The Speaker called the House to order at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE).

**DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

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

WASHINGTON, DC. October 12, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Bradly Byrne to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

Paul D. Ryan. Speaker of the House of Representatives.

**MORNING-HOUR DEBATE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternately recognize the members of the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

**OPIOID CRISIS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Dana Milbank had an interesting column in the morning Post about the reckless congressional response to the opioid crisis. Both the administration and Congress have been good at hyping the crisis, but when it comes time to actually taking action, almost nothing happens.

The failure to protect our citizens is appalling, especially since most of the opioid crisis is a result of failed public policies. We have spent over $1 trillion on a failed war on drugs that concentrates on prohibition and punishment instead of treatment, which would help people break the cycle of addiction.

The challenges that drove people to abuse opioids in the first place, like chronic pain, depression, and lax policies prescribing vast quantities of over-the-counter and more powerful opioids, should never have been allowed to happen in the first place. It was a public policy failure of government, the industry, and, sadly, some unscrupulous practitioners that allowed the addiction genie out of the bottle.

When denied access to opioids, people, understandably, turn to heroin and other dangerous and addictive drugs because they were trapped by these powerful forces. Few people willingly damage their bodies and destroy their families and careers, if not for powerful forces beyond their control.

As appalling as this failure is, what is even worse is that we fail to take reasonable, commonsense steps to stop it. The easiest solution is to provide more access to medical marijuana, already available in 28 States. This availability, by the way, has been driven as a result of citizen action and not politicians, who have too often been afraid to touch it.

The evidence is powerful and overwhelming. Where there is access to medical marijuana to treat the problems that drove people on the path to addiction in the first place, there are fewer pills prescribed and overdose deaths drop.

It is clear that using medical marijuana is as effective, or perhaps even more effective, than opioids to treat pain. They cause less damage to people’s health and are far less costly than pharmaceuticals. I provided the subcommittee taking testimony with the facts and citations that would justify digging deep into this potential solution.

Cannabis reduces overdose deaths, reduces opioid consumption, and it can prevent dose escalation and the development of opioid tolerance, which leads to that cycle, and too often, tragically, opioid deaths: 175 people a day.

As my friend, Greg Walden, pointed out in the subcommittee hearing yesterday, more people die in Oregon from opioid overdose than traffic accidents.

More benefits, fewer side effects, lower costs.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the evidence I gave to the Subcommittee on Health yesterday.

**PHYSICIAN GUIDE TO CANNABIS-ASSISTED OPIOID REDUCTION**

(Prepared by Adrienne Wilson-Poe, Ph.D.)

Cannabis reduces opioid overdose mortality.

In states with medicinal cannabis laws, opioid overdose drop by an average of 25%.
Mr. BLUMENAUER. There is a reason for Mr. LANCE for 5 minutes.

The CDC has updated its recommendations in the spring of 2016, stating that most cases of chronic pain should be treated with non-opioids.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government continues to interfere, threatening medical marijuana programs, which requires Congress to step in to shield it, as we have done last year and for the previous 2 years. Unfortunately, the Rules Committee denied us a chance to vote.

Last Congress, both Houses approved measures for VA doctors to be able to consult with veterans who have a serious overdose problem. Despite passing both Chambers, it was stripped out and the Rules Committee failed to allow us to vote on this as well.

Most tragically, Congress continues to have a stranglehold on research to be able to definitively answer these questions.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join my friend, Dr. ANDY HARRIS, and me on our research bill, H.R. 3391. There is no reason that the Federal Government denies research to be able to definitively answer these questions.

I am tired of looking at the opioid damage in my State and around the country, and have Congress propose Band-aids when there is a simple, commonsense, widely accepted, and popular approach: allow people access to medical marijuana.

The time to do it is now. Lives are being lost as we dither.

NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida approved their program by over 70 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government continues to interfere, threatening medical marijuana programs, which requires Congress to step in to shield it, as we have done last year and for the previous 2 years. Unfortunately, the Rules Committee denied us a chance to vote.

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The time to do it is now. Lives are being lost as we dither.

NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, a little over a month ago, Hurricane Irma struck the Caribbean island of St. Maarten very hard.

Within a couple of days, I got a call from loved ones of a couple of constituents. They had family members trapped at a hotel in St. Maarten with dozens of other Americans. The power was out, they were running out of food and water, and incidents of looting were reported. So they called me, their Congressman, and I called the State Department to get things done.

Within 36 hours of my call, our U.S. citizens—nearly 150 of them—were evacuated from an island, in the ocean, surrounded by water.

Do you know where they were taken for safety?

Puerto Rico. Yes, Puerto Rico, where it has now been 3 weeks since Hurricane Maria and most people do not have power or clean drinking water, and where the deterioration of the healthcare system is leaving people without critical treatments and causing the death toll to go up.

Now, in St. Maarten, this is what the State Department said, according to NBC News: "Evacuation efforts will prioritize U.S. citizens needing urgent medical care."

Within a few days, they had evacuated 1,200 Americans.

So, right now, if a thousand U.S. citizens are facing danger in Japan, Ethiopia, or Finland, our State Department would arrange to save them. But we have millions of Americans facing danger in Puerto Rico and we can’t get the same help, not from the military, not from FEMA, and not from the State Department, because they don’t assist U.S. citizens who are on U.S. soil, even if that soil is a colony in the ocean surrounded by water, as our President reminds us.

It took 36 hours to get evacuated from St. Maarten. Three weeks in Puerto Rico and still no plan for evacuation.

This morning, the President is tweeting that he wants to pull FEMA and the military out of Puerto Rico.

How long do we have to stay in Puerto Rico?

Until every Puerto Rican’s name is taken off the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall or erased from the records of the Korean war, Afghanistan, and Iraq.
As long as it takes. They gave their lives and died.

Yesterday, a lot of us received military briefings from FEMA, the military, and Homeland Security. I wanted to know whether FEMA and the military are prepared to take people off the island, and we normally do in emergency situations. We did it in Houston, in Jacksonville, and New Orleans.

No, the Governor has not asked for help in evacuating people, they told me.

I asked: How many bridges, even temporary ones, have been constructed in Puerto Rico to replace those destroyed by the hurricane to allow for the transportation of supplies and the evacuation of people? They said: None. Congressman. Zero.

We have not erected any bridges. Again, because the Governor of Puerto Rico hasn’t asked us to.

When I was there, I flew over the town of Maricao in the mountains, well known for coffee. There are six ways in and out of the town, and five of those bridges are gone.

Three weeks after D-day in 1944, the allies liberated the deepwater port of Cherbourg, one of the most important objectives in Europe. It took 20 days and we built bridges and communication lines along the way.

We made better progress in the 3 weeks after D-day than we are making on Puerto Rico. And in Puerto Rico, to the best of my knowledge, there are no Germans shooting at us.

Now, when I asked the officials about evacuating people from the island, they had no real answer. But if I remember correctly, FEMA and the military come to us to fund their budget every year. They are accountable to this Congress.

We are accountable to our constituents. Constituents are coming to me, as they did in St. Maarten, and are saying: Help us get our families out of danger’s way.

Mr. Speaker, when will we be able to give these constituents an answer as to why their family members and loved ones aren’t being allowed to leave the island and evacuated from danger?

This weekend, Members of Congress are going to Puerto Rico. I spoke with a few of them and said: Hey, at night, you should go to this place where it is really bad.

One stopped me, cut me off, and said: Hey, at night, you should go to this place where it is really bad.

I commend Mr. Epperson on his many accomplishments and his service to our Nation.

STRUGGLES IN PUERTO RICO AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to tell where and in what direction Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are heading today. There is not enough food, millions are struggling to live without drinking water and electricity, and only 8 percent of the roads are open to traffic.

Containers with supplies, medical supplies, and food and other commodities are sitting in containers on the docks in the Port of San Juan and are not moving towards the people and the communities that need them the most. Struggles in the Virgin Islands are less heard about but no less real.

The question is whether we, as a nation, are doing all we can for the citizens of this Nation. Let’s compare.

After an earthquake hit Haiti in 2010, where the infrastructure was severely damaged, the U.S. military mobilized as if we were going to war.

The very next morning, after the earthquake hit, an Army unit was airborne. Within 2 weeks, 33 ships and 22,000 soldiers had arrived, and more than 300 helicopters were delivering millions of pounds of food and water, not just to the port, but the people of Haiti.

By contrast, today, there are fewer than 14,000 military personnel assisting in relief efforts in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and there are only 88 helicopters and only 4 naval ships, one of them the USNS Comfort that can carry 3,500 passengers and 940 military personnel.

Among those activities are the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission, Salem Pregnancy Care Center, One Kid at a Time mentoring program, and the Christian Association of Youth Mentoring, which he founded.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that Stu will agree that the adage “behind every good man is a good woman” is a true one for him. Stu married the love of his life, Nancy Etsinger Epperson, 54 years ago. This lovely couple has 4 children and 21 grandchildren.

I commend Stu Epperson not only for his many accomplishments but also for his dedication to ensuring that radio remains family-friendly and value-focused. In recognition of Stu’s life and work, I am pleased to announce that soon Stu will be receiving the highly coveted Vision and Leadership Award from the Family Research Council. This award is truly the fitting recognition of such an accomplished man, and I add my salute to him.

I know that the community in Winston-Salem, this Nation, and the wider world have benefitted from Stu Epperson’s many years of making the world a better place. I commend Mr. Epperson on his many accomplishments and his service to our Nation.

HONORING THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STUART EPPERSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. EPPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize North Carolina Fifth District constituent, Mr. Stuart Epperson, whose work has positively affected so many in North Carolina and so many across this great Nation.

Stuart, or “Stu,” as his friends know him, is living proof that not only is the American Dream possible, it is achievable if you are simply willing to work hard for it. Stu’s story is a model one for all.

Growing up on a small tobacco farm in Virginia, Stu learned hard work and perseverance. In the 1980s, Stu and his brother-in-law started the Salem Media Group to minister to and report positive news to families across the country.

Under his leadership, Salem Media Group and Salem Radio now host 120 radio stations, 67 of which are in the top 25 markets, and operate 2,400 affiliates.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when many Americans opt to turn off the news due to the negative content, Mr. Epperson’s audience is tuning in to be inspired and to be informed.

The content put forth by the Salem Media Group serves as a beacon of hope to the many people seeking positive and instructive stories.

Mr. Speaker, when I consider the body of Mr. Epperson’s work, I am reminded of the parable of the faithful servant in Luke 12:48. The Good Book tells us that: “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him much shall be required.”

The Lord has certainly gifted Mr. Epperson with some amazing abilities, and in return, Mr. Epperson has used these talents to give back to multiple community activities.

Among those activities are the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission, Salem Pregnancy Care Center, One Kid at a Time mentoring program, and the Christian Association of Youth Mentoring, which he founded.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that Stu would agree that the adage “behind every good man is a good woman” is a true one for him. Stu married the love of his life, Nancy Etsinger Epperson, 54 years ago. This lovely couple has 4 children and 21 grandchildren.

I commend Stu Epperson not only for his many accomplishments but also for his dedication to ensuring that radio remains family-friendly and value-focused. In recognition of Stu’s life and work, I am pleased to announce that soon Stu will be receiving the highly coveted Vision and Leadership Award from the Family Research Council. This award is truly the fitting recognition of such an accomplished man, and I add my salute to him.

I know that the community in Winston-Salem, this Nation, and the wider world have benefitted from Stu Epperson’s many years of making the world a better place. I commend Mr. Epperson on his many accomplishments and his service to our Nation.
Mr. Speaker, the President must lead on this issue. We have got dedicated members of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard who are willing, ready, and able to be in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to deliver the relief to our neighbors and our citizens.

We need to ask the Department of Defense to send more engineers, more transportation companies, and expeditionary sustainment battalions.

Yesterday, I asked a senior military leader: How many pontoon bridges have been erected in Puerto Rico to cross those washed out roads? Zero. How many miles of power transmission lines have been reestablished to get electricity out to more communities? The answer is zero.

We have military engineers on the ground, but they have not been asked to do what we need to do. We need the military to provide the direct services on the local or, in military parlance, on the tactical level. I am not talking about long-term rebuilding of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands by the United States. I am talking about directing the Department of Defense to establish the minimum infrastructure necessary to do the job that we should be asking them to do, which is to provide relief to 3.5 million Americans in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Strategic movements are good, military assessments and evaluations help, but what is needed is no less than what was done 7 years ago in Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, the President must lead on this issue, and the President must ask our military to do more.

NATIONAL FARMERS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today is National Farmers Day. From farm to fork, our farmers work hard to put food on dinner tables across this country and around the world.

Today has traditionally been a day to recognize farmers and thank them for all their endless hard work. Records of National Farmers Day events date back to the 1800s.

Mr. Speaker, our farmers are the cornerstone of our rural communities. They face tough odds by the very nature of the business, and food security is national security.

Right now, there is a critical shortfalls of skilled young and beginning farmers and ranchers. That is why, together with Congressman JOE COURTNEY from Connecticut and Congresswoman JOAN FASO from New York, we introduced the Young Farmer Success Act.

This legislation provides incentives for those who would like to pursue a future in the agriculture industry by adding farmers to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, which currently offers loan payback assistance for professions such as government service, teaching, and nursing.

Under the Young Farmer Success Act, young farmers can have the balance of their student loan payments can have the balance of their loans forgiven.

On Monday, I heard from a number of young farmers in upstate New York in Congressman FASO’s district. The House Agriculture Committee hosted a farm bill listening session at SUNY Cobleskill, and we covered topical topics from dairy to specialty crops to nutrition assistance programs, and we heard a lot of excellent feedback from those who shared their stories with us.

As the House Agriculture Committee works to craft the next farm bill, these listening sessions have allowed us to hear firsthand from those who are directly impacted by the farm bill. They provide us with real world examples of what is working and what isn’t working.

With farmers in every region of this country, we heard from many different perspectives. This feedback will help us write the best farm bill possible.

Mr. Speaker, food security is national security, and it aids the long-term sustainability of our country. They provide fresh produce and products to communities throughout the country, and there is no better food than something grown locally.

Today, we celebrate our food producers on National Farmers Day, but we should also celebrate them every day for putting food on our tables and in our grocery stores. Let’s face it, farming is a tough business. Long hours, unpredictable prices, and, even more, unpredictable weather conditions, but it is also exciting, rewarding, and full of opportunities.

Generations of farmers have worked every patch of American soil caring for the Earth, their animals, and their neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, as vice chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I want to wholeheartedly thank America’s farmers for providing, every day, food that is safe, sustainable, healthy, and nutritious food every day. Happy Farmers Day.

AMENDMENT TO THE WAR POWERS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DeFazio) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DeFazio. Mr. Speaker, well, last weekend I was shocked to read the statements of the Republican chair of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Senate, Senator CORCKER. He said that, “Trump has put us on the path to World War III.”

This makes it essential that Congress assert its full powers under the Constitution of the United States.

In reaction to Nixon’s secret bombing of Cambodia and the aftermath, Congress passed something called the War Powers Act. Unfortunately, there was a dispute between the two bodies, and, ultimately, the Senate prevailed and watered down the bill.

Instead of saying, “Before the President engages our troops into hostilities, that he or she must come to the Congress,” instead, the bill ultimately adopted saying, “48 hours after the President has engaged our troops in hostilities, the President must go to Congress and then seek subsequent authorization, or the troops would be withdrawn after 60 days.”

I have introduced legislation in this and preceding Congresses to fix that. That clearly does not represent the constitutional powers of the United States Congress. The Constitution is absolutely clear. Only Congress has the authority to declare war. Once war is declared, the President, under the Constitution, is the Commander in Chief and would act with one voice to conduct the war and coordinate military efforts.

So my bill would say—do away with the allowance of 48 hours and say: Before engaging U.S. troops into hostilities, the President must first come to the Congress and seek a declaration of war. I think it is absolutely essential that this Congress act on this legislation and make it clear to the President of the United States that he does not have the authority to wake up one morning and tweet of an attack against another country and engage these people in an escalation that may end, as Senator CORCKER says, in World War III.

This is a very dangerous time for our country. It is time for this separate and equal branch of the government to assert its full authority to rein in any and all dangerous activities by this President.
home. She was “an anti-establishment figure with a reputation for her fearless criticism of undemocratic elements within the parties in power.” The circumstances of her death were “strikingly similar” to the murders of three additional Indian activists.

Just another of India’s most prominent political journalists, Professor Kancha Ilaiah, known for criticizing India’s caste social order, was threatened by a Hindu member of India’s parliament. This member of parliament, an ally of the current BJP government, issued a statement that Kancha should be “publicly hanged.” Kancha subsequently received numerous death threats.

These threats had a significant effect. A mob tried to attack Professor Ilaiah with stones as he and a coworker were driving to a meeting. Kancha is now under self-imposed house arrest because he is simply not safe otherwise.

Was Professor Ilaiah’s crime significant?

Kancha was called a modern-day Dr. Ambedkar, who is known as the “Father of the Indian Constitution,” and Professor Ilaiah’s crime was he was the author of “Why I am Not a Hindu.”

A recent translation of his 2009 book “Post-Hindu India” is what seems to have sparked the threats against him. This book described the polarized context of modern-day India specifically dealing with the productivity of the Dalits and the “low” castes and the seeming spiritual and monetary monopoly of the “higher” castes. These critiques became even more relevant in India’s growing agrarian crisis, the resulting farmer suicides due to hopelessness, and the massive joblessness due to demonetization and economic slowdown.

Mr. Speaker, I stand on the floor of the United States House of Representatives to state unequivocally that the United States and the entire global community is, and should be, deeply concerned about this threat to the life of Professor Kancha Ilaiah, one of the world’s well-known intellectuals.

Our trusted ally and friend, India, is better than this. Mr. Speaker, Professor Kancha Ilaiah’s right and freedom to speak should not be infringed; and his protection, and that of those like him, should be of the utmost priority to the Indian Government. I am able to express freely this viewpoint because we have freedom of speech in the United States of America, Mr. Speaker. May we remember at what cost and for what purpose we were given this priceless freedom.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month for millions of us in the breast cancer community.

The statistics are sobering: one in eight women will get breast cancer in her lifetime.

Earlier this year, I received a note from a former staffer. I had watched this young woman blossom from a young and eager intern to ultimately serving as my executive assistant and scheduler before she departed the Hill for graduate school, marriage, and a future full of promise. In the note, she wrote:

“My wedding was about 2 months ago. It was the most magical night of my life. It was so incredible to be surrounded by so many friends and loved ones and good will. I can’t imagine ever being happier than I was that night.”

She went on to say:

“Unfortunately, things have gotten a little more complicated since then. While I was on my honeymoon, I noticed a lump in my right breast. Since I had the benefit of working for you, I know that, while rare, it is possible that young women can get breast cancer, and I should take it seriously. I think you can probably guess where this is going...

She continued:

“We have no idea how this happened to me. I guess some people get struck by lightning, some people are deathly allergic to peanuts, and some people get breast cancer at 29 with no family history.

“Luckily, it was caught early and the doctors have every confidence that it is fully curable and I will live a long and happy life.”

