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No. 21

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 4, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ALEXANDER X. MOONEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
We give You thanks, O merciful God, for giving us another day.

There have been many prayers this day rising to You from those engaged in the political discourse of this Nation. We give You thanks for those who were able to gather at the National Prayer Breakfast and those across this land who joined their prayer intentions with the many who attended.

Bless the Members of this people's House now as they gather to do the legislative work they are called to do. May their prayers this day be authentic and heard by You, the living God.

May their work be fruitful and beneficial to those whom You favor—the poor—and may all they do be done in humility and charity, knowing that we are all earthen vessels through whom Your spirit might shine forth.

And, finally, may all that is done this day 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 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. STEFANIK 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING EDWARD ROBB "TED" BARRETT

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

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Edward Robb "Ted" Barrett.

Ted was born on September 14, 1991, and passed away on January 30, 2016—far, far too early. Ted was a loving son, a brother to six, and a loyal friend to countless more in our community. Ted had a unique ability to light up any room he entered. His lighthearted, joyful spirit uplifted everyone he met.

A graduate of Christian Brothers Academy in Syracuse, of Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts, and of Hamilton College, Ted thrived as an athlete and always looked for ways to give back to those less fortunate. He had a passion and a deep admiration for America's heroes and valued Team

Red, White, and Blue's great work in enriching the lives of veterans in need.

I had the great privilege of knowing Ted personally and was inspired by his kindness, his humor, and his love for his family and country. Ted will always be remembered as an honorable young man who touched many lives, having a lasting positive impact on all who knew and loved him.

May his name forever be remembered in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and in the great United States of America.

AMERICAN HEROES COLA ACT

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge the swift consideration of H.R. 677, the American Heroes COLA Act.

This bill includes two of my bills, H.R. 2691, the Veterans' Survivors Claims Processing Automation Act, and H.R. 732, the Veterans Access to Speedy Review Act.

The claims and appeals backlog that is plaguing veterans in my district and across the Nation is unacceptable. The Veterans' Survivors Claims Processing Automation Act will allow veterans' surviving families to mourn their loss and grieve without unnecessary bureaucratic steps in the benefit claims process.

The Veterans Access to Speedy Review Act will allow veterans to voluntarily use video conferencing technology to accelerate the appeals process. Veterans and their families deserve to have their claims reviewed and to receive the benefits that they have earned and deserve in a timely and efficient manner.

I came to Washington to fight for pragmatic solutions to meet our Nation's most pressing needs. These two bills are pragmatic solutions for our veterans.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. Speaker, join me in honoring our veterans by bringing this legislation to a vote.

INVASIVE SPECIES SUMMIT

(Ms. STEFANIK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, from Lake George to the Saint Lawrence Seaway to the pristine waters of Lake Champlain and all of the beautiful mountains and maple trees that run between, my district is home to many ecological treasures.

Many of these natural wonders have fallen under siege to invasive species that threaten the health and beauty of these natural habitats. Our environment is our lifeblood in upstate New York, and we must protect it from these predators so as to boost our economy and ensure we protect our environment for future generations.

This Friday, I will be proud to join with stakeholders, who have been working tirelessly on this issue across my district and across New York State, at an Invasive Species Summit in Clayton, New York. Together, we will explore best practices and information sharing as well as to work on innovative new solutions to stop this epidemic.

By working together at the Federal, State, and local levels, I know we can preserve our natural treasures for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF VERNON J. ALSTON, UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Vernon J. Alston, a U.S. Capitol Police Officer for 20 years and a constituent of mine from Delaware. Sadly, Mr. Alston left us far too soon, at the age of 44.

Vernon Alston came from a military family and, from a young age, was drawn to the service of our country. In 1991, he joined the U.S. Army Reserve, and, in 1996, he began working as a Capitol Police Officer. He spent the rest of his life protecting the Capitol and those who work here. Mr. Alston commuted each day from Magnolia, Delaware.

I speak for every one of my colleagues and staff who walk through these doors each day when I say to Mr. Alston, "Thank you." Vernon Alston put his life on the line for us, and we owe him a debt of gratitude.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Mr. Alston's wife, Nicole, and his five children. Mr. Alston's neighbors in Delaware and his family here on Capitol Hill share in their grief. Vernon Alston leaves a legacy of service to country that serves as an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JIM TRULL

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a respected constituent of mine whom I was proud to have called a dear friend.

James Trull was the kind of leader who could be depended on to bring people together and advance solutions on behalf of their communities. He was passionate about water issues. It was his life's work. He served as the district manager of the Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District for 34 years. He understood the complicated western water law like no one else. Jim was a valued leader in our community. He was kind and was loved by those who knew him.

While Jim will be missed by many, we can honor his legacy by striving to follow the kind of leadership he embodied in his life.

As we remember Jim, the passage from the Prophet Isaiah comes to mind: "For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground . . ."

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering my friend, Jim Trull.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PHIL NEIGHBORS

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Phil Neighbors.

Phil was a pillar in the San Angelo community, and I had the pleasure of working with him frequently over the last 10 years. Phil dedicated his life to three things: to God, to his family, and to his community.

He and his wife, Susan, had two children together and four grandchildren. It was not uncommon for Phil to run straight to a city event from his grandsons' ball games. He always made time for both his family and the city of San Angelo.

A graduate of Angelo State University, he led the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce for the last 10 years. He was the bridge between the Goodfellow Air Force Base and the San Angelo community, helping to create a strong and lasting bond. He loved our military and was always willing to support our military in any way that he could.

As a deacon in the Baptist church, Phil led the church's college program and many mission trips to Mexico. He was a selfless servant, a trait that extended beyond the city's, State's, and country's borders.

We lost Phil far too soon, just days after his 64th birthday. San Angelo lost a truly great leader yesterday. Please join me in remembering the extraordinary life of my friend, Phil Neighbors.

COMBATING THE DRUG EPIDEMIC IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

(Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, last month, I received notice from Michael Botticelli, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, that, after a year of hard work from Federal, State, and local officials, Jefferson County, West Virginia, was designated as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. This designation will bring critical resources to Jefferson County to combat the drug epidemic that is ravaging our communities and way of life.

I would like to thank a few people for helping secure this designation:

Tom Carr, the executive director of the Washington-Baltimore HIDTA Bureau. Tom was kind enough to even go down to Romney, West Virginia, to participate in a roundtable discussion I led with local officials.

Jefferson County Sheriff Pete Dougherty, who leads Jefferson County law enforcement in combating drug trafficking every day and who worked hard on this HIDTA application.

U.S. Attorney Bill Ihlenfeld, who prosecutes dangerous drug dealers and who also gave his invaluable input to the HIDTA application.

I thank the entire West Virginia delegation for helping to lock in this designation: Senators CAPITO and MANCHIN and my colleagues Congressmen MCKINLEY and JENKINS.

Every American needs to do his part to fight back against the drug addictions that are plaguing our country.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 4, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
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 February 4, 2016 at 9:06 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 907.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3033.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION CUSTOMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in