2 weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, I will just ask: Has anyone been fired? Has anyone been held accountable at the Environmental Protection Agency for this disaster? No, they have not.

What would have happened had a private company been responsible for a disaster of this order of magnitude? I shudder to think where those people in charge of that company would be today.

The EPA did not follow its own procedures. It did not have proper communications equipment at the site of the disaster. They had no satellite phone. They had no radio.

As a consequence, they did not notify local officials until a day later of what had occurred at the mine. They have also refused to answer questions about the potential health risks in the polluted water to humans and animals downriver.

The long-term effects of the EPA's neglect will be unknown, but I submit they will be significant for years to come.

FRANCIS BELLAMY

(Mr. COLLINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Francis Bellamy, one of the most influential individuals from Mount Morris, New York. Francis Bellamy is the author of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Today marks the 123rd anniversary of the Pledge of Allegiance, which was first published in a magazine called "The Youth Companion" on September 8, 1892. The Pledge was initially written as part of a campaign to put American flags in every school in the country.

In its original form, it read: "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

In 1923, the words, "the Flag of the United States of America" were added. In 1954, Congress added the words "under God," creating the 31-word pledge we say every day.