She ended the note by thanking me for advocating for breast cancer awareness, specifically for younger women.

She said:

“DWS,” as I am often referred to by staff, “keep fighting the good fight. It is saving the lives of people like me.”

Today, she is fighting the good fight, and I know she will win.

Unfortunately, just like my former staffer, I know all too well that it can strike even when you are young. In 2007, when I was only 41 years old, I learned I had breast cancer.

Like many others before me, when I was diagnosed, and later identified as a BRCA2 gene mutation carrier, I worried about many things: Would I be there to see my children grow up? Would I be able to beat this disease? Wasn’t I too young to have breast cancer?

Fortunately, with the passage of the ACA—the Affordable Care Act—insurance coverage cannot be taken away from people like me and like my former staffer. Access to affordable, quality healthcare is now a right, not a privilege.

As Members of Congress, we have a duty to protect this right. Instead of efforts to repeal this legislation, I call on my Republican colleagues to join me in recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month by supporting those of us who are living healthier, stronger lives every day because of the Affordable Care Act.

The statistics for breast cancer remain alarming. The American Cancer Society estimates that 40,610 women will die from breast cancer in 2017 alone, making it the second most common type of cancer death in women.

Between the ages of 60 and 64, breast cancer incidence rates are markedly higher in White women than Black women. However, Black women have a higher 5-year survival rate than White women. However, Black women have a higher incidence rate before age 45, and are more likely to die from breast cancer at every age. This is wholly unacceptable.

We must take action to provide women with the preventative services and screenings available while educating them on their risks and treatment options.

That is why, in 2009, I introduced the EARLY Act, a bipartisan bill that became law as part of the Affordable Care Act. Today, just age 41, I can tell you that women need guaranteed access to these tests because of the Affordable Care Act.

I am proud that the EARLY Act was reauthorized in 2014, and even more proud that it has, and is, helping young women like my former staffer.

This Congress, I also introduced the PALS Act with my good friend from Indiana, Congresswoman SUSAN BROOKS. This bill would extend the moratorium on the United States Preventive Services Task Force mammography screening guidelines to ensure women have access to lifesaving mammograms beginning at age 40.

It would also ensure women who have served our country—our women veterans—don’t have to face these same obstacles in getting the care they and their healthcare providers deem necessary.

While many insurance companies use the USPSTF guidelines as the basis for coverage, 22 million women between ages 40 and 49 could be at risk of losing coverage for this lifesaving screening.

The bottom line is the vast majority of experts recommend beginning screening mammograms at age 40. Women need to be able to follow this guidance until scientific consensus can be reached.

As someone who was diagnosed at just age 41, I can tell you that women need guaranteed access to these tests beginning at age 40.

We must also ensure the National Institutes of Health has the funding it needs to continue their progress.

I will continue to use my voice and my vote as an appropriator to ensure that critical funding is provided through the annual appropriations bill for breast cancer research, services, and support.

The story of me and my former staffer’s story isn’t unique. That is why we must do more to support our mothers, sisters, daughters, and friends who are...
battling or who have survived this deadly disease. And we must do everything we can to eradicate breast cancer once and for all.

I look forward to continuing to work together with all of you—my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—and with the advocacy community to help women know their risk, discover cancer early, and access the best treatment possible.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. Knight) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I, along with my good friend, MARCY KAPTUR, reestablished the NASA Caucus.

Last week, I spoke about the 50th anniversary of my father’s absolute air-speed record flight that happened on October 3, 1967. Two weeks ago was the 70th anniversary of the Air Force. On Saturday, we welcome the anniversary of supersonic flight.

For years, there was a thought that there was a barrier present to stop aircraft or inhibit flight controls. Many believed attempting to pass through this invisible barrier we know as the speed of sound.

The first man to achieve Mach 1, we believed attempting to pass through this invisible barrier we know as the speed of sound.

Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager was dropped from a B–29 at about 45,000 feet and quickly accelerated through that invisible barrier we know as the speed of sound.

This tragic loss of a life, still so young so full of promise and potential, is one of the saddest ironies that I could ever imagine. Sergeant Johnson was just 25 years old, the father of two children, and a beloved member of the Miami Gardens community in which I reside.

He and his two younger brothers, Keon and Richard, are proud members of the 5,000 Role Models of Excellence Project, an in-school dropout prevention program that I created soon after Sergeant Johnson was born, to ensure that he and other boys and young women of color have unfettered access to roads to success. Five thousand Role Models members all over the world are mourning his death.

Sergeant Johnson is married to Myeshia Johnson and has two children, and Myeshia is expecting their third child.

I sprung into action after Boko Haram kidnapped 276 schoolgirls in their boarding school in Nigeria. I traveled to Nigeria in my quest, and I have initiated the “Bring Back Our Girls Wear Red Wednesdays” in the Congress of the United States. I appreciate the support, especially from our leader, NANCY PELOSI.

I traveled there in August and met over 100 girls who were once hostages of Boko Haram. I wanted them to know that this Congress loves them and we will never, ever forget them.

Boko Haram actually means “Western education is a sin.” They believe girls should be denied the privilege of an education, and they have killed more people than ISIS. In fact, they have joined forces with ISIS in the region and have killed over 20,000 Africans, sexually abused women and girls, and sends them on suicide missions using babies as decoys.

More than 1 million people have been displaced from their homes and are struggling to stay alive. What a tragic irony. It would be an even greater tragedy to allow the deaths of Sergeant Johnson and his comrades—Staff Sergeant Bryan C. Black, 35, from Washington; Staff Sergeant Jeremiah W. Johnson, 29, from Ohio; and Staff Sergeant Dustin M. Wright, 29, from Georgia—to be in vain.

Nearly a year ago, this Chamber voted unanimously for legislation that Republican Senator SUSAN COLLINS from Maine and I introduced that directs the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence to jointly develop a 5-year strategy to end Boko Haram’s reign of terror. The law also calls for a plan to assist the Nigerian Government, the Multinational Joint Task Force, and international partners in their efforts to counter this regional threat.

Our soldiers were not there to fight but to provide training and assistance to the Nigerian Army forces and the Multinational Joint Task Force created to combat Boko Haram.

Yes, my heart breaks for this monumental loss, but it is also bursting with pride for all that he achieved and would have accomplished. During the few years in which he bravely served our Nation, he received several awards and accolades, including the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and, ironically, the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

Boko Haram is a threat to the many nations across the globe that, like the United States, have committed money and human resources to help defeat this terrorist group, and we must never ever forget that this heinous organization’s daily list of casualties could include one of us, like Sergeant Johnson, Staff Sergeant Black, Staff Sergeant Jeremiah Johnson, and Staff Sergeant Wright.

May they rest in peace.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. Marshall) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, as an OB/GYN and now a U.S. Congressman, I want to continue to highlight October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

One out of eight women will develop breast cancer. Let me say that again, Mr. Speaker. One out of eight women will develop breast cancer.

If you are a woman over the age of 35, you should ask your physician if you need a mammogram; and certainly if you are over the age of 50, every woman needs a mammogram every year.

A mammogram is quick, it is easy, and the great thing about mammograms is how easy it can be to catch breast cancer at its very early stages and give us a great chance to treat the problem.

Over my career as a physician, we have helped hundreds of women who have successfully fought this dreaded disease. There are great treatments out there and ways we can save lives, so I encourage every woman over the age of 35 to talk to their physician about a mammogram. It is one thing to be aware of breast cancer, but it is another thing to do something about it.

NATIONAL WOMEN’S SMALL BUSINESS MONTH

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the National Women’s Business Council in recognizing October as National Women’s Small Business Month.
Women bring unique and invaluable skills and experiences to the workplace. Across the country, there are over 9 million women-owned small businesses, and they contribute over a trillion dollars to our national economy.

In Kansas alone, there are more than 73 businesses owned by women, representing industries such as accounting, veterinary medicine, and management consulting.

As I have toured Kansas, I have met with women entrepreneurs in towns like Silverwood and Emporia learning about how these businesses are driving local economies and the positive impact these businesses have on their communities. It is inspiring to see what these women have achieved and to hear their perspective on the challenges that small-business owners face.

I ask my colleagues to join me now in celebrating these women during National Women's Small Business Month.

RECOGNIZING THE KANSAS HEART AND STROKE COLLABORATIVE

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, though mostly known as the top basketball program in the country, I want to acknowledge and salute the University of Kansas and our innovative work through the Kansas Heart and Stroke Collaborative.

The collaborative has worked diligently over the past 3 years to establish a new model and standard for how to efficiently treat the care of heart disease and strokes in rural areas. They provide better care in a way that saves overall costs and is truly a win-win.

Fifty-three counties in Kansas, with more than 90 hospitals, clinics, and offices, now are represented in the collaborative care model. Not only do they better the lives of patients in rural Kansas, they do so based on a model that is a poster child for other conservative-style demonstration projects.

In 2014, the University of Kansas partnered with Hays Medical Center and received a $12 million, 3-year innovation grant. Now that 3-year window is closing, and I am pleased to say that the collaborative will continue as a self-sustaining entity.

Let me say that again. This will continue as a self-sustaining entity, continue to provide efficient care, and, literally, save thousands of rural Americans' lives and give them more meaningful life after their stroke or heart attack.

As a physician in rural Kansas for three decades, this is one of the greatest success stories I have ever seen, and it will always hold a special place in my heart, as I have seen it unfold right before my eyes.

The Kansas Heart and Stroke Collaborative provides hope and direction for rural healthcare in Kansas and beyond, and it should be looked at by other States.

ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud Member of this House. I am always so honored to know that I know, that privileged of standing in the well of the Congress of the United States of America. There are only 435 people who are elected as Members from the various States who have voting rights in Congress and who have this privilege, so it is an honor for me to do it. I want people to know that when I stand here, my words are sincere and my efforts are those that I believe can make a difference in the lives of all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I called to the attention of the House of Representatives Articles of Impeachment, and I called these Articles of Impeachment to the House because it is a part of a process. It can be a three-step process, which has been used on multiple occasions in the past, a three-step process that allows the Member to give notice. After the Member gives notice, the Member does not have to allow a vote to take place immediately.

The Member can decide, rather than have the vote taken place within 2 days, the Member can give notice a second time and then allow that process to move forward, and the Speaker can then set a time for the Member to give a final notice, or present the actual Articles of Impeachment.

I have chosen to use the three-step process: initial notice; thereafter to come back before this House, which every Member has the privilege of doing and which has been done before, and again notice the House; and, thereafter, have the articles considered with a final reading.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think it is any secret that I have indicated that the President should be impeached. It is no secret. I don't think it is any secret that I have indicated that there will be a vote in Congress on Articles of Impeachment.

If perchance I have been misunderstood, allow me to make it perspicuous that today, there will be a vote. There is a three-step process that we are pursuing. That process will continue when we return. And when we return, I assure everyone there will be a vote.

There has been some confusion. My suspicion is because where there are few facts, there is much speculation, so there has been some confusion about why we didn't go forward yesterday. So now allow me to make it abundantly clear. No person, no living, breathing child of God influenced my decision to move forward as I have.

Others can give their opinions. No one did. I did not receive an opinion indicating that I should not go forward as I did.

I have made my decision. This is where I stand. If I stand alone, Mr. Speaker, I have no fear of standing alone.

If Rosa Parks could sit alone in a racist Southern town to deal with injustice and bring about some form of justice, surely I can stand alone in the well of the Congress and stand alone on what is right with impeachment.

If Dr. King could go to jail and write one of the greatest essays on human rights I have ever read, surely I can stand in the well of the Congress—if he could go to jail—and I can extol and stand upon why I believe we have to move forward with impeachment.

Finally, this: those of you who bothered to read the Articles of Impeachment, and I beg that you would, because that is why this time is being made available, so that everyone can read it and understand why we are going forward, and those of who you will read them will find that I don't approve of anyone calling mothers dogs. I don't approve of it. I don't approve of it. I don't approve of it. It's the B word. If you say "SOB," you are saying that somebody's mother is a dog. I don't approve of that.

By the way, that is not widely published that that is in the Articles of Impeachment, but it is there. It is there for all to see.

So for those who believe that motherhood is sacred, for those who believe that a President of the United States ought not say "SOB," and you know what it means—motherhood is sacred. I never use profanity. But I want you to know this: I am going to move forward with those Articles of Impeachment, and motherhood is sacred.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECOGNIZING MATT BELLINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of my constituent, Matt Bellina, of Holland, Pennsylvania.

On April 9, 2014, at the age of 30, Matt was diagnosed with ALS, otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's disease. ALS attacks the nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord, usually with ALS to lose control of their muscles.

Matt graduated from Virginia Tech in May 2005 and received his commission into the U.S. Navy as a naval aviator. Following the onset of his symptoms, which include crumbling hands, twitching arms, stiffness in his legs, Matt was grounded from flying. He continued to serve in the Navy in an administrative capacity until he medically retired in 2014, with the rank of lieutenant commander.

In the meantime, he moved back home to Bucks County with his wife, Caitlin, and his young children to be surrounded by family and friends.
Although this disease stopped Matt’s career in its tracks, he persisted and actively involved himself in the ALS community and became a strong advocate for right-to-try legislation.

Mr. Speaker, each year Americans like Matt die because they do not qualify for the miracle drugs that could help.

This week, I was rushed to the hospital to see how I felt. Although I grew up in a community that I actively involved myself in, immediately when I heard the news of the shooting in Las Vegas last Sunday, October 1, I knew that my city is and will always be Vegas Strong.

This shooting was the deadliest in modern U.S. history: 58 innocent people were killed, and over 500 were injured.

The 58 innocent victims came from all walks of life. They came to Las Vegas from all over the United States of America. Some were there to celebrate their birthdays, their favorite country singer, a night out with friends and family, and even celebrating their wedding anniversaries. 

□ 1100

Even though these families will never get another Christmas, another Thanksgiving, or another birthday with their loved one, they will never forget them, and we won’t either.

As we grieve for those who were killed or injured, and pray for their families, I want to recognize the heroes who bravely rushed to help: law enforcement officers and first responders, including some who were off duty and attending the concert, who ran toward the gunfire to protect the concertgoers and provide desperately needed care for victims; people at the concert who shielded those around them, gave them medical care, and led others to safety, exposing themselves to the hail of bullets while they tried to save others; people driving by who stopped to help take shooting victims to the hospitals; strangers helping strangers: the healthcare professionals, doctors, nurses, support staff, and volunteers who have been working tirelessly around the clock to care for the more than 500 injured people; hospitality industry employees, who rushed to help however they could; and the Las Vegas businesses and residents, who generously donated their money, time, and blood to help the victims.

To all of these heroes, I say: Thank you. Thank you so much.

Over the coming days and weeks, I plan to speak on this floor about the tragedy that happened in my home town of Las Vegas last Sunday, October 1.

Last week, a horrific mass shooting took place in the community that I grew up in. Immediately when I heard the news on Sunday night, like so many people, I felt helpless, and I rushed to the hospital to see how I could help.

This shooting was the deadliest in modern U.S. history: 58 innocent people were killed, and over 500 were injured.

As a SEAL platoon commander in Iraq during the Battle of Ramadi in 2006, he served alongside my son, Leif Babin, as they led some of the toughest sustained urban combat operations in the history of the SEAL teams.

Seth was a storied and an exceptional combat leader that we can hope to turn the tide for America in two of the most pivotal battles of the Iraq war.

Seth and his SEAL platoon played an integral role in the victorious efforts of the U.S. Army’s 1st Armored Division’s Ready First Brigade Combat Team that transformed Ramadi from the most violent and dangerous place in Iraq to a stable, secure, and peaceful city.

In more than 6 months of continuous urban combat, a number of his SEALs were wounded and killed in action, including Master-at-Arms Second Class Michael A. Monsoor, when he dove onto a grenade to save three of his SEAL teammates next to him. For his actions, Petty Officer Monsoor was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Seth returned to Iraq 2 years later and led a SEAL task unit that included American Sniper, Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle, also from Texas.

Seth’s outstanding combat record placed him in a very special class that included Petty Officer Michael Monsoor, Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle, Petty Officer Marc Lee, and Petty Officer Ryan Job.

Seth epitomized the warrior ethos, rigidly living his life on my sword in combat against our Nation’s mortal enemies. He saved countless U.S. servicemembers, and he helped bring stability to embattled regions of the world.

About his military service, Seth said: It was my honor to fight for my country. The best life is one lived as a sacrifice for others. I love my country, and I love the teams. That is what drove me to fight so hard for America while wearing the SEAL Trident. At the same time, he never forgot to consider myself to be a SEAL but, rather, a soldier for the Lord.

In everything he did and throughout his life he served the Lord from a place of deep faith. He was a very special person. I was proud to know him, and I will be forever grateful for his service to our great country and the friendship and camaraderie that he had with my son and all those whom he served with.

While Seth has left us on Earth, his passion for his friends, his country, and his Lord will certainly live on and never be forgotten.

FEMA CAN DO BETTER FOR OUR FELLOW AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, there was applause from the gallery, and every American applauds.

Mr. Speaker, I have an alert for the Trump administration. The Trump-led FEMA, that is the Federal Emergency Management Agency...
Management Agency, part of the Department of Homeland Security, is falling far short on disaster relief in Puerto Rico. In fact, I think one could say they are actually perilously short on helping the people, our fellow citizens, in Puerto Rico.

It has now been 22 days, that is 528 hours, since Hurricane Maria destroyed Puerto Rico. Hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico still—still—have no fresh water, no power, little food, with many in villages lacking any means for communication. Many have no dry cots or even dry sleeping bags to replace the wet mattresses and moldy surroundings that characterize the Puerto Rico of today.

Let me say that Puerto Rico is not a large island. It is a little over 100 miles wide, not much larger than my congressional district in Ohio which extends from Cleveland to Toledo. The difference with Puerto Rico is the topography, more hilly.

I ask myself the question: Why hasn't FEMA had airdrops of vital sustenance from the very start? Where is that help to these far-flung villages that have been cut off because, as the rains came, they washed out bridges and roads that make all these tiny towns inaccessible? Inaccessible.

Fresh water packets can be airlifted, our military does that all over the world. Why can't those fresh water packets be dropped in Puerto Rico?

We can drop packets with peanut butter and bread. We do that all over the world. Why can't we do that in Puerto Rico? Why can't we airdrop food?

Citizens in Ohio with families and friends in Puerto Rico about whom they are desperately worried have been told that many smaller towns where they have relationships lack relief and any assistance now 528 hours, 22 days, into this deep human tragedy.

I want to place in the RECORD, and I hope the Speaker Management. Our military does that all over the world. Why can't we do that in Puerto Rico? Why can't we airdrop food?

FEMA also needs a better plan. In fact, they need a plan. I don't think they have any plan to immediately evacuate people to the mainland for respite, Places like Cleveland, Lorain, and Toledo, Ohio, we could accept people who now are living in conditions you would wish on no American.

We cannot risk more illness and death. Children should not be missing school after the horror they have experienced. We shouldn't have the level of hardship that has been subjected to people who are still enduring the devastation of Maria. What is happening there is inhumane.

Most of the television stations are down in San Juan, and that is where the Governor of Puerto Rico is most of the time when our cadets go down there, but the desperation is in the countryside. It is outside of San Juan, which is inaccessible.

President Trump, the people of America and, let me tell you, those in Ohio need you to help their families and countrymen now. FEMA can do so much better for our fellow Americans.

FEMA's initial stand for Federal Emergency Management Agency, part of the Department of Homeland Security, is fallow. FEMA needs a better plan. In fact, they need a plan.

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Florida’s number two industry, utilizing one-third of Florida’s available land. Without agriculture, urban developments—in fact, all developments—could not flourish. There is a simple symbiotic relationship between families and communities, and that is, if you can’t grow something, you can’t have a home. Every time you get hungry you think about your farmer, so thank a farmer today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BUD ADAMS

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting on National Farmers Day that I am able to rise and honor a true Florida legend, Mr. Bud Adams of Port Pierce, Florida, and his contributions to the Florida cattle industry. He is an icon in Florida and the Nation’s cattle industry.

Mr. Adams was a pioneer, a wildlife photographer, but more than anything else, he was a true American pioneer and cattle rancher. He was a real American cowboy in Florida, and they are known in Florida as Florida crackers. His name is derived from the sound of a bullwhip when it is used to round up and herd cattle.

After a stint in the Navy during World War II, Mr. Adams returned home to work and grow the family ranch. For the past 80 years, you could find Mr. Adams on horseback surveying the land and the cattle that they raised. He was a strong advocate for conservation and was nationally recognized for his leadership in preserving the land for future generations.

Even more so, Mr. Adams is known for creating the Brford breed of cattle, which is a cross between the Brahman cattle and the Hereford cattle, a heat-tolerant, heavy-beef-producing cow, ideal for the Florida climate. Mr. Adams was rightfully proud of this breed and went on to help found the United Brford Breeders Association.

Additionally, Mr. Adams was a proud member of the Florida Cattlemen’s Association. He served as the president in 1958, and, for the last 59 years, he was always willing to offer a helping hand to the new Florida Cattlemen’s leadership.

Mr. Adams will always be remembered for the impact he had on the Florida cattle industry and his willingness to nurture future generations of Florida cattlemen. He will be greatly missed.

SUPPORTING THE CARE CORPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage my colleagues to support the Care Corps Demonstration Act.

By the year 2030, there will be more than 72 million older Americans. As they age, many of these seniors will require long-term support and services, placing a significant burden on our elder care system that is already struggling to provide and finance services to our seniors.

The Care Corps Demonstration Act, which my colleague Congresswoman MICHELLE LUIJAN GRISHAM and I have introduced, will address this growing need by placing Care Corps volunteers in communities throughout the state. This program will provide essential services to seniors that will allow these older Americans to remain independent. In turn, these wonderful volunteers will receive assistance in paying down their educational expenses.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, this program will help us train a new generation of healthcare providers to meet our Nation’s demand for senior care services by giving our students essential, real-world experience in the field.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will create stronger communities across our Nation by bringing generations of Americans together. I encourage my colleagues to support our bill, the Care Corps Demonstration Act, of this session. The bill number, Mr. Speaker, is H.R. 3493.

So please contact my congressional office or the office of Congresswoman MICHELLE LUIJAN GRISHAM to cosponsor H.R. 3493.

NATIONAL FARMERS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize America’s farmers on National Farmers Day.

I call our American farmers the thin green line because food security is national security. We can never discount the importance of our Nation’s ability to feed itself and what we can do so only by the hard work of the men and women in the agricultural community.

In honor of National Farmers Day, I wanted to recite a poem first delivered by a radio personality, Paul Harvey, to the FFA Convention in 1978. The poem is as follows:

And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker," so God made a farmer. God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper, then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board," so God made a farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild; somebody to call hogs, tend cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait for lunch until his wife is done feeding visit ladies, then tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon, and mean it," so God made a farmer.

"I need somebody who would plow deep and straight and not cut corners; somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed, and take and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week’s work with a 5-mile drive to church; somebody who would bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh, and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says that he wants to spend his life “doing what dad does,” so God made a farmer.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 25 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Joshua Leu, First Christian Church, Great Bend, Kansas, offered the following prayer:

God, I ask today that You would open these honorable men and women of the House to the significance, weight, and sacredness of the work that they get to do.

Remind them that the detailed decisions that they make here and now will not only have effects on the entire world, but will ripple through time for generations to come, making a way for all people.

So gift them, O Lord, with Your wisdom today and every day they serve so they can be a part of causing Your kingdom to come, Your will to be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. 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 gentle woman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD)
come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GABBARD 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND JOSHUA LEU

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute and say thanks during Pastor Appreciation Month. This one is particularly special, as one of my own church’s pastors gave the opening prayer to this body just moments ago.

From baptisms to weddings to funerals, pastors give us encouragement to meet the demands of life. They give spiritual balance to a material world and are spiritual leaders for a nation deemed “one Nation under God.”

I thank my current pastor, Pastor Josh Leu; his wife, Ashley; his lovely daughters, Kailey and Khora. I also want to thank my pastor of 20 years, Pastor Bill Johnson, and his wife, Lois.

Thanks for all you have done for us, for my family, for my community, and for my church.

Like Pastor Bill always used to say: Have a good day, if you want to.

Mr. Speaker, let’s all reach out to pastors and their families to tell them thanks for all they do for us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Alabama). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY’S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

(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, I was grateful to join Secretary Rick Perry and my colleagues, Congressman JOE BARTON, and Congressman MARCY KAPTUR, yesterday, for the Department of Energy’s 40th anniversary.

The goals presented of progressing our science, protecting our Nation, and promoting our energy were meaningful to me, having served as Deputy General Counsel under Secretary Jim Edwards of the Reagan administration. I was also grateful to have worked at the Savannah River Site, where I saw firsthand the hard work and dedicated personnel.

In Washington, I served with General Counsel R. Tenney Johnson; was welcomed by Administrative Assistant Marsha McQueen; and was trained by Deputy General Counsel Eric Fygi, who was recognized as an original DOE staff member.

I look forward to working with Secretary Perry to ensure continued progress on our cleanup missions, effective stewardship of the nuclear weapons stockpile, and continued research and development at our Nation’s national labs. DOE now clearly promotes energy development to create jobs.

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

IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, the Iran nuclear deal is far from perfect. There are outstanding issues like ballistic missiles, that are and should be addressed outside the nuclear agreement.

Ultimately, the goal of this deal was to prevent Iran from attaining a nuclear weapon and averting all-out war. This is exactly what it has done.

Now, President Trump is threatening to pull out of the deal and break our commitments to Iran and our allies, with no evidence to prove that Iran has not complied. In fact, the IAEA and our U.S. military and intelligence sources repeatedly have said that Iran has remained compliant to the agreement.

Walking away from the Iran nuclear agreement that, so far, is working will likely cause Iran to restart its nuclear weapons program, eliminate the possibility of diplomatic negotiations to denuclearize North Korea, kick off a nuclear arms race, and greatly increase the chances of nuclear war.

If President Trump breaks our commitment to the Iran deal, the American people have everything to lose and nothing to gain. For the peace and security of the American people, we must uphold our commitment to this nuclear deal.

RECOGNIZING ALABAMA STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAMES BUSKEY

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alabama State Representative James Buskey.

Representative Buskey recently announced that he will be retiring from the Alabama House of Representatives after 42 years of representing people in Mobile, Alabama.

He was first elected to the House in 1976, making him one of the longest-serving legislators in Alabama history. Outside of the legislature, Representative Buskey devoted much of his life working in public education, including as a school administrator at E.S. Chastang Middle School in Mobile.

While we have had our share of political differences, I have always appreciated his institutional knowledge and respected his passion for our local community. I am honored to call James a friend and appreciate his decades of service to the people of Mobile and Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, I wish James and his wife, Vergie, all the best upon his retirement and the years ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HANNAH AHLERS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, on October 1, 2017, a gunman opened fire on thousands of innocent people at a music festival in Las Vegas.

As our families mourn, I want to honor the life of Hannah Ahlers, a wife, mother, daughter, sister, friend to many, and beloved by her community, whose life was taken too soon. Her brother recently told me: “She was loved by everyone that met her . . . she was our sunshine.”

Her beautiful personality was felt by all, from her family and friends, to the mothers she worked with in her children’s schools, to the volleyball team she volunteered with. As her husband shared: “She wasn’t too good for anybody; beautiful inside and out.”

At 34, her dedication to family and community is felt in her home in the city of Beaumont and across the Inland Empire.

On behalf of my wife, Monica, and the entire 36th Congressional District, we join together as a community to mourn her heartbreaking loss and celebrate her life.

To Hannah’s husband, Brian; her children, Briannah, Brice, and Haley, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We commit to take up Hannah’s mantle of dedication by serving our own communities. Her love and devotion will never be forgotten.

NATIONAL FARMERS DAY

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

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, when you eat today, you can thank a farmer.

Across this great Nation, over 3 million farmers work tirelessly each day to produce the food that feeds our families and keeps our country running.

From Grace-Way Dairy Farm in Lowville to Everett Orchards in Peru, I have been blessed to meet with so many farmers that make up the backbone of our north country economy. Many of these family farms in my district produce dairy, apples, honey, wine, and the most delicious maple in the country.

As Congress works on the next farm bill, we need to focus on supporting those who support our Nation’s food supply.
Mr. Speaker, today, on National Farmers Day, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking the men and women who rise before the sun each and every day to make sure our families are fed.

HELPING FLOOD VICTIMS IN NEED

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge Congress to help the neediest and most vulnerable flood victims from our Nation’s recent hurricanes.

Our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas, is familiar with hurricanes and disaster recovery. We rebuilt our communities after Allison in 2001, and again in 2008, after Hurricane Ike.

Texans are proud and independent people. We take pride in our self-reliance and can-do attitude. However, many members of our community—low-income families, seniors, and disabled Americans—are in the greatest need and must rely on others for help.

Current rules can prevent the neediest victims from receiving assistance they need to recover and rebuild their homes, including denying individuals Federal assistance for being able to afford flood insurance premiums that can exceed over $4,000 a year. That is out of range for most of these folks.

As America’s elected representatives, we have a moral responsibility to act and protect our Nation’s most vulnerable disaster victims, especially our seniors and disabled, from being left with nothing.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES B. BRIEN, JR.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Mr. Jim Brien of Mayfield in Kentucky’s First Congressional District, who passed away on Friday, October 6.

Jim’s decades of service established him as a titan within the western Kentucky legal community. Having served as assistant prosecutor for Mayfield, an assistant Commonwealth attorney, and as a partner at the Law Offices of Neely, Brien, Wilson, and Toombs, he developed an unparalleled legal knowledge and community network which he utilized to defend his fellow citizens and work tirelessly on their behalf.

He was widely respected for his selfless service to his family and community, as evidenced by his leadership in community organizations and his membership at the First Baptist Church in Mayfield.

For all who knew him, he was a dedicated public servant and a staunch advocate for Graves County, whose passion for bettering the community was rivaled only by his love for University of Kentucky football and basketball.

May God continue to bless his sons, James B. Brien III and Joshua V. Brien, and his family and friends, through which his legacy lives on.

NATIONAL FARMERS DAY

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the people of west Texas, home to 14 million acres of farmland, making it one of the largest agriculture production regions in the world.

I have spent a lot of time with these plowboys and cowboys over the years, and I can tell you this: these men and women don’t work our land and our cattle for the money, and they certainly don’t do it for recognition.

But today is National Farmers Day. Let’s pause and pay tribute to the American farmer.

Farming was man’s first profession. Farming saved and sustained our first colony at Jamestown. Farming helped fund the Revolution, securing the very freedoms we have and cherish today.

Farming has allowed us to feed and clothe our own people, and that food and fiber independence has contributed to America being the most powerful, most prosperous, and most generous Nation in the history of the world.

God bless our farmers.

BEWARE OF POLLS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a recent Washington Post/ABC News poll professed to find that a majority of Americans supported amnesty for illegal immigrants. That is not hard to do, given how the survey was conducted.

The pollsters asked to speak only with the youngest adult at home; over-sampled Democrats by at least 4 percent; used the word “undocumented” rather than “illegal;” questioned illegal immigrants, at least 3 percent of the population; and conditioned amnesty on requirements that can’t be met.

Other than that, I am sure it was an accurate poll.

Beware of polls done by liberal media organizations that have an agenda of their own. The American people may not be getting the facts. They deserve better.

ADDRESSING OUR COUNTRY’S NATURAL DISASTERS

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of the victims of the California wildfires.

We have seen some devastating fires throughout California, specifically huge fires in northern California, that have already burned over 142,000 acres. It is one of the deadlest weeks in California wildfire history, already seeing 23 lives perish in those fires.

Today, we will see disaster relief funding here on the floor. It is important that, while we have already passed one funding bill, we pass another to address all natural emergencies across the entire country. We must also have funding available for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in devastated areas like Puerto Rico, Texas, and Florida.

We have had big challenges in this country, and it is time to make sure that we pass a second relief funding bill that will address many of those concerns in the disasters that we have seen across the country.

Shortly hereafter, we are going to see another funding bill come forward that will address some reforms. While some of our States have building codes and are addressing the impacts so that we don’t see this devastation in the future, we need to make sure that these reforms are passed in the coming bill and well.

We have three major bills. We will pass one today. Another one is soon to follow. We have to address the country’s national emergencies.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT RYAN MCCARTHY AND STAFF SERGEANT CHAD HICKEY

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two valued members of Missouri’s defense community—Staff Sergeant Ryan McCarthy and Staff Sergeant Chad Hickey. They are both stationed out of Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri’s Fourth District, and these soldiers are exceptional representatives of their base, their State, and their service branch—the United States Army.

Both men recently received top honors at the Association of the United States Army’s Annual Meeting and Exposition, where they were recognized for their leadership, excellence, and achievements.

Staff Sergeant McCarthy, who is right here, was named the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year by AUSA. A combat engineer with more than 9 years of service, McCarthy has served multiple deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. His dedication and leadership represent the best ideals of our Army and America’s fighting forces.

Another Fort Leonard Wood soldier, Staff Sergeant Chad Hickey, pictured here, was named Drill Sergeant of the Year. Hickey received the honor after winning a grueling fitness, endurance, and combat-readiness competition.
against the Nation’s top drill ser-
guery.

The fact that Staff Sergeant McCa-
(42 U.S.C. 5172) and (b) for other purposes, namely:

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant
to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair
will postpone further proceedings
today on the motion to suspend the
rules on which a recorded vote or the
yea and nay are ordered, or if the
vote is objected to under clause 6
of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed
question will be taken later.
each such month, an estimate or actual amount, if available, for the current fiscal year of the cost of the following categories of spending: public assistance, individual assistance, other assistance, and any other relevant category (including emergency measures and disaster resources): Provided further, That of the amount provided under this paragraph, up to $1,000,000 may be transferred to the Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program Account for administrative expenses to carry out the Advance of Non- Federal Share authorized by section 317 of the Stafford Act.

The amount provided under this heading is designated by the Congress as being for emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE II
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Wildland Fire Management”, $184,500,000, to remain available through September 30, 2021, for necessary expenses for the period not to exceed 180 days from the date of the major disaster, and may exceed $5,000,000,000, That such funds may be transferred to and merged with other appropriations accounts from which funds were transferred for wildland fire suppression in fiscal year 2017 to fully repay those amounts: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FLAMe WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION RESERVE FUND
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund”, $342,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2021, for necessary expenses for the period not to exceed 180 days from the date of the major disaster, and may exceed $5,000,000,000, That such funds may be transferred to and merged with other appropriations accounts from which funds were transferred for wildland fire suppression in fiscal year 2017 to fully repay those amounts: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Wildland Fire Management”, $50,000,000, to remain available until expended for emergency requirements: Provided, That such funds may be transferred to and merged with other appropriations accounts to fully repay amounts previously transferred for wildland fire suppression: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE III
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. Each amount appropriated or made available by this division is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year to which this division applies.

SEC. 302. No part of any appropriation contained in this division shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 303. The terms and conditions applicable to the funds provided in this division, including the cost-sharing requirements, shall apply to the funds made available in division B of Public Law 115–56.

SEC. 304. Each amount designated in this division as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently sodesignates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

Funds designated under paragraph (a)(1) of section 319 of the Stafford Act, as amended by section 319 of the Disaster Relief Fund, up to $4,900,000,000 may be transferred to the Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program Account for emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE IV
WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT IN CLIMATE-CHANGE AGENDA

SEC. 402. Each amount designated in this division as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

Funds designated under paragraph (a)(1) of section 319 of the Stafford Act, as amended by section 319 of the Disaster Relief Fund, up to $4,900,000,000 may be transferred to the Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program Account for emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE V
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. Each amount designated in this division as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

Funds designated under paragraph (a)(1) of section 319 of the Stafford Act, as amended by section 319 of the Disaster Relief Fund, up to $4,900,000,000 may be transferred to the Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program Account for emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE VI
WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT IN CLIMATE-CHANGE AGENDA

SEC. 601. Each amount designated in this division as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

Funds designated under paragraph (a)(1) of section 319 of the Stafford Act, as amended by section 319 of the Disaster Relief Fund, up to $4,900,000,000 may be transferred to the Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program Account for emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE VII
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 701. Each amount designated in this division as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

Funds designated under paragraph (a)(1) of section 319 of the Stafford Act, as amended by section 319 of the Disaster Relief Fund, up to $4,900,000,000 may be transferred to the Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program Account for emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.
Act of 1956 (28 U.S.C. 2414(e)), and any bor-
row agreement entered into between the
Department of the Treasury and the Federal
Emergency Management Agency, of the in-
debtedness of the Administrator under any
notes or other obligations issued pursuant to
section 1309(a) of the National Flood Insur-
ance Act of 1968 (28 U.S.C. 2016(a)) and sec-
tion 2 of the Federal Insurance Act of
1956 (28 U.S.C. 2414(e)) that is outstanding
as of the date of the enactment of this Act, an
amount of $16,000,000,000 is hereby cancelled.
To the extent the amount cancelled
is outstanding, the term “advance billing”
interest under such notes and any other
fees and charges payable in connection with
such notes, and the total amount of notes
and obligations issued by the Administrator
pursuant to such sections shall be considered
to be reduced by such amount for the
purposes of the limitation on such total amount
under such section 1309(a).

(b) The amount of the indebtedness can-
celled under subsection (a) may be treated as
public debt of the United States.

(c) The second sentence is designated as an
emergency requirement pursuant to section
4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of

(d) The amount provided in this section is
designated by the Congress as being for an
emergency requirement pursuant to section
251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and

SEC. 309. Notwithstanding section
19(a)(2)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
2008 (7 U.S.C. 2028), not to exceed
$1,270,000,000 of funds made available for the
contingency reserve under the heading “Sup-
plemental Nutrition Assistance Program” of
division J of the Omnibus Appropriations
Law 114–155 shall be available for the Secretary
to provide a grant to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
for disaster nutrition assistance in response to
the Presidentially declared major disas-
ters and emergencies: Provided, That funds
made available to Puerto Rico under this
section shall remain available for obligation
by the Commonwealth until September 30,
2019, and shall be in addition to funds oth-
wise made available: Provided further, That
such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement
pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Bal-
anced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control

SEC. 310. Notwithstanding section
2208(l)(3) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
2017 (7 U.S.C. 2028), any additional
amount of $16,000,000,000 is hereby cancelled.
To the extent of the amount cancelled,
$16,000,000,000 is hereby cancelled.

SEC. 1002. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY OFFICE OF
BANKRUPTCY JUDGES AUTHORIZED BY THE BANKRUPTCY
JUDGES EXTENSION ACT OF 2012.

SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.
This section may be cited as the “Bank-
rruptcy Judgeships Extension Act of 2017.”

DIVISION B—BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP
ACT OF 2017

SECTION 1001. SHORT TITLE.
This section may be cited as the “Bank-
rruptcy Judgeships Extension Act of 2017.”

SEC. 1002. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY OFFICE
OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGES IN CERTAIN
JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.
(a) TEMPORARY OFFICE OF BANKRUPTCY
JUDGES AUTHORIZED BY THE BANKRUPTCY
JUDGESHIP ACT OF 2005.—
(1) EXTENSIONS.—The temporary office of
bankruptcy judges authorized for the fol-
lowing districts by subsection (b) of the
152 note) are extended until the applicable
vacancy specified in paragraph (2) in the of-
fice of a bankruptcy judge for the respective
district occurs:
(A) The district of Delaware.
(B) The southern district of Florida.
(C) The district of Maryland.
(D) The eastern district of Michigan.
(E) The northern district of Mississippi.
(F) The eastern district of North Carolina.
(G) The district of Puerto Rico.
(H) The eastern district of Virginia.
(2) VACANCIES.—
(A) SINGLE VACANCIES.—Except as provided
in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D), the 1st va-
cancy in the office of a bankruptcy judge for
each district in such section was filled in
such district is designated by the Congress
for the respective district occurs.
(ii) occurring more than 5 years after
the date of the enactment of this Act, and
(iii) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.
(B) DISTRICT OF DELAWARE.—The 1st, 2d, 3d,
and 4th vacancies in the office of a bank-
rruptcy judge for the district of Delaware—
(i) occurring 5 years or more after the
date of the enactment of this Act, and
(ii) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.
(C) DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.—
(i) The 1st vacancy in the office of a bank-
rruptcy judge for the district of Maryland—
(I) occurring more than 5 years after
the date of the enactment of this Act, and
(II) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.
(ii) The 2d and 3d vacancies in the office of
a bankruptcy judge for the district of Mary-
land resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.
(D) SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.—The
1st and 2d vacancies in the office of a bank-
rruptcy judge for the southern district of
Florida—
(i) occurring more than 5 years after
the date of the enactment of this Act, and
(ii) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.
(E) DISTRICT OF NEVADA.—
(i) The 1st and 2d vacancies in the office of a
bankruptcy judge for the district of Neva-
da occurring more than 5 years after
the appointment date of the bankruptcy judge
appointed under subsection (a)(1) to such
office, and
(ii) occurring from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.
(F) DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.—
(i) Two additional bankruptcy judges for
the district of Michigan occurring more than
5 years after the appointment date of the
bankruptcy judge appointed under subsection
(a)(2) of that title:
(1) Two additional bankruptcy judges for
the district of Michigan.
(2) One additional bankruptcy judge for
the district of Puerto Rico.
(3) One additional bankruptcy judge for
the eastern district of Michigan.
(4) One additional bankruptcy judge for
the district of Nevada.
(5) One additional bankruptcy judge for
the district of Hawaii.

SEC. 1003. TEMPORARY OFFICE OF BANKRUPTCY
JUDGE AUTHORIZED.
(a) APPOINTMENTS.—The following bank-
rruptcy judges shall be appointed in the man-
ner prescribed in section 152(a)(1) of title 28,
United States Code, for the appointment of
bankruptcy judges provided for in section
152(a)(2) of that title:
(1) Two additional bankruptcy judges for
the district of Delaware.
(2) One additional bankruptcy judge for
the middle district of Florida.
(3) One additional bankruptcy judge for
the eastern district of Michigan.
(b) VACANCIES.—
(1) DISTRICT OF DELAWARE.—The 6th and
7th vacancies in the office of a bankruptcy
judge for the district of Delaware occurring
5 years or more after the appoint-
ment date of the bankruptcy judge
appointed under subsection (a)(1) to such
office, and
(B) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.
(2) MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.—The 1st
vacancy in the office of a bankruptcy judge
for the middle district of Florida—
(A) occurring 5 years or more after the
appointment date of the bankruptcy judge
appointed under subsection (a)(2) to such
office, and
(B) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.
(3) EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.—The 2d
vacancy in the office of a bankruptcy judge
for the eastern district of Michigan—
(A) occurring 5 years or more after the
appointment date of the bankruptcy judge
appointed under subsection (a)(3) to such
office, and
(B) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.

SEC. 1004. BANKRUPTCY FEES.
(a) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 28 OF THE UNITED
STATES CODE.—Section 1930(a)(6) of title 28,
United States Code, is amended—
(1) by striking “(6) In” and inserting
“(6)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph
(6)(B);” and
(2) by adding at the end the following:
“(B) During each of fiscal years 2018
through 2022, if the balance in the United
States General Fund for the fiscal year
30 of the most recent full fiscal year is less
than $200,000,000, the quarterly fee payable
for a quarter in which disbursements equal or exceed $1,000,000 shall be the lesser of 1 percent of such disbursements or $250,000.''.

(b) DEPOSITS OF CERTAIN FEES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2018 THROUGH 2022.—Notwithstanding section 589(a)(6) of title 28, United States Code, for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022—

(1) 98 percent of the fees collected under section 1930(a)(6) of such title shall be deposited as offsetting collections to the appropriation ''United States Trustee System Fund'', to remain available until expended; and

(2) 2 percent of the fees collected under section 1930(a)(6) of such title shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury.

(c) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to quarterly fees payable under section 1930(a)(6) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by this section, for disbursements made in any calendar quarter that begins on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1005. CLARIFICATION OF RULE ALLOWING DISCHARGE TO GOVERNMENTAL CLAims ARISING FROM THE DISPOSITION OF FARM ASSETS UNDER CHAPTER 12 BANKRUPTCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

``(3) Claim by a governmental unit based on the disposition of property used in a farming operation—''

(1) Any unsecured claim of a governmental unit against the debtor or the estate that arises before the filing of the petition, or that arises after the filing of the petition and before the debtor's discharge under section 1228, as a result of the sale, transfer, exchange, or other disposition of any property used in the debtor's farming operation;

(2) shall not be entitled to priority under section 507;

(3) shall be provided for under a plan; and

(4) shall be discharged in accordance with section 1325.

(b) For purposes of applying sections 1225(a)(4), 1228(b)(2), and 1229(b)(1) to a claim described in subsection (a) of this section, the amount that would be paid on such claim if the estate of the debtor were liquidated in a case under chapter 7 of this title shall be the amount that would be paid by the estate in a case under chapter 11 of this title.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section apply to—

(1) any bankruptcy case that commences—

(A) any bankruptcy case—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking ''unless—'' and inserting ''subject to section 1232, provide for the treatment of any claim by a governmental unit of a kind described in section 1225(a);'';

(ii) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

``(5) subject to section 1232, provide for the treatment of any claim by a governmental unit of a kind described in section 1225(a);'';

(B) in section 1229—

(i) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''subject to section 1232, provide for the treatment of any claim by a governmental unit of a kind described in section 1225(a);'';

(B) the table of sections for subchapter II of chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

``1232. Claim by a governmental unit based on the disposition of property used in a farming operation.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to—

(1) any bankruptcy case—

(A) that is pending on the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) in which the plan under chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, has not been confirmed on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) relating to which an order of discharge under section 1286 of title 11, United States Code, has not been entered; and

(2) any bankruptcy case that commences on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present H. Res. 569, making additional supplemental appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the current fiscal year to help respond to recent devastating natural disasters.

This emergency funding legislation, which will help our fellow Americans in their time of greatest need.

However, with such massive, unprecedented damage, more help is clearly needed to continue to respond to these recovery efforts, to rebuild communities with dollars, with resources, with manpower, and with our support.

This emergency funding legislation, which will help our fellow Americans in their time of greatest need.

We all support those who are victimized, particularly those who lost their lives or lost loved ones, and we will continue to be with them every step of the way with the Federal support they need as they recover and rebuild.

Our thanks go to the first responders, volunteers, and States who saved countless lives, protected communities, and demonstrated the best of humanity; that includes FEMA, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Defense, and many other Federal agencies for getting the first installment of relief to those in need.

To summarize the $36.5 billion in emergency funding provided in this bill, in total, $19.7 billion, is provided for the Disaster Relief Fund, supporting ongoing Federal wildfire suppression efforts, providing debt relief for the Federal Flood Insurance Program, and other assistance that will help our fellow Americans in their time of greatest need.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.
In addition to the Disaster Relief Fund, this bill provides a one-time payment of $1.27 billion to allow Puerto Rico and our fellow citizens to receive the same access to emergency disaster and nutrition program benefits that other States receive.

The bill also ensures that the National Flood Insurance Program is able to meet its existing claim obligations as Americans cope with the tremendous flood damage to their homes and communities.

As we know, the needs of each disaster area are ever changing. Consequently, our Appropriations Committee and all of our Members continue to monitor the progress of recovery efforts as well as anticipate emerging needs.

This will be a long process, Mr. Speaker, and the second package or installment of the Federal support will certainly not be all that is needed over the long term.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill. It is important for the Nation, for the communities affected, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, since Hurricane Harvey wrought historic flooding in Texas, 12 major disasters have been declared. From a hurricane that damaged large swaths of Florida, storms that annihilated Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and wildfires burning in the West, Americans deserve certainty the Federal Government will stand by them in their time of need. This is particularly important after the President threatened to abandon Puerto Rico in his latest Twitter this morning.

Congress cannot turn its back on recovery, no matter how reckless the President’s outburst may be, as Americans are suffering and simply trying to survive. This package provides critical disaster relief, flood insurance aid, and help for communities devastated by wildfires.

Puerto Rico would be aided by provisions to address its liquidity crisis by facilitating recovery, not paying creditors, and providing additional nutrition assistance. Additionally, the bill would continue aid to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands from the Department of Defense.

However, more must be done to provide medium- and long-term investments, including rebuilding ports, coastlines, airports, roads, bridges, repairing the electrical grid and other infrastructure, and ensuring the health needs of American citizens are met.

I urge your support for this bill and your continued focus on ensuring the full recovery of American communities devastated by natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Mr. SERRANO asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

This bill is a first step in helping Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands recover from the devastating hurricane Maria. It will provide FEMA and the governments of the islands with the funds needed to address immediate relief needs and begin the recovery process.

I do want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their commitment to this issue and for taking my phone calls at different times, on weekends. You have been very helpful and very supportive.

Both will be visiting the island tomorrow and will be able to see firsthand the dramatic and comprehensive needs that Puerto Rico is facing.

Right now, 85 percent of the island still lacks power more than 3 weeks after the hurricane hit. One-third of the island doesn’t have access to clean drinking water. Most of the island still lacks cellular service, hampering the vital information to deliver assistance in the areas that are needed.

Federal employees on the island now are doing important and vital work, but we need more boots on the ground. This funding provides them with the resources needed to do that in the short term.

But to succeed, there needs to be a commitment from the highest levels of government to ensure the recovery of all areas that are part of our Nation, including its territories. Unfortunately, given the President’s latest Twitter rant this morning, it seems unlikely that we have that focus and commitment.

So it is up to us in Congress to make sure that the Federal Government doesn’t forget about Puerto Rico, and that is what I intend to do in the days and months ahead. But to both of you and to our membership here, thank you for not forgetting Puerto Rico. This is an ongoing battle and an ongoing issue.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the chairman of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the supplemental appropriations bill.

I want to commend Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and the committee staff for their quick and thorough work to put this supplemental package together, and I thank the leadership for its swift action in scheduling this for House consideration.

In fiscal year 2017, the Forest Service had a shortfall of nearly $577 million in firefighting funds. To cover its immediate needs, the Forest Service borrowed from its nonfire programs, as well as the Department of the Interior.

The bill will replace and repay those borrowed funds and close the books on fiscal year 2017. Specifically, it provides $526 million for the Forest Service and $50 million for the Department of the Interior.

The cost of fighting fires on our national forests and other public lands has increased dramatically over the last 15 years, yet these fires and costs remain highly unpredictable.

Right now the West is on fire. In my home State of California, firefighters are battling 22 large wildfires that have burned nearly 170,000 acres. The bill gives the government the tools it needs to assist local officials to get those fires under control as soon as possible.

We, the Congress, need to fix the way we budget for wildland fire so that the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior can focus on managing our Federal lands appropriately. We also need to give them the necessary legal authorities and tools to improve the condition and management of our national forests.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD), the ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, the past few months have witnessed one of the most devastating natural disasters ever endured by our country. They include hurricanes, voracious wildfires in my home State of California that have killed at least 23 people, required mass evacuations, and burned more than 170,000 acres and thousands of homes and businesses.

By acting quickly on this emergency supplemental, we are sending a strong message that we are here for disaster victims, including our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. But this is just a downpayment. We still don’t have the final damage estimates for many of the affected areas.

In the coming weeks and months, we will need to once again support FEMA’s continued recovery efforts, including in Puerto Rico, despite the President’s threats to abandon the people there. There will be more to do to address unmet needs through the Community Development Block Grant program and other disaster relief programs.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage support for this bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.
Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. McCOLLUM), the ranking member of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. McCOLLUM asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this funding package. This bill is a downpayment on the recovery from the recent fires and hurricanes.

I am pleased that it contains $576.5 million to fully repay the funds that the U.S. Forest Service borrowed last fiscal year to pay for wildfire suppression. We have all seen the devastation and the tragic loss of life from large fires burning across our country.

Fiscal year 2017 was the most expensive year on record for wildfire suppression, costing $2.4 billion. As the duration and severity of wildfires grows, costs will continue to rise.

Unfortunately, once again we have missed the opportunity to fix the way the Federal Government funds wildfire suppression.

Let me be clear: the next supplemental must include a legislative fix for wildfire spending, and it must adequately support the Department of the Interior and its vital efforts to help our country rebuild from the recent fires and hurricanes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. GONZA´ LEZ-COLO´ N), whose leadership in this time of crisis we all salute.

Miss GONZA´ LEZ-COLO´ N of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, first, I thank the Speaker of the House and the whole leadership, Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, and all of the members from the Appropriations Committee for allowing the Federal Government to help Puerto Rico in this dire situation.

On 3.4 million American citizens that live in Puerto Rico and the nearly 5.5 million Puerto Ricans that live on the mainland, I rise today in strong support of this disaster supplemental appropriations bill. They have been focused on Puerto Rico since before the arrival of Hurricane Irma, and then during Hurricane Maria.

I also thank all of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who have reached out during these past 3 weeks to express their support and offer their assistance during this process. For that, my constituents and I will always be grateful to all of the Members of this House.

As you may know by now, Puerto Rico is facing two major hurricanes. First, Hurricane Irma, which caused significant damage on the eastern part of the island. That was on September 6. Then, on September 20, a few days later, we got hit by Hurricane Maria, which caused unprecedented destruction on the whole island. This is why many people consider that hurricane to be the most catastrophic natural disaster ever on U.S. soil.

Today, 22 days after the storm hit, nearly 85 percent of our population remains without power, 44 percent without running water, and almost 58 percent without access to telecommunications. To this date, we still have towns like Las Marias, Maricao, Utuado—they are in the central mountain range of the island—that remain uncommunicated and can only be accessed by air since most of the roads and bridges were washed away. We are talking about more than 18 major islands and 57 municipalities that have just been wiped away. The death toll has reached 48 fatalities, and, unfortunately, certainly that number is going to increase in the coming days and weeks.

This unprecedented humanitarian crisis in our own Nation has begun and is going to affect not only the nearly 5.5 million Puerto Ricans on U.S. mainland, but it is further jeopardizing the island’s long-term recovery.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to tell you that the American citizens that live in Puerto Rico still are suffering in different ways. This is not the time to focus on how and when resources will be withdrawn from Puerto Rico, once again saying that we are going to rebuild the island. Today, 85 percent of our island is without electricity, yet 3.4 million American citizens living there just got less than 15,000 people working to recover the power grid. I just want to mention that in Florida we got more than 61,000 people helping to recover their power grid in just 4 days.

That is not acceptable in our case, and we are still American citizens.

I know a lot of problems persist. It is too difficult to address the issue when you are not part of the mainland, you are not part of the power grid. It is different when you get access and resources to Texas, Louisiana, or Florida, because you can drive or you can fly. It is easier in those cases, everything is by ship or air. That means it is more difficult for the Federal Government to assist directly. That is the reason we got more than 15,000 personnel from the Coast Guard, National Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, Navy, and the assistance of all national guards—Virginia, Florida, and New York, just to name a few.

The Puerto Rican communities in the States and on the island are showing the way, along with private companies, NGOs, and countless volunteers throughout the whole Nation. But there is still a lot that needs to be done as we begin the reconstruction. That is the reason this supplemental is so important for us.

Allowing the people of Puerto Rico to access problems that we never have before, like SNAP, which will provide $1.3 billion to receive the same emergency disaster and nutrition assistance benefits as the States, this is the first time this Congress has allowed this to happen to Puerto Rico.

I thank the Members and leadership of the House for allowing this money.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today telling you that the American citizens that live in Puerto Rico still are suffering in different ways. This is not the time to focus on how and when resources will be withdrawn from Puerto Rico, once again saying that we are going to rebuild the island. Today, 85 percent of our island is without electricity, yet 3.4 million American citizens living there just got less than 15,000 people working to recover the power grid.

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I thank the Members and leadership of the House for allowing this money.

This is the bill that provides for $19.7 billion to FEMA to have the disaster relief fund to help in lifesaving missions across the island for emergency protection and removal of debris—we continue to have a lot of debris on the island—and the repair and restoration of the infrastructure. We are going to be a matter of discussion on another day because we can’t rebuild or redo the infrastructure we did before from the fifties or the sixties. We need to redo a lot of things on our power grid. We are going to provide $1 billion to a very important area—$7.4 billion to have liquidity to the local government of Puerto Rico just to match Federal funds that are needed to these recovery actions. This is the second step this House has taken in terms of helping the people of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, people that are American citizens. This is the second step. The first one was the first supplemental that was approved.

Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman.

Miss GONZA´ LEZ-COLO´ N of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, this is the second step. This is not going to be the last one. We are going to need a lot more help in the coming months, and I know we can count on this House and on this Congress to make that happen.

The people of Puerto Rico are grateful, they are resilient, and they are going to continue to show us the way to recover. It is going to take a lot of time, a lot of resources, a lot of money, and a lot of commitment as U.S. citizens, like we are.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 11⁄2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the ranking member of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, let me just start by saying to the people of Puerto Rico: Despite President Trump’s indifference and soft bigotry, we will be there for the people of Puerto Rico until the last American’s life returns to normal.

While I rise to support this critical emergency appropriations bill, this supplemental leaves much to be desired. This legislative and recovery funds to my home State of Florida, as well as Texas; the U.S. Virgin Islands; Puerto Rico; and California, where wildfires remain ablaze. However, it neglects to include SBA loans for small businesses and homeowners, as we are making smart investments in our ports, coastlines, water systems, and electrical grids.

This bill also neglects to address the devastating agricultural losses, especially to Florida’s $10 billion citrus industry. It is also important to note that, in Florida, this vital funding will not be able to address the public health hazard of debris strewn across our
Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ), the ranking member of the Small Business Committee.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank both the gentleman from New Jersey, the chairman, and the ranking member from New York for their work.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Puerto Rico, 3.5 million of our fellow citizens, are suffering. The mayor of my hometown, Yabucoa, where Maria made landfall, is predicting that as many as 5,900 residents are potentially facing starvation.

More than 85 percent of the island is without electricity. One-third of Puerto Ricans lack access to drinkable water, which will surge the number of bacterial infections and mosquito-borne illnesses.

As Puerto Rico faces this humanitarian crisis, the President of the United States is tweeting out threats to withdraw assistance. That is outrageous. It is an insult. It is an abdication of the President’s solemn duty to protect the safety and security of the American people. American citizens everywhere deserve better.

Where the President is failing to lead, Congress must act, and act now.

The legislation we are debating today is far from sufficient. It is not enough, but it is a start. It is a down payment in helping the response process. It will keep FEMA operating, removing debris and distributing food and water. It also helps Puerto Rico’s Government address a looming cash shortfall.

With the government running out of money by November 1, vital services could be suspended when residents can least afford it. This bill would provide a short-term cash infusion for the government to keep going. The way this assistance is structured under the law, these funds will likely not be paid back, which is reasonable, given the challenges Puerto Rico faces. Some of those challenges have been created by the lack of action of the Congress when it comes to Medicaid.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I rise in support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, millions of our fellow Americans in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are looking to Congress and the administration to work together to provide aid and assistance in recovery and rebuilding.

I disagree with the President of the United States that we are going to leave Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands or any other American precipitously before we have done the job we need to do.

The recent hurricanes have left 3.6 million Americans in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands still without power, fuel, clean water, food, electricity, and other critical facilities. That is unacceptable, I say to the administration.

We are witnessing a humanitarian disaster of historic proportions, and it will get worse if we do not come together as a nation and bring to bear the full force of the Federal Government to assist.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for bringing this bill to the floor to effect that end.

That is why I have called on President Trump to muster every Federal resource, to muster and ensure that aid and supplies can reach those who need them, and to work on restoring power, water, and communications. Because many are still out of reach, we do not yet know the full extent of the damage and loss of life.

Today’s Washington Post has a front page story chronicling the tragedy that continues as of now to unfold in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The island has been plunged into the 19th century.

This supplemental must be followed in due weeks and months ahead by additional measures to provide disaster relief funding and financial assistance to bring the infrastructure of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands up to 21st century standards in order to prevent a repeat of what has occurred. According to a letter sent to the congressional leadership on October 7, by the governor of Puerto Rico, Ricardo Rosselló, the damage of that island is
estimated to cost as much as $95 billion, which is 150 percent of Puerto Rico's gross national product.

This funding package is an important step, though it fails to provide urgently needed Medicaid funding to help the Virgin Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands who rely on Medicaid for their healthcare.

Congress must do its part and ensure that the resources are available, but it is up to the administration to make certain that the resources we provide get to those who need them.

So I ask my colleagues to join me in passing this bill, and I call on the President again to take every necessary measure to address this humanitarian crisis affecting our fellow Americans.

Mr. Speaker, do not send a message to any American that we will turn our backs on them. That is not fair, it is not right, and you ought to correct the statement you made this morning.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, Puerto Rico has no power. The U.S. Virgin Islands has no power. St. Johns is completely collapsed in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The people are dying from contaminated water.

Mr. President, how can you abandon the American people?

This bill is going to provide FEMA assistance to keep giving so they can have it. It is going to give $16 billion to the senior citizens in my district, who have paid their flood insurance, who are desperate to get their houses repaired, to get the mold out after being impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

Yes, I woke up this morning to the outrage of the fires and people dying in California. That is what is in this bill. I can’t imagine that a President would make this comment of walking away, but I am here to fight for those who have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey. We are still suffering.

Senior citizens are out of their homes. We have been evicting people in public housing. We need community development block grants. The Army Corps of Engineers is greatly needed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. We ask for is not in here, block grants is not in here, and as well the restoration that we need. We will fight. I will not turn my back on Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands and vote ‘no’. I will vote ‘yes’ —

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is out of order.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. And help Americans, but Hurricane Harvey has to be in the next bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. * * *

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to heed the gavel.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT), who I believe just returned.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member LOWEY for bringing more disaster relief legislation to the floor today.

I am pleased to see much-needed support for ongoing response efforts in the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and other hurricane-affected areas, including direct assistance to families, debris removal operations, and emergency protective measures carried out by FEMA, and additional activities of numerous other Federal agencies that are on the ground working around the clock to help us to recover and rebuild.

I cannot thank enough all of our Federal and local personnel helping us to get to those who need them. After Irma, after Maria, and just recently, and I tell you, their support is invaluable.

I am particularly pleased to see the subdivision of $5 billion for Disaster Response Assistance for over 60 local governments and with measures taking into account the unique aid and flexibility needed for the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Multiple loans will be available based on different types of losses and unanticipated spending needs, and waivers of amount limits are also helpful. Additional loans to pay for local matching requirements is an important support.

However, I am deeply concerned about the important relief that was left out of this bill and the administration’s disaster relief request last week. This does not incorporate the medium and long-term assistance that played a clear critical role in the recovery following previous disasters like Katrina and Sandy, and the Virgin Islands cannot afford to wait for this to be a higher priority of the Federal Government.

The package does not include community development and social service block grant funding. Economic Development Administration funds, supplemental housing assistance, or additional funds for repair of our water infrastructure, ports, community facilities, airports, roads, parks, wetlands, and fisheries program to assist local governments and with measures taking into account the unique aid and flexibility needed for the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The funding that we ask for is not in here, block grants is not in here, and as well the restoration that we need. We will fight. I will not turn my back on Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands and vote ‘no’. I will vote ‘yes’ —

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is out of order.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. * * *

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to heed the gavel.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. And help Americans, but Hurricane Harvey has to be in the next bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. * * *

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to heed the gavel.
Before this hurricane season, NFIP policyholders were already paying more in interest than the entire NFIP spends on salaries and expenses or funding mitigation or paying for flood maps.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Ms. Lee), a senior member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our ranking member for yielding time to me and for her tireless leadership.

Mr. Speaker, as a Representative from northern California, let me just say that my thoughts and prayers are with our neighbors in the North Bay.

I remember the Oakland Hills. I represent Oakland and Berkeley, California; and just as many helped us then, we will help our neighbors now.

I am deeply grateful to our firefighters who, for the first responders who have been working around the clock to extinguish these fires.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in strong support of this emergency supplemental. Our neighbors in the North Bay, the Gulf Coast, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Texas, they need our help, and they need it now. Communities are devastated, and many are still without power and water. This is a life-and-death situation for so many.

Make no mistake, the recovery process is just beginning, and we cannot forget our Caribbean neighbors who are also suffering.

Mr. Speaker, the supplemental is a good first step. It is a good first step in a very long process, but we must provide more long-term assistance to help communities rebuild and to help them recover very quickly, and we must leave no one behind.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here with my partner, our chairman, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I know that he understands, as we all do, this is not a Republican or Democratic issue. This is our responsibility, to face the tremendous challenge that we see: people are suffering, schools are closed, more than three-quarters of the island does not have any energy, no clean water, need for food, need for basic services.

I am very pleased to work with the chairman of the committee, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and I know that we will both be going to the island of Puerto Rico to actually see firsthand what has to be done, and it is clear it has to be done now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER).

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to travel to Puerto Rico this past Saturday with a bipartisan group of legislators. We traveled there with Resident Commissioner GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, who has been an absolutely outstanding advocate for Puerto Rico during this difficult time. I have a few takeaways from that:

One, it was a sobering experience to see how widespread the devastation is on the island. Every single aspect of the island of Puerto Rico was affected.

Secondly, the full commitment of the Department of Defense, of FEMA, of every Federal Government agency and the Governor that is being conducted in conjunction with the Governor and folks on the ground in Puerto Rico is great to see. It is an effective initial recovery effort that has saved and has sustained lives. Millions of meals and millions of bottles of water have been distributed.

A third takeaway is this will require a sustained active and effective effort.

I want to thank the chairman for introducing this bill today, which is absolutely necessary to bring back the life and the livelihood, if you will, on the island of Puerto Rico. The top priority now is to rebuild the grid, which is absolutely essential to getting the economy in Puerto Rico moving. That is why we need this aid package. It is an important step along the line to do all we can for our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico, as well as for all of those impacted by hurricanes in the South and those out West battling wildfires.

One thing I saw as well: the American people come to the assistance of other citizens in need, and that is true whether it is in Houston, Florida, or in Puerto Rico.

Again, I would like to thank the chair for introducing this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it. Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate my remarks with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) as well as with my colleague from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

On this, my only way to get the work of the Nation done, and at this point in history we have had some incredible tragedies and natural disasters. As a group, as this House, we must act quickly to ensure that the Federal Government fulfills its duty to millions of Americans in need. Whether they are from Texas or whether they are from Florida or whether they are from Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands, they are all citizens. Whether they are from the South, who have been fighting these deadly fires, they deserve our support.

This will be the second installment of emergency funding. There will be others. I know people are concerned that not every State’s needs are met, but this is a good step in the right direction, and I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation so we can get this money out the door as quickly as possible.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to stand with the hundreds of thousands of Texas families victimized by Hurricane Harvey, and urge our state and federal officials to use available resources to help our fellow Americans in their time of need.

With nearly four-and-a-half feet of rain and 130 mile per hour winds, Hurricane Harvey is the largest and most expensive natural disaster to hit Texas in living memory. At least 270,000 homes and residences were damaged in our state. Most tragically, over 75 individuals — the vast, overwhelming majority of them Hispanic — lost their lives as a result of Hurricane Harvey, most of them in Harris County.

Later today the U.S. House of Representatives will be voting on a $36.5 billion disaster supplemental bill to sustain relief and recovery efforts in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

This is not a perfect bill. I would have strongly preferred Congress provide dedicated funds to rebuild Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast, especially dedicated funding towards our region’s flood control infrastructure and immediate housing needs for hurricane victims.

However, this supplemental will sustain the current recovery efforts till the damages caused by these devastating hurricanes can be better assessed. Today’s supplemental is on the top of $15 billion in emergency funding Congress passed last month in the immediate aftermath of Harvey.

The bipartisan Texas Congressional Delegation is committed to securing the substantial federal funds Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast need to rebuild and be prepared for the next big storm before the holiday season.

Our local officials, in particular the Governor of Texas and the state legislature, have the opportunity now right to act and ramp-up rebuilding efforts through our state’s Economic Stabilization Fund.

Popularly known as Texas’ “rainy day fund,” the ESF currently has over $10 billion available for emergencies. There can be no question that the destruction caused by Harvey and the immediate needs of tens of thousands of Texans are an emergency and are the reason why our state has been investing in a rainy day fund in the first place.

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner have already called on the Governor Greg Abbott to use his authority to tap the rainy day fund and help Texans in need and rebuild our infrastructure.

I join Judge Emmett and Mayor Turner in calling on the governor to immediately authorize emergency funding through our rainy day fund and help rebuild Houston and Harris County.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 569.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be post-poned.
TITLE I—EMPLOYEES GENERALLY

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS. In this title—

(1) the term ‘‘agency’’—

(a) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means an entity that is an agency, as defined under section 2302 of title 5, United States Code, without regard to whether one or more portions of title 5 of the United States Code are inapplicable to the entity; and

(b) does not include any entity that is an element of the intelligence community, as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4));

(2) the term ‘‘employee’’ means an employee (as defined in section 2105 of title 5, United States Code) of an agency; and

(3) the term ‘‘action’’ has the meaning given that term under section 2302 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 102. STAYS; PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES.

(a) THE SPECIAL COUNSEL.—Section 1214(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(E) If the Merit Systems Protection Board grants a stay under this subsection, the head of the agency employing the employee shall give priority to a request for a transfer submitted by the employee.’’

(b) PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES.—Section 1221 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(k) If the Merit Systems Protection Board grants a stay to an employee in probationary status under subsection (c), the head of the agency employing the employee shall give priority to a request for a transfer submitted by the employee.’’.

(c) STUDY REGARDING RETALIATION AGAINST PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report discussing retaliation against employees in probationary status.

SEC. 103. PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICES.

Section 7503(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (12), by striking ‘‘or’’ at the end; and

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking the period at the end and inserting ‘‘; and’’ before (1) and (3) by inserting after paragraph (13) the following:

‘‘(14) access the medical record of another employee or an applicant for employment as a part of, or otherwise in furtherance of, any conduct described in paragraphs (1) through (13).’’.

SEC. 104. DISCIPLINE OF SUPERVISORS BASED ON RETALIATION AGAINST WHISTLE-BLOWERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘§ 7515. Discipline of supervisors based on retaliation against whistleblowers

(b) PROPOSED DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the head of the agency

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means an entity that is an agency, as defined under section 2302, without regard to whether any other provision of this chapter is applicable to the entity; and

(B) does not include any entity that is an element of the intelligence community, as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4));

(2) the term ‘‘prohibited personnel action’’ means taking or failing to take an action in violation of paragraph (8), (9), or (14) of section 2302(b) against an employee of an agency; and

(3) the term ‘‘supervisor’’ means an employee who would be a supervisor, as defined under subsection 7002(a), if the entity employing the employee was an agency.

(b) PROPOSED DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the head of the agency

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means an administrative law judge, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Special Counsel, a judge of the United States, or the Inspector General of the agency employing the supervisor determines that the supervisor has committed a prohibited personnel action, the head of the agency employing the supervisor, in accordance with procedures required under paragraph (2)—

(A) for the first prohibited personnel action committed by a supervisor—

(i) shall not take the action described in clause (i) if the action was taken under section 2302 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL REVIEW.—For any referral to the Special Counsel under subsection (a), the Special Counsel shall—
(1) examine whether any personnel action was taken because of any disclosure of information described in subsection (a)(2); and
(2) take any action the Special Counsel determines appropriate under subsection (b) of chapter 12 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 106. TRAINING FOR SUPERVISORS.

In consultation with the Special Counsel and the Inspector General of the agency—the head of each agency shall provide training regarding whistleblower protections and, in the case of the head of an entity that is an element of the intelligence community, as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403d), and the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Merit Systems Protection Board Protection Enhancement Act of 2012 (5 U.S.C. 3107 note) as amended by striking ‘‘section 2302(c)’’.

(a) EXISTING PROVISION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2302 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (c); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 4505a(b)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ‘‘section 2302(d)’’ and inserting ‘‘section 2302(c)’’.

(B) Section 2302(c) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ‘‘section 2302(d)’’ and inserting ‘‘section 2302(c)’’.

(C) Section 118(b)(2) of the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1979 (22 U.S.C. 3673(b)) is amended by striking ‘‘section 2302(c)(1) or (2)’’ and inserting ‘‘section 2302(c)(1) or (2)’’.

(D) Section 123(b) of the Panama Canal Act of 1979 (22 U.S.C. 3673(c)) is amended by striking ‘‘section 2302(d)’’ and inserting ‘‘section 2302(c)’’.

(E) Section 123(b) of the Panama Canal Act of 1979 (22 U.S.C. 3673(b)) is amended by striking ‘‘section 2302(d)’’ and inserting ‘‘section 2302(c)’’.

(b) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—Chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:—

‘‘SEC. 2307. Information on whistleblower protections.

‘‘(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

‘‘(1) the term ‘agency’—

‘‘(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), has the meaning given that term in section 2302; and

‘‘(B) does not include any entity that is an element of the intelligence community, as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403d);’’.

‘‘(2) the term ‘new employee’ means an individual—

‘‘(A) appointed to a position as an employee of an agency on or after the date of enactment of the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017; and

‘‘(B) who has not previously served as an employee; and

‘‘(3) the term ‘whistleblower protections’ means the protections against and remedies for a prohibited personnel practice described in paragraph (8), subparagraph (A)(i), (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (9), or paragraph (14) of section 2302(b).

‘‘(b) REQUIREMENTS OF HEAD OF AGENCY.—The head of each agency shall be responsible for the prevention of prohibited personnel practices, for the compliance with and enforcement of applicable civil service laws, rules, and regulations, and other aspects of personnel management, and for ensuring (in consultation with the Special Counsel and the Inspector General of the agency) that employees of the agency are informed of the rights and remedies available to them under this chapter and chapter 12, including—

‘‘(1) information regarding whistleblower protections available to new employees during the probationary period;

‘‘(2) the role of the Office of Special Counsel and the Merit Systems Protection Board with regard to whistleblower protections; and

‘‘(3) how to make a lawful disclosure of information that is specifically required by law or Executive order to be kept classified and on any online portal that is made available only to employees of the agency if one exists.

‘‘(c) TIMING.—The head of each agency shall ensure that the information required to be provided under subsection (b) is provided to each new employee of the agency not later than 6 months after the date the new employee begins performing service as an employee.

‘‘(d) INFORMATION ONLINE.—The head of each agency shall make available information regarding whistleblower protections applicable to employees of the agency on the public website of the agency without an Inspector General, and on any online portal that is made available only to employees of the agency if one exists.

‘‘(e) DELEGATES.—Any employee to whom the head of an agency delegates authority for personnel management, or for any aspect thereof, shall, within the limits of the scope of the delegation of authority and the activities described in subsection (b),—

‘‘(1) information regarding whistleblower protections.

‘‘(TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEES

SEC. 201. PREVENTION OF UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORDS OF EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(A) develop a plan to prevent access to the medical records of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs by employees of the Department who are not authorized to access such records;

(B) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the plan developed under paragraph (A); and

(C) upon request, provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress with respect to the plan developed under subparagraph (A).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A detailed assessment of strategic goals of the Department for the prevention of unauthorized access to the medical records of employees of the Department.

(B) A list of circumstances in which an employee of the Department who is not a health care provider or an assistant to a health care provider would be authorized to access the medical records of another employee of the Department.

(C) Steps that the Secretary will take to acquire new or implement existing technological solutions to prevent access to the medical records of another employee of the Department without a specific need to access such records.

(b) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a program of outreach to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to inform those employees of any mental health services, including telemedicine options, that are available to them.

SEC. 202. OUTREACH ON AVAILABILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE TO EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a program of outreach to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to inform those employees of any mental health services, including telemedicine options, that are available to them.

SEC. 203. PROTOCOLS TO ADDRESS THREATS AGAINST EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure protocols are in effect to address threats from individuals receiving health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs directed towards employees of the Department who are providing such health care.

SEC. 204. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES STUDY ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF CHIEFS OF POLICE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to assess the reporting, staffing, accountability, and chain of command structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs police officers at medical centers of the Department.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BLUM) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to review and extend the bill, which shall include extraneous material on S. 585, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of S. 585, the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017. This bill addresses problems that were exposed in the tragic case of whistleblower retaliation against Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick, a doctor employed on a probationary basis by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
Veterans Affairs, who committed suicide hours after he was fired for questioning overmedication of the veterans he cared for.

This bill would, for the first time, create minimum disciplinary standards to require that managers who retaliate against whistleblowers are punished. First offenders would receive at least 3 days of suspension, and repeat offenders would face mandatory termination. The Kirkpatrick Act also adds whistleblowers' protections to Federal employees hired on a probationary basis, like Dr. Kirkpatrick. Agencies will be required to grant priority to requests for transfer from probationary period whistleblowers.

The bill would create a number of other whistleblower protections, many of which are overdue. For example, accessing the medical file of a whistleblower for the purpose of retaliation would be declared a prohibited personnel action. The Department of Veterans Affairs would also be required to devise a plan to prevent that sort of unauthorized medical file access.

The bill also requires apparent suicides by whistleblowers to be referred to the Office of Special Counsel for further investigation. Agencies would be required to initiate training programs for supervisors and information disclosures for employees regarding whistleblower protection.

The Senate passed this bill by voice vote earlier this year, and passage through the House would send the bill to the President's desk for signature and enactment.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to honor the memory of Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick and to protect future whistleblowers.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. KIRKPA RTick. As the ranking member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the committee with oversight jurisdiction over Federal workers and agencies, I am one of the staunchest supporters of whistleblower protections in the Congress. I strongly support enhancing protections for the brave men and women who put their careers on the line to speak out against waste, fraud, and abuse.

I fully support the intent of S. 585 to protect whistleblowers who face investigations in retaliation for their disclosures. But I am disappointed that the Republican leadership chose not to consider this measure under regular order.

House Republicans rushed this legislation directly to the floor, bypassing any consideration by the Oversight Committee or the Veterans' Affairs Committee, which have jurisdiction over the bill. It is especially disappointing that my committee was not given the opportunity to address constitutional and privacy concerns raised by the Trump administration's Office of Personnel Management about the bill. That is what I said: the Trump administration's concerns about it.

It is even more disheartening that the Rules Committee issued a closed rule for this bill. They blocked all three germane amendments that I submitted, including the one my committee passed unanimously to fix the problems identified by the OPM.

The measure before us today would change the procedures for disciplining Federal supervisors who retaliate against employees who blow the whistle. It would require agency heads to impose suspensions of at least 3 days for a first offense, and termination for a second offense whenever an agency head, administrative law judge, the Merit Systems Protection Board, a Federal judge, or an inspector general finds that a supervisor retaliated against an employee who blew the whistle.

It also would reduce the length of the notice requirement for proposed disciplinary action from 30 days to 14 days. It would eliminate the option to hold a hearing if a supervisor contests a proposed disciplinary action. It would change the current burden of proof for demonstrating retaliation from a reasonable doubt to a preponderance of the evidence to require agency heads to impose disciplinary action in any case in which a supervisor does not furnish evidence or if the head of the agency determines that such evidence is not sufficient to reverse the proposed action.

The bill also would require an agency head, when an employee may have committed suicide, to refer any information to the Office of Special Counsel indicating that the employee had blown the whistle and that the agency took personnel action against the employee. The OPM has questioned whether some of the provisions in the bill would withstand constitutional scrutiny if challenged in court, and I agree with the OPM on that issue.

For example, the OPM explained that the bill requires the proposal minimum penalties of 30 days' suspension for the first offense and termination for second offenses could violate due process protections. These protections require agencies to notify employees of factors they will consider regarding proposed penalties for findings of wrongdoing and to provide employees with meaningful opportunities to respond. The United States Supreme Court and Federal Circuit Courts have ruled that Federal employees are entitled to these protections. After all, they are Americans.

But according to the OPM, the bill would eliminate agency consideration of many of the 12 factors that were set forth by the Merit Systems Protection Board in Douglas v. Veterans Administration in 1981. The Board uses these so-called Douglas factors to assess the reasonableness of penalties, and agency officials who propose or decide adverse actions against employees must concurrently consider these factors.

Concerns have also been raised that by reducing the current requirement for 30 days' notice of adverse action to 14 days, lowering the existing burden of proof, and eliminating the option for hearings, the bill could be challenged on the basis that it does not give supervisors sufficiently meaningful opportunities to respond to accusations of retaliatory action.

In addition, although the intent of the bill is to enhance protections for whistleblowers, there is some concern that it would be misused to harm whistleblowers. For example, an agency head could utilize the abbreviated disciplinary processes in bad faith to retaliate against supervisors who blow the whistle on high-level waste, fraud, or abuse.

Lastly, the provision requiring agency heads to refer information to the Office of Special Counsel regarding employees who may have committed suicide raises important privacy questions. The bill does not include any provision requiring agencies to obtain employee permission from family members before sharing information about an employee's death. It is unfortunate that the House has failed to take the opportunity to fix these flaws in this measure.

The second amendment that I presented would have protected the privacy interests of employees who commit suicide by requiring written permission from their next of kin before agency heads disclose the details about the death.

And another amendment that I submitted would have made corrections in the underlying bill to ensure that managers who violate whistleblower rights will be held accountable, while safeguarding due process rights.

Finally, the third amendment was the text of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 702, the Federal Employee Anti-Discrimination Act of 2017, which passed the House by a voice vote under suspension rules earlier in this Congress, and also passed the House by a vote of 403-0 in the last Congress.

This amendment would have expanded the protections for employees who suffer retaliation and discrimination. It also would have prohibited the use of nondisclosure agreements to prevent employees from disclosing waste, fraud, or abuse to Congress, to the Office of Special Counsel, and inspector generals.

I expect the bill, as it now stands, to engender substantial litigation that may have to be addressed by the courts. It would, indeed, be unfortunate if that litigation resulted in overturning disciplinary action against an employee who retaliated against a whistleblower when we could have acted today to address the constitutional concerns.

As I said before the Rules Committee, sometimes I think we can get so caught up in our partisan battles, that even when we come with good suggestions as to how to make a piece of legislation better and more effective and certainly come within the bounds...
of the Constitution, we are blinded by what we see: and that is this battle between Republicans and Democrats. Mr. Speaker, and we don’t come up, sometimes with the very best product.

But even with all that, because I am so concerned about whistleblowers, I plan to vote for the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act, which will enhance whistleblower protections for employees at the VA and lead to better care for our Nation’s veterans.

This bill is named in honor of Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick, a Wisconsin, who tragically took his own life after being fired from the Tomah VA Medical Center in my congressional district in Tomah, Wisconsin.

Dr. Kirkpatrick was a clinical psychologist who specialized in treating some of the toughest and most pressing issues our veterans face today: PTSD, substance abuse, and chronic pain.

During his time at Tomah, Dr. Kirkpatrick noticed a disturbing trend of overprescribing of opioids to patients.

Dr. Kirkpatrick had the courage to blow the whistle to his superiors about what he rightly saw as dangerous pain management practices at the time.

Sadly, the overprescribing issues that Dr. Kirkpatrick tried to warn about continued to occur at Tomah VA.

In 2015, a Wisconsin veteran named Jason Simcakoski tragically lost his life at the facility due to the dangerous pain management practices at the Tomah VA. Last year, I worked with the Simcakoski family to pass the bipartisan Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act to improve pain management practices at the VA so that no other veterans and their families have to go through what the Simcakoski family had to.

Although Dr. Kirkpatrick is no longer with us today, his dedication to serving veterans and his courage to stand up for what was right is why we are here today. This act will ensure that no one is retaliated against for coming forward with concerns about waste, fraud, abuse, and malpractice at the VA. The bill offers a number of new protections for whistleblowers and will help ensure that supervisors found guilty of retaliation are held responsible for their actions.

Dr. Kirkpatrick was dedicated to improving lives and serving our Nation’s veterans. The bill before us today will honor the memory of Dr. Kirkpatrick by helping to make sure no one has to go through what he did.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.
in addition to serving on the House Veterans' Affairs' Committee, as the founder and co-chair of the Bipartisan Heroin Task Force makes VA's retaliation against another VA doctor, Dr. Kirkpatrick, an especially troublesome tragedy. When he tried to raise the alarm over concerns that another VA doctor was over-prescribing opioids that may have led to patient deaths, he was aware that doing so could be harmful to his own position at the Tomah VA Medical Center.

Mr. Kirkpatrick's action was laudable. Veterans have been acutely impacted by the opioid epidemic, and his efforts to reduce prescription rates for veterans is not only a good example for VA physicians, but for all physicians in the U.S. today.

Title II of this bill puts in place a number of requirements for the VA to protect VA employees from several retaliatory measures. It requires the Secretory to put in place a plan to prevent unauthorized access to medical records and it requires VA outreach to ensure that VA employees are aware of mental health services available to them.

These and other improvements in title II will not only help prevent the type of harm that Kirkpatrick suffered, they will improve care for veterans to also help make the VA a better place to work.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Ms. Kuster).

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member CUMMINGS for yielding me time to speak about this important legislation to protect whistleblowers.

Mr. Speaker, I share the concerns that were brought up yesterday in the Rules Committee and today on the floor about the procedure for bringing this bill to the floor without full House committee process. However, I will support the bill because it is so important.

The Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act will provide protection for employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs who blow the whistle on wrongdoing in the agency.

As the ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I know full well that whistleblowers are vital to the VA to protect the health and well-being of the men and women who have served our country. Though we have numerous protections currently in place for whistleblowers, those who are committed to silencing them still need to find ways to retaliate, which we saw with tragic consequences at the Phoenix VA Health Care System and in Dr. Kirkpatrick's case.

In addition to serving on the House Veterans' Affairs' Committee, as the founder and co-chair of the Bipartisan Heroin Task Force makes VA's retaliation against another VA doctor, Dr. Kirkpatrick, an especially troublesome tragedy. When he tried to raise the alarm over concerns that another VA doctor was over-prescribing opioids that may have led to patient deaths, he was aware that doing so could be harmful to his own position at the Tomah VA Medical Center.

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Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As I close, I take the opportunity to reiterate that I strongly support the objectives of S. 585. If there is anything that we agree on in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, it is that we must protect whistleblowers.

Many of the investigations that we have conducted have been as a result of somebody who saw something and said something. Like Dr. Kirkpatrick, I am sure, in most of those instances, it was very difficult for them because they, on the one hand, wanted to improve a situation already, but at the same time, they knew that it was possible that they themselves, might be harmed and their families might be harmed. So they make a very, very difficult choice, a very difficult choice.

I am horrified that Dr. Kirkpatrick was so agonized by the treatment he endured at the Veterans Administration that he saw no options for himself. In other words, Mr. Speaker, he saw no way out. I worry that there are civil servants today who are enduring that same anguish.

But we say to them that we will protect you with all we have got, and that is why I appreciate Senator Johnson's work on S. 585, and I share his commitment to protecting whistleblowers. For that reason, as I said earlier, I will vote in favor of this legislation.

That said, I wish that the Republican leadership had taken the opportunities that my amendments provided to improve this bill. These issues of equal protection are nothing to play with because we begin to chip away and chip away and chip away at employees' rights, and the next you know, those rights begin to disappear. Those are the kind of rights that are a part and the fabric of this thing we call a democracy. I think we have to be very, very, very careful. It is going to be interesting to see what the courts have to say about this legislation.

My amendments would have addressed the constitutional concerns raised by OPM—and I emphasize OPM. This was not the Obama OPM. This was the Trump OPM.

My amendments would also have protected the privacy of employees who take their own lives.

My amendments would have added to the underlying bill additional protections for employees who suffer retaliation or discrimination, protections that the House has already approved.

I believe this is a missed opportunity and it is sad. I truly hope that future litigation does not undo the advances that this bill seeks to make in the protections provided for the courageous men and women willing to blow the whistle on wrongdoing. In this day and age, we need the whistleblower more now than we have ever needed them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members to support this bill to protect some of the boldest, most courageous people in our Nation, the whistleblowers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 585 the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017. As Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, protecting whistleblowers is of paramount concern to ensure that we provide high quality healthcare and benefits to our nation's veterans.

This bill authored by Senator Johnson of Wisconsin was named in honor of Dr. Christopher Kirkpatrick, a former VA doctor who served our veterans at the Tomah, WI medical center. Many of us know that the Tomah VA medical center has been a facility plagued with the over-prescribing of opioids to our veterans. Dr. Kirkpatrick was a brave patriot who blew the whistle on these over prescriptions and the harm that was being done to veterans, however, instead of commending him for coming forward, VA fired him on trumped up charges, which ultimately led to him taking his own life.

In my opinion, the corrosive culture within this facility and VA's actions toward Dr. Kirkpatrick left a chilling effect not only in Tomah, but across the Department. I believe that protecting our whistleblowers feels questioned and worried that they would be punished instead of being lauded and encouraged to come forward.
It is because of brave whistleblowers like Dr. Kirkpatrick that my Committee has been able to expose issues and scandals across the VA. It is because of whistleblowers that we were able to uncover the manipulation of wait times at the Phoenix Medical Center; the falsifying of records in the Philadelphia Regional Office; the fact that a VA employee participated in an armed robbery in Puerto Rico and stayed on the job following their arrest; and many more egregious behaviors at the Department that put veterans in harm’s way.

I have confidence that Secretary Shulkin is committed to protecting whistleblowers, so that we never again lose another talented doctor, like Dr. Kirkpatrick. The best way to help him in this mission is to send a clear message to all VA employees, at every level in the Department, and within every level of management, that there are stiff penalties for those who retaliate against the men and women who are brave enough to come forward and protect veterans.

S. 585 builds off of our work this Congress that started with the passage of the bill I championed, the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017, which provides the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the tools he needs to hold poor employees accountable. I am pleased that the bill being considered today addresses changes to our outdated civil service laws for all Federal Government employees, which have become so archaic and complex that they tend to put the rights of retaliators above the rights of whistleblowers.

The bill before us would also provide needed reforms to information regarding VA employees who die by suicide, additional penalties for accessing a veteran’s medical record, and other needed provisions to ensure that we put the needs of whistleblowers and veterans first.

I appreciate Senator Johnson and Representative Duffy for their work on this important bill and I encourage all of my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. O’HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, today, Congress will have an opportunity to vote on legislation that will bolster protections for whistleblowing patriots, while vastly improving care for veterans at the VA.

The Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act is the product of hundreds of hours of Congressional hearings, meetings with stakeholders, and hard work by dozens of lawmakers here in Washington, to make sure that the tragic abuse that Dr. Kirkpatrick faced will never happen again.

As some of you may know, Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick was a clinical psychologist at the VA in Tomah, WI. He was a veteran, a graduate of Northwestern University, and a caring individual who dedicated his career to providing innovative treatments for veterans suffering from PTSD. Most notably, he created a yoga program to help vets at the VA in Chicago. He was known to be very well-liked by the patients he served.

In 2012, Dr. Kirkpatrick expressed concerns that his patients were being heavily overmedicated. It became so bad, he said, that he was unable to properly do his job. He wanted to do what was right for veterans, and as a veteran himself, he couldn’t stand to see how careless some of the VA staff were being with high levels of dangerous medications.

Unfortunately, instead of looking into Dr. Kirkpatrick’s claims, the facility’s chief of staff told him to mind his own business, and to instead focus on his own work. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Kirkpatrick was called to a disciplinary meeting and given a written reprimand.

This type of retaliation went on for months. Then, in July, Dr. Kirkpatrick complained again that a dangerous veteran had not been properly discharged, despite recommendations from a treatment team. A week after making the complaint, Dr. Kirkpatrick was fired from the VA.

He was devastated. He begged for an opportunity to stay, and expressed concerns that he had been given too many complex cases, and that the emotional toll was too high. Again, his concerns were ignored.

That night, Dr. Kirkpatrick wrote a note to his girlfriend in Chicago, another to the kennel he wanted to take care of his dog, and one final note for the mailman. It read: “Please call 911—tell them to go to red barn building.”

He had taken his own life. He was 38 years old.

Dr. Kirkpatrick’s death was the product of a broken system—a system that encourages retaliation against whistleblowers, while ignoring the underlying causes of their concerns.

If Dr. Kirkpatrick wasn’t tragic enough, a subsequent investigation at the VA found that a patient had died from “mixed drug toxicity”, and that Dr. Kirkpatrick’s concerns were completely warranted.

Not only did whistleblower retaliation cost Dr. Kirkpatrick his life, it cost the life of a patient as well.

That’s why I urge you all to vote yes on the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act.

A yes vote means that VA personnel will no longer be able to access a whistleblower’s medical records as means of discrediting them, which a separate investigation found happens far too often.

A yes vote means that federal agencies have to notify the Office of Special Counsel when a suicide takes place.

A yes vote makes clear disciplinary actions for supervisors who retaliate against whistleblowers, while ignoring the underlying causes of their concerns.

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Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting my commonsense amendment on behalf of American taxpayers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion to recommit. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declines the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes. Accordingly (at 1 o’clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2810, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the bill (H.R. 2810) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for the Armed Forces, to prescribe military personnel strengths for civiliancommons, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the gentleman from Maryland’s effort to pass this provision which I previously cosponsored myself, but let’s not let one good bill get in the way of another.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the motion to recommit and support the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Army has a surplus of pistols. The M-1911 A-1, a .45-caliber pistol—the Armed Forces standard issue sidearm for more than 50 years—was replaced in the 1980s by a newer model.

Since then the Army has accumulated stores of surplus M-1911 pistols which are housed at taxpayer expense in Alabama.

There is no national security reason to keep these pistols. The Army stopped issuing them 30 years ago, yet the Army has been prevented from disposing of them due to parochial interests tied to the Civilian Marksmanship Program, or CMP.

The CMP’s proponents basically want to transfer the pistols to a private corporation so that it can sell them. Do we want this to happen? We have the opportunity in this year’s NDAA to stop this transfer of tens of thousands of M-1911 A-1 pistols which constitutes a multimillion-dollar government giveaway.

It is also important to note that this would make our streets more dangerous at a time when gun violence is all too common.

The CMP was established in 1903—just to put this in historical context—following the Spanish-American War when American militiamen demonstrated distressingly poor marksmanship. At that time, our Nation needed a better trained and organized militia, and the CMP helped the government build a broader base of able citizen-soldiers.

Now, the program was an important component of our national defense back then. But today, Mr. Speaker, over a century later, we have a professional military and many rifle clubs, and the CMP is, quite frankly, no longer needed. Congress clearly understood this when it privatized the CMP in 1996.

Now, as an initial capital investment at a time when earmarks are still common, Congress provided the newly chartered corporation with a stock of rifles, ammunition, and other spare parts. The CMP could sell the surplus equipment—mostly M1 Garand rifles—in order to fund its activities until it became self-sufficient.

However, it was never Congress’ intent to equip the CMP with handguns, or it would have provided the corporation with surplus M-1911A1 .45-caliber pistols at that time.

Now, more than two decades later, the CMP is running out of rifles to sell. The reality is that it is in dire financial straits as, more than 20 years later, the program is still reliant on rifle sales to support its activities.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is clearly not the taxpayers’ responsibility to bail out the CMP. To do so would be unprecedented government handout at a time when earmarks have been banned for years.
So what makes this program so special? There is nothing.

Beyond this, it would flood our streets with handguns—the guns that are most often used by criminals. I believe it to be extremely dangerous when, more than 2 years ago, the first attempt was made to effectuate this earmark. I heard the argument that storing surplus pistols, as the Army is now doing, is a waste of government funds. Well, I agree. However, that is not the answer.

There is no national security reason to put these guns on our streets. In fact, an increase in the number of handguns will only result potentially in more violence.

So, Mr. Speaker, we should allow the Army to dispose of these pistols by melting them down, as it plans to do with other surplus arms.

Senate language in the NDAA exempts surplus pistols from Army disposal, but I urge my colleagues to support the motion to instruct the conferees to reject this exemption. There is no reason to store these pistols. There is no reason to flood our streets with them. There is no reason to give an extravagant amount to a private corporation. They should be melted down and repurchased for other military uses, which is exactly what this motion supports.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise against the motion to instruct. I believe this is the first motion to instruct that the House has voted on so far this year and this Congress, so not all Members may not realize that, as the House and the Senate are about to go to conference committee to work out differences in the House and Senate versions of whatever bill they are focused on, procedurally it is possible to have a motion to instruct conferees, such as the gentleman from Rhode Island has offered.

That motion is not binding on the conferees, but it is an attempt to have a vote on an issue that a Member or group of Members think is important or that they can make a point upon.

The subject of this motion to instruct is the disposal of excess weapons. As the gentleman from Rhode Island mentioned, I would just say, Mr. Speaker, I know of no evidence that—as the government has over the years disposed of these weapons, there is no evidence that any of them have been improperly used. They may have been disposed of fully consistent with the law, and that includes background checks and the rest, and the proceeds support safety programs, which I would suspect that all of us think is a worthwhile endeavor.

I would also say, Mr. Speaker, the House has regularly expressed its opinion and its will with amendment votes both on the floor and in committee over the years. We have voted on this program a number of times and it has consistently been the will of the House that this program should continue. As a matter of fact, in this year’s bill, we had a vote in committee and the amendment to provide for this program was adopted.

So, to me, Mr. Speaker, the most important point to make is this: the bill before us is one that helps this Congress fulfill the first responsibilities of the Federal Government, and that is to defend our military.

It also provides the support that the men and women who serve our Nation in the military must have if they are to carry out the missions to which they are assigned.

That is the purpose of this bill, that is the focus of this bill: to defend the country and to support our troops. That will continue to be the focus as the House and Senate move into conference.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I certainly have great respect for the chairman and his leadership of the Armed Services Committee. No one questions marginalized functions. This is a program mandated by Congress fulfill the first responsibilities of the Federal Government, and that is to defend our military.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL).

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak against provisions in the House and Senate National Defense Authorization Act that would allow the transfer of all surplus pistols to the Civilian Marksmanship Program—or CMP—for sale to the public.

Allowing the transfer of this large volume of guns for sale to the public moves the CMP into the retail gun market and away from its statutorily mandated functions. This is a program meant to instruct citizens in marksmanship and promote safety in the use of firearms, not to deal firearms.

The Army has opposed such provisions in the past, and I am here to oppose any NDAA provisions that would allow the transfer of any surplus Army firearms to the CMP.

I join my colleague, Mr. LANGEVIN, in calling for all surplus firearms to be melted down and not distributed to the public.

There are over 300 million guns in America, nearly one for every citizen. We have lost too many lives to gun violence.

The Department of Defense should not participate in freely distributing their guns onto our streets.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. Rogers).

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, the Civilian Marksmanship Program is an organization that was established initially by this Congress because we needed institutions to help people better understand gun safety and how to handle weapons. It has fulfilled a vital mission.

Fortunately, in recent years, we have been able to not have to fund it anymore by being able to self-fund through the refurbishment and sale of surplus weapons.

It has been their mission for a century. These 1911s are surplus pistols that were used up until the early nineties by our military. Since that time, statutorily, they were made available for law enforcement and allied countries.

As you might imagine, most law enforcement and allied countries would rather have new, modern weapons, rather than surplus. So we have approximately 100,000 of these weapons in storage at the Anniston Army Depot in my district. It costs us in the neighborhood of $50,000 or $60,000 a year in direct cost to store these weapons.

What the Armed Services Committee and this Congress in preceding NDAs has repeatedly done has been to instruct the Department of the Army to start turning those over to the Civilian Marksmanship Program at 10,000 a year until the full 100,000 has been eliminated from our storage.

The CMP—the Civilian Marksmanship Program—takes those weapons as they get them, completely refurbs them, and then sells them to collectors. These are not weapons that wind up on the streets. They generally cost between $800 and $1,000, and they are sold to collectors.

To be able to buy one, you have to go through the same background check as any other buyer. But not just anybody can buy these. You have to either be in law enforcement, the military, or an active member of a gun club.

These are not a danger to the public. In fact, this whole process of taking this money, the CMP then sells the weapons and raises their trust fund to allow them to continue to train Americans in gun safety, is a vital mission that we should be supporting. This Congress has repeatedly supported it over the years.

It is my hope that the full body will reject this motion by my friend and colleague, Mr. LANGEVIN. It has been defeated repeatedly in the Armed Services Committee, and I hope it will be defeated again today.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I would just mention many wonderful organizations around the country that would love to have earmarks, but we don’t do earmarks anymore.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN).

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to a provision in the NDAA authorizing the transfer of nearly 100,000 surplus military-grade firearms to the Civilian Marksmanship Program for sale to the public.

This multimillion-dollar government handout to a private corporation is bad policy. It places more military-grade
Mr. Speaker, Congress intended for the CMP to become self-sufficient after it was privatized in 1996. It was never meant to be the recipient of another multimillion-dollar government handout years later, especially not a handout of tens of thousands of pistols which then would be used immediately for sale to the public to fund its operations.

Again, perhaps one could argue that, when earmarks were around, they needed this to fund their operations. Again, there was a time when earmarks are in existence. Nowadays, there are no longer regular order. They don’t exist anymore. They were done away with several years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is clear that I don’t hold with the need for the CMP to receive Federal support.

On another note, I don’t often see eye to eye with the NRA, but I must agree with the statement on the NRA’s website that the Association is “the premier firearms education organization in the world.”

Well, the NRA does not receive Federal support from its education programs, which are widely accessible, and neither do Congressionally-appropriated organizations, not through a provision that is, quite frankly, again, an earmark.

As my colleagues so well know, earmarks were banned in the 112th Congress, yet here we are debating a provision that could potentially happen. Again, we want to make sure that this bill, overall, goes a long way toward ensuring for our national defense and provides great support for our men and women in uniform.

Unfortunately, this CMP issue has been an unnecessary distraction. It is something that I don’t believe belongs in the bill. I believe that and, again, I made the point that we have done away with earmarks, and so we shouldn’t be using an earmark and subverting congressional authority and will through the regular order process, not through a provision in the appropriations process, to help fund a private organization.

Again, there are many, I am sure, meritorious organizations around the country that would love to have an earmark, but we don’t do them anymore, and we shouldn’t be doing a side-step here to give a private organization such an earmark.

As I said, I have highlighted again the potential for guns to fall into the wrong hands. And although the owners of the weapons may be of good character and those who purchased the guns, to fund, again, the operations of the CMP, a private organization, even if they have them in their home, if there is criminal activity that takes place, whether it is an act of violence or if the home is broken into and the weapon is stolen, which happens every day in America that a law-abiding citizen has a weapon that gets in the wrong hands, that weapon is then used in the crime. The more weapons out there, the more likely something like that could potentially happen.

This is what we are trying to prevent. We want to do this in a responsible way. Again, we want to make sure that these guns don’t just wind up in our streets, and we want to make sure that they are melted down like other surplus equipment.

The Army surely does not need to store guns any longer. We want to get rid of them. We want the Army to be able to do that, but they should be able to do what they do with other surplus equipment, and that is melt it down,
Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Rhode Island—our country—experiences a tragedy once again that has plagued and affected our Nation right now. We saw, it seems, time after time, multiple incidents where firearms get into the wrong hands and are misused, causing loss of life and sometimes, unfortunately, sadly, in significant numbers, just as we saw, as Ms. Rosen mentioned, with the terrible shooting in Las Vegas: 58 people lost their lives and hundreds more were injured. It was a terrible tragedy for Nevada, for those who lost their lives, and for those who were injured; and, really, it was a tragedy once again that has plagued and affected our country.

It has to stop. We should not be adding to the problem by injecting tens of thousands of military weapons on our streets that could wind up in the wrong hands.

Congress needs to find solutions to the endemic gun violence that is plaguing our Nation right now. We saw, it seems, time after time, multiple incidents where firearms get into the wrong hands and are misused, causing loss of life and sometimes, unfortunately, sadly, in significant numbers, just as we saw, as Ms. Rosen mentioned, with the terrible shooting in Las Vegas: 58 people lost their lives and hundreds more were injured. It was a terrible tragedy for Nevada, for those who lost their lives, and for those who were injured; and, really, it was a tragedy once again that has plagued and affected our country.

It has to stop. We should not be adding to the problem by injecting tens of thousands of military weapons on our streets.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will support the motion to instruct, and I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, first, I want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from Rhode Island. As he said, we make every effort to ensure that the support for the men and women who serve in the military is on a bipartisan basis. The gentleman from Rhode Island is a key leader on a number of those issues, whether it is cyber, directed energy, and a host of others.

I appreciate it of the Members on both sides of the aisle who have spoken. That bipartisan support is what helped lead us to pass the House version of this bill by the biggest majority in 8 years. That does not mean we agree on everything, obviously, but when it comes to supporting the military, their interests are first, and I think we need to keep it that way.

The subject of this motion to instruct is a long-running program designed to support safety programs. While votes on this issue have been on the floor and in committee over the years, it has never been a particularly controversial program, even though the gentleman from Rhode Island has consistently been against it from the start. But the point is that in both the House and the Senate bills this year, there are provisions dealing with these programs. We come to some resolution every year, and for 55 straight years the conference report has gotten signed into law.

I would like to correct one point, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe that the Army is opposed to this program. As a matter of fact, both Mr. Rogers and I have talked to the Army about this, and they have not expressed in any sense that they are opposed to it. They were waiting to see what direction they are given, and they are happy to go implement that.

Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks, our country has been buffeted by number of tragedies: hurricanes; of course, wildfires going on now in the West. And the horrible, horrific murders in Las Vegas are much on our minds, as are the victims and the whole community.

It is important to take time and to learn what that investigation yields so that we can, hopefully, prevent it from happening in the future.

I just want to point out that there is nothing that these provisions stay or go, that is going to have any effect on an event like we just saw in Las Vegas. As a matter of fact, in the history of this program, I know of no single instance where one of these weapons that have been disposed of for gun safety programs has been used improperly. As a matter of fact, most of these weapons go up on a mantle somewhere. They are collectors items. So it would be inappropriate, in my opinion, to try to tie that horrible tragedy in Las Vegas, or others, to these particular programs.

That leads me to the last point I would like to make, Mr. Speaker, and it is similar to the first. On a bipartisan basis, this House and, indeed, this Congress, come together to support the men and women who risk their lives to defend us. The world is getting more dangerous, and, unfortunately—the fault of both parties in both the executive and legislative branches of government—we cut our military too much. We are seeing the effects of that through declining readiness, through increasing accidents, and a whole variety of things where the fruits of that neglect is becoming more apparent.

But I think it is crucial, as we begin to rebuild and repair our military, that we not let other agendas, other issues, impair our ability to do so. I am concerned, for example, that some Republicans say: Oh, yeah, I will increase funding for defense, as long as you increase other parts of the budget.

I am concerned when anybody brings any other agenda, any other issue, that impedes our ability to support the men and women who serve our Nation. We ought to do our best to support them on the basis of those issues alone and let other debates, whatever they may be, stand on their own as well.

As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, motions to instruct are, of course, non-binding. I think, in this case, the better vote to vote “no.” There are provisions dealing with this in both the House and the Senate bill. I hope that we can come to a reasonable conclusion on these provisions and the whole bill.

But the goal is to defend the country and to support the men and women who serve. We can never be distracted from that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection. The previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The previous question was taken; and the yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 184, nays 237, not voting 12, as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTES OF THE 115TH CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION

Mr. Speaker, the House stands in recess.

After recess, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at 2 o’clock and 40 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to instruct on H.R. 2810;

The motion to permit closed conference meetings on H.R. 2810, if offered;

The motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 568; and the

motion to recommit to S. 565; and Passage of S. 565, if ordered.

MO TION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2810, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to instruct on the bill (H.R. 2810) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 184, nays 237, not voting 12, as follows:

Roll No. 564

YEAS—184

NAYS—237

Not voting—12

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

October 12, 2017

Mr. Speaker, first, I want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from Rhode Island. As he said, we make every effort to ensure that the support for the men and women who serve in the military is on a bipartisan basis. The gentleman from Rhode Island is a key leader on a number of those issues, whether it is cyber, directed energy, and a host of others.

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Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks, our country has been buffeted by number of tragedies: hurricanes; of course, wildfires going on now in the West. And the horrible, horrific murders in Las Vegas are much on our minds, as are the victims and the whole community.

It is important to take time and to learn what that investigation yields so that we can, hopefully, prevent it from happening in the future.

I just want to point out that there is nothing that these provisions stay or go, that is going to have any effect on an event like we just saw in Las Vegas. As a matter of fact, in the history of this program, I know of no single instance where one of these weapons that have been disposed of for gun safety programs has been used improperly. As a matter of fact, most of these weapons go up on a mantle somewhere. They are collectors items. So it would be inappropriate, in my opinion, to try to tie that horrible tragedy in Las Vegas, or others, to these particular programs.

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As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, motions to instruct are, of course, non-binding. I think, in this case, the better vote to vote “no.” There are provisions dealing with this in both the House and the Senate bill. I hope that we can come to a reasonable conclusion on these provisions and the whole bill.

But the goal is to defend the country and to support the men and women who serve. We can never be distracted from that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The previous question was taken; and the yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 184, nays 237, not voting 12, as follows:

Roll No. 564

YEAS—184

NAYS—237

Not voting—12
Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. KIND, Mrs. HARTZLER, Messrs. HOLLINGSWORTH, ROHRABACHER, DENHAM, DENT, and COSTELLO of Pennsylvania changed their vote from "yea" to "nay." Messrs. GENE GREEN of Texas and LOEBSCHECK changed their vote from "nay" to "yea." So the motion to reconsider was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above reported.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### MOTION TO CLOSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON H.R. 2910, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 12 of rule XXII, I move that the meetings of the conference between the House and the Senate on H.R. 2910 may be closed to the public at such times as classified national security information may be discussed, provided that any sitting Member of Congress shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the conference.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule XXII, the motion is not debatable, and the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 8, not voting 11, as follows:

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The vote was taken by electronic de-
This is a 5-minute vote.

So the motion to close portions of
the vote). There are 2 minutes remain-
ing.

So (two-thirds being in the affirma-
tive) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The un-
relief requirements act, 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The un-
relief requirements act, 2017

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relief requirements act, 2017

DR. CHRIS KIRKPATRICK WHISTLE-
blower protection act of 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The un-
finished business is the vote on the mo-
tion to suspend the rules and agree to
the amendment on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

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The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The un-
relief requirements act, 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The un-
relief requirements act, 2017

DR. CHRIS KIRKPATRICK WHISTLE-
blower protection act of 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The un-
finished business is the vote on the mo-
tion to suspend the rules and agree to
the amendment on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

So (two-thirds being in the affirm-
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This is a 5-minute vote.

So (two-thirds being in the affirm-
itive) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
Mr. MARCHANT changed his vote from "yea" to "nay." So the motion to recommit was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill. The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it. 

RECORDED VOTE 

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote. A recorded vote was ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 420, noes 0, not voting 13, as follows: [Roll No. 568]
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RATCLIFFE). The Speaker announces that the vote (Mr. SOWELLA) was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment, and the House amendments, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. JOHNSON of Ohio, BERGMAN, and YARMUTH.

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of sections 221, 551, 555, and 3509 of the House bill, and sections 236, 551–53, 5316, 5508, and 6501 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. CHABOT, KELLY of Missouri, and MRZ.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sections 122, 311, 420, 1061, 1067, 1057, 3505, and 3507–10 of the House bill, and sections 331, 601, 1048, 6002, 13501, 13502, 13508, 13515, 13607, and 14013 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. GRAVES of Missouri, HUNTER, and Mrs. BUSTOS.

From the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, for consideration of sections 572, 573, 576, 577, 1077, and 2841 of the House bill, and sections 731, 1084, 1088, 1036, 11001, 11008, and 14004 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. ROE of Tennessee, BILIRAKIS, and WALZ.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of section 701 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. TIBERI, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. NEAL.

There was no objection.

STRENGTHENING STATE AND LOCAL CYBER CRIME FIGHTING ACT OF 2017

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the bill (H.R. 1616) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the National Computer Forensics Institute, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows: Senate amendment: Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening State and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS INSTITUTE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) In General.—Subtitle C of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 381 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 822. NATIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS INSTITUTE.

“(a) In General.—There is authorized for fiscal years 2017 through 2022 within the United States Secret Service a National Computer Forensics Institute (in this section referred to as the ‘Institute’). The Institute shall disseminate information related to the investigation and prevention of cyber and electronic crime and related threats, and educate, train, and equip State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges.

“(b) Functions.—The functions of the Institute shall include the following:

(1) Educating State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges on current—
“The purposes of this part include the following:

(1) To ensure that training is available for State, local, tribal and territorial law enforcement agencies to develop, establish, and maintain intelligence–focused policing strategies and related information sharing.

(2) Programs to provide training and investigative support services to State and local criminal justice agencies to provide such agencies with skills and resources needed to investigate and prosecute such criminal activities and related criminal activities.

(3) Programs to provide research support, to establish partnerships, and to provide other resources to aid State and local criminal justice agencies to prevent, investigate, and prosecute such criminal activities and related problems.

(4) Programs to provide information and research to the general public to facilitate the prevention of such criminal activities.

(5) Programs to establish or support national training and research centers regionally to provide training and research services for State and local criminal justice agencies.

(6) Programs to establish or support State and local criminal justice agencies to develop and comply with applicable privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties related policies, procedures, rules, laws, and guidelines.

(7) Any other programs specified by the Attorney General as furthering the purposes of this part.

SEC. 3034. APPLICATION.


SEC. 3035. RULESANDREGULATIONS.

“ThedirectoroftheBureauofJusticeAssistanceorhisdelegationshallpromulgate suchrulesandregulationsasarenecessarytocarryoutthispart,includingrulesandregulationsforsubmittingandreviewingapplicationsundersection3033.”

(b) AUTHORIZATIONOFAPPROPRIATIONS.—

Thereareauthorizedtobaprovided$13,000,000foreachoffiscalyear2018through2022tocarryoutthispart.

(1) part MM of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by subsection (a); and

(2) section 401(b) of the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (34 U.S.C. 30103(b)).

Mr. RATCLIFFE (during theread).

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of thegentlemanfromTexas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of thegentlemanfromTexas?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDINGFORACORRECTIONINTHEENROLLMENTOFH.R. 2266

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

TheClerkreadthetitleoftheconcurrentresolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the concurrent resolution?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 85
ResolvedbytheHouseofRepresentatives(thesenateconcurring).ThatintheenrollmentofthebillH.R. 2266, the Clerk of the House of
Representatives shall make the following correction: Amend the long title so as to read: “Making additional supplemental appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes.”

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2017, TO MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey? There was no objection.

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brian McQueen, a constituent and a dear friend from the 22nd District who has dedicated his life to public service.

For 34 years, Brian worked in the Whitesboro Central School District—as a teacher for 19 years and as a principal thereafter. Brian also took his compassion for our community to the Whitesboro Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as fire chief from 1999 to 2002. He currently serves as a lieutenant and safety officer, in addition to serving on the board of directors of the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York.

In 2013, Brian was diagnosed with B-cell lymphoma. Brian joined members of the Barneveld Fire Department to found the Believe 271, a foundation to assist volunteer firefighters and EMTs who are battling cancer and life-threatening diseases. Since that day, Believe 271 has provided financial and emotional support to firefighters and their families throughout Oneida and Herkimer Counties.

With increased exposure to smoke and toxins, firefighters are at a much higher risk of contracting cancer. Brian’s tireless advocacy is a testament to his dedication and his compassion for all volunteer firefighters who risk their lives to keep our communities safe, and it is an honor to recognize my friend and a great community partner, Brian McQueen, today.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, in New Jersey, nearly 231,000 children rely on the Children’s Health Insurance Program. CHIP gets them to the doctor. CHIP saves them their lives.

But last month, Republican Members of Congress made a choice to put on another replacement dog and pony show and let CHIP pay the piper. Mr. Speaker, what do my Republican colleagues have against needy children? Who thought it would be a good idea to put 9 million children’s health at risk for political gains? So much for compassionate conservatism.

Mr. Speaker, CHIP is vital to the Nation’s future. Along with Medicaid, CHIP has cut the rate of low-income, uninsured children nationally by half—from 14 percent to 7 percent. But if Congress doesn’t immediately reauthorize long-term CHIP funding, children will not get to see their doctors. They won’t have access to hospitals, and some may die.

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of our framework for tax reform to put American workers and businesses first.

I come from Michigan, and the last time our tax system was updated, Steve Yzerman was the captain of the Detroit Red Wings. Hockeytown is rebuilding, and it is about time our Tax Code was rebuilt. We have the opportunity to reform and reduce taxes for American workers and small businesses that create jobs for those workers.

America’s nearly 30 million small businesses are the engine of our economy, employing nearly 60 million workers, half of the United States workforce. But our current Tax Code is a monstrosity. When combined with State and local taxes, small businesses pay up to 50 percent of their income to the government.

Polling indicates that small- and mid-size businesses would use their tax savings to invest in their businesses: opening new locations, upgrading equipment, and increasing hiring and wages.

Tax reform is about rewarding work and prosperity for all Americans. Let’s get on with that work.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, Delila is a DREAMer, and her future and her future in this country depends on whether we pass the Dream Act. Once again, I am asking my colleagues to do the right thing. Pass the Dream Act so people like Delila can continue to make our communities proud.

THE HOLY CITY OF JERUSALEM
(Mr. GAETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support our friend and ally, Israel, and to stand for the obvious proposition that an Israeli settlement in Jerusalem and the Jewish people have an ancient connection to the city of Jerusalem.

This connection has been forged through millennia of shared faith and shared history, yet the U.N. is actually trying to rewrite history:

They condemn Israel and call it an occupying power in Jerusalem;

They prevent Israeli scientists from excavating, even though past findings have been significant to Christians, Muslims, and Jews alike;

They have been silent when Israel’s culture has been attacked, including the desecration and burning of holy sites;

Each year brings new horrors from the U.N. Their cruelty and attempts to erase history and their anti-Semitism cannot be tolerated any longer.

Today I am introducing a resolution reaffirming the connection of the Jewish people to the city of Jerusalem and condemning UNESCO’s attempts to punish and delegitimize Israel.

I encourage my colleagues to show solidarity with Israel, to support the President’s removal of the United States from UNESCO, and to support this resolution I have proposed.

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Clean Power Plan. This rule was intended to combat and mitigate the effects of climate change and create first-ever limits to carbon pollution from U.S. power plants.

As we deal with the devastation created by some of the strongest hurricanes in recorded history and the wildfires that are raging through Western States, we can’t stand idly by while...
HURRICANE RELIEF BAILOUT

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Madam Speaker, buried in today’s disaster supplemental spending bill is a $16 billion taxpayer bailout of the National Flood Insurance Program that is nearly half the cost of this bill. This bailout does not come with a single reform that would put the program on the path to sustainability. This taxpayer bailout maintains a program that has resulted in taxpayer-subsidized development and reconstruction of homes that repeatedly flood.

Madam Speaker, why are we not reforming this program that puts residents and first responders in harm’s way? How much more debt are we willing to let this program pile onto the next generation?

Americans in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands need help, and I would have liked to vote for the relief portion of today’s legislation, but the multibillion-dollar taxpayer bailout of an unreformed program made the bill unacceptable.

I urge my colleagues to reconsider the piggybank. We could have had a bill that not only provided relief to hurricane victims, but would have provided relief for taxpayers and the next generation as well, but we did not.

We will get another chance for fiscal sanity in December, when we reconsider the additional disaster funding and funding for the rest of 2018. Let’s hope we make better progress at that time.

PROUD OF VIRGINIA’S ASSISTANCE TO DISASTERS

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, Congress approved the second tranche of emergency funding for those affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, and the wildfires in the Western United States.

I would like to take a second and shine a light on Virginians who have stepped forward to help our fellow Americans impacted by these natural disasters.

Just the other day, I pulled up to a restaurant in Virginia Beach, where there was a steady line of vehicles coming in the parking lot to drop off goods and essential items. Hundreds came together to give money and items for the people of Puerto Rico.

From Hampton Roads to Richmond, to Roanoke, Virginia rose to the occasion. We had soldiers and sailors and coastguardsmen and civilians deploy forward to help in Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. We had National Guardcmen, Spanish speakers, FEMA workers, EMS units, helicopters, drones, boats, and medical supplies, and much more.

We should all be very proud of Virginia’s vast efforts, their leadership, and their compassion. Virginia has never been afraid to lead.

REOPENING OF PFEIFFER CANYON BRIDGE

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

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize the reopening of the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge in Big Sur, California.

After 4 years of drought, my district on the central coast of California finally got the rain it needed, but a little too much. As a result, this year there were many large-scale landslides, including this one, as we see here to my right, which knocked out the pilings of the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge, causing this bridge to fail.

This left a community of people isolated and numerous businesses without revenue for at least 8 months. But over that same amount of time, the people of Big Sur, the people and government of Monterey County, the engineers and construction crews, and the California Department of Transportation demonstrated a lot of grit, guts, determination, and dedication. They listened to each other and came together to fix this bridge.

Tomorrow I will be able to attend the opening of this bridge. We will be able to show our pride for the record pace of construction, of government working together to get things done, the businesses that struggled but remained open in Big Sur during this time, and, most importantly, we will show our pride in the people of Big Sur and the communities on the central coast of California.

UNIFIED SPAIN

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

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Spain Caucus to discuss why a unified Spain is both legally, culturally, and economically justified, and how it best serves United States foreign policy interests.

First, the illegal Catalan independence referendum was held in violation of the Spanish constitution and in defiance of the federal government. Catalunya, as an autonomous region within Spain, enjoys many rights and privileges under the Spanish constitution, but self-determination is clearly not one of them.

The historical and cultural ties between Spain and Catalunya are strong. Spain and Catalunya have a shared history, and both have been ruled by the monarchs of Ferdinand and Isabel over 500 years ago, and later, under the governance of the Kingdom of Aragon, similar to how
it is a part of the Kingdom of Spain today.

Because of this history, Catalunya has a pluralistic society, with a mix of Spaniards and Catalans, and where both cultures’ languages are regularly spoken.

Lastly, the deep economic ties Catalunya shares with Spain are evidence that Spain should be united. Catalunya relies heavily on Madrid for its financial sector, infrastructure, and its social security deficit.

A united Spain is a friend of the United States. A strong, united Spain has been a reliable ally in fighting the spread of Islamic extremism. Our relationship with Spain is invaluable to our foreign policy interests, and we need to speak out on behalf of a unified Spain.

HONORING 50TH COMPANY, INFANTRY OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL CLASS OC 24–69

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a special group worthy of our recognition for the sacrifices they have made for our country.

This month, the surviving members of the 50th Company, Infantry Officer Candidate School’s Class OC 24–69 will have their first reunion at Fort Benning, 48 years after pinning on the gold bars of second lieutenants.

The men in the 50th Company came from 42 different States, representing all walks of life and backgrounds. They accepted the risks and volunteered to become Army officers at the height of the Vietnam war.

After graduation, over half received orders to Vietnam. Two classmates became Army officers at the height of the Vietnam war.

At the reunion in Fort Benning, these men will renew the bonds forged 48 years ago. I urge you to reflect on their sacrifices and express our gratitude and appreciation for their service.

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CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH DENT

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, today rise to recognize the tremendous work of Elizabeth Dent, who has been an invaluable part of the staff of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture for the past 3 years. Elizabeth came to work with the subcommittee chair after working several years with a former appropriator, Congressman Jack Kingston.

Elizabeth has been a valuable member of the subcommittee team. She is diligent, dedicated, and keen to details, something that is very important to the appropriations work.

She is always eager to volunteer and lend a hand to accomplish whatever tasks may be needed in assisting in the agricultural community. She has become an integral part of the team, and she will be greatly missed on our subcommittee.

Elizabeth will be leaving the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture to work for the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee. I thank her for her outstanding work. The Senate Appropriations Committee is very fortunate to have her work on the staff. We wish her all the very best, and we look forward to working with her in her new capacity.

ACA BIRTH CONTROL MANDATE

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in defense of every woman’s access to healthcare and right to make her own personal healthcare decisions in private consultation with her physician and her family.

Last week, President Trump issued a shameful executive order that will allow employers to deny women insurance coverage for contraception. This rolls back progress under the Affordable Care Act that required insurance companies to cover birth control without a copay.

This is outrageous. Employers have no role dictating what healthcare women can and cannot have. That is a decision between a woman and her doctor.

Nearly 9 in 10 women will use birth control at some point in their lives. This order is a direct attack on their healthcare.

President Trump tried to sneak this change through, announcing it on a Friday afternoon before a long weekend. Well, we noticed and so did millions of other women that this order will adversely impact.

We are paying attention and we are not about to stop speaking out and working to protect women’s access to healthcare.

FALLEN TTU OFFICER FLOYD EAST, JR.

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

Mr. AARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen hero, Officer Floyd East, Jr. Officer East was a police officer for the Texas Tech University Police Department. On Monday, October 9, Officer East completed his final patrol to protect and serve.

Officer East has been described by friends as someone you could rely on and someone who was always there to help or just listen. No doubt, he represented the very best of the values of Texas Tech.

His loss reminds us that policemen and -women put their lives at risk every day. He left behind a loving wife, Carmen, who generously allowed him to dedicate his life to keeping us safe.

To his children, Ana and Monica: Our prayers are with you. Scripture tells us that “there’s no greater love than for a man to lay down his life for his friends.” That was God’s greatest gift to this world and that was your dad’s greatest gift. Our Red Raider family is behind you, and we will never forget Floyd and how he held the thin blue line, God bless your family.

ALDO’S STORY

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

Mr. SCHRADE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Aldo Solano of Woodburn, Oregon.

Aldo was only 6 years old when his family first immigrated to the United States from Colima, Mexico. Economic distress, corruption, and a lack of opportunities pushed his parents to leave everything behind and head to the Willamette Valley. They wanted a different life for Aldo and his siblings, one where they could go to school and pursue their dreams.

Aldo has done just that. At Woodburn High School, he served as vice president of his class. While earning good grades, he participated in sports and took the opportunity to volunteer at the 4-H Latino Summer Camp, encouraging young people to enter the STEM field.

After graduating, Aldo became a DACA recipient. Through DACA, he has been able to work for the Latino Health Coalition, where he worked to pass Cover All Kids, a state law to ensure access to healthcare for every child in Oregon. This winter, he will begin working towards a public health degree at Portland State University.

Without DACA, none of this would have been possible for Aldo. Young people across the country are relying on us. We need to pass a clean Dream Act that will recognize Aldo and over 800,000 DREAMers as equal members of our community.

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS MONTH

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

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize all pharmacists across America to ensure that Americans have access to important and often lifesaving medications.

As the only pharmacist currently serving in Congress, I am proud to recognize all pharmacists across America to ensure that Americans have access to important and often lifesaving medications.

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As the only pharmacist currently serving in Congress, I am proud to recognize all pharmacists across America to ensure that Americans have access to important and often lifesaving medications.
carefully counsel patients on prescriptions and over-the-counter medications to help heal sickness and reduce pain. Pharmacists are also considered one of the top two most trusted professions in America.

During October, as well as throughout the year, I encourage everyone to visit your pharmacist, ask questions about your prescriptions, receive advice about preventative care, and get to know the person who provides your medicine and works to keep you healthy.

Thank you, fellow pharmacists, for all that you do. Please know that your work is appreciated and you are an important part of keeping our Nation healthy.

GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

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. Madam Speaker, we are now a few days after the most violent and largest massacre in modern American history in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Many that you encounter has a story, amazingly, about who was there during that week. They obviously were not at that site, but they may have been in Las Vegas for work or otherwise. It will be on the minds of Americans for a long time.

Just this past Monday, I stood with Sheriff Acevedo, my chief of police, my sheriff, my constable; mothers who have lost loved ones and children; and a woman who had been abused and her significant other carried around a heavy weapon to scare her, threaten her, and abuse her.

Why we can’t have gun safety regulation, I don’t know, but I believe after Sandy Hook and after Pulse nightclub, we must pass real gun safety legislation. We must ban assault weapons, ban assault on women who are dealing with domestic violence, ban assault on our neighborhoods. It makes perfect sense, if you want to give people more choices.

Also, short-term, limited-duration health insurance plans, which allow people to have, if they are in between jobs, instead of limiting it to just 3 months, perhaps just a little longer. In the interim, while they are in between jobs, they have choices that they could afford with the elements in the plan they would like.

Finally, health reimbursement arrangements, which make it where employees—if they want to provide benefits to their—employers to their employees, that they can reimburse for more issues in their plan, such as helping them pay for their premiums, if that is how the employee wishes to have that.

Flexibility is what we need; choices are what we need; and then Congress needs to pass something in the Senate so we can bring it back and give this to the American people.

RESPONSE TO THE REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TENNEY). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, before my colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus and I begin our discussion about the response to the Republican tax plan, I wish to take a moment to express our sympathy for the people of northern California who are facing devastating and destructive wildfires.

I represent a Silicon Valley district where hundreds of our neighbors to our north and south remain missing. Tens of thousands are suffering at this very moment from the destruction of more than 150,000 acres and counting, as well as an increasing number of family homes and businesses. It seems that our Nation has been struck by one national tragedy after another. Our prayers are with the California residents, and I know that everyone in this body is committed to their relief.

I also, on a personal note, want to recognize Liz Bartolomeo, who has been hit by one of the most destructive fires in the state of California, and worked very hard with the Congressional Progressive Caucus. She is going on to work for Democracy Alliance. I wish her very well in her next steps, and I thank her for her service to our office and to the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

The purpose of this hour is to discuss the Republican economic plan, and I want to commend President Trump’s decision this week with executive orders to create jobs, the way to achieve that is by giving tax cuts to corporations, giving tax cuts to the investors in stock, giving tax cuts to the executives who already get large compensation packages; and that if we do that, if we cut corporate tax rates at a time when corporations are making record profits, if we give more tax breaks to those who are investing in our stock market, if we give more tax breaks to those who get dividend checks, then somehow, magically, people making 30 thousand or 40 thousand and will see their wages go up, that somehow we are going to get many more jobs in places across this country.

And the question is why would we believe that? Why would we think the trickle-down economics, which has failed time and again, is going to help? Does someone really believe, in my district, who is a construction worker or a nurse or a teacher, that lowering the corporate tax rate is going to accomplish anything? That is bottom-up economics, and that is actually what is going to grow the economy.

It is not a matter of just the economy. It is a matter of common sense. Think about it. Who do you think is making $5 million bucks, then some-
going to go into the local economy, and it is going to actually create jobs. That is what is going to grow the economy. That is our only shot of getting 3 percent economic growth if we invest in actual workers, the people doing the work.

By the way, they haven’t gotten a raise for the past 40 years. Since 1979, wages in this country have stagnated, and we heard the same thing: just cut the taxes on the top and the wages will go up. But the wages haven’t gone up.

Guess who promised to help, finally, those forgotten Americans? Guess who promised to help them? President Donald Trump. That was his whole campaign. The stock market is doing great, but you are being left behind. And I am going to come to the White House and I am not going to give the keys to the Wall Street bankers. I am going to actually worry about raising wages.

His biggest disappointment as President is that he went back on the promise that he made to ordinary Americans, and we know that he can do it if he wants to do it, because Wall Street advisers: No, no more tax breaks for Wall Street. I want the tax credits going to Main Street, and I can do that at a third of the cost of the plan that you are selling to me and the American people.

This is the debate in this country, supply-side economics that believes the greatness of America is with the investor class and the CEO class and the elite, and the stock market is doing great, but the coast is doing great, but you are being left behind. The coasts are doing great, but you have been left behind. And I am going to come to the White House and I am not going to give the keys to the Wall Street bankers. I am going to actually worry about raising wages.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN), my distinguished colleague, who is not just a constitutional law professor and a leading thinker on issues of jurisprudence but also someone who has to do is tell Wall Street advisers: No, no more tax breaks for Wall Street. I want the tax credits going to Main Street, and I can do that at a third of the cost of the plan that you are selling to me and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN), my distinguished colleague, who is not just a constitutional law professor and a leading thinker on issues of jurisprudence but also someone who has to do is tell Wall Street advisers: No, no more tax breaks for Wall Street. I want the tax credits going to Main Street, and I can do that at a third of the cost of the plan that you are selling to me and the American people.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman KANNA for her leadership in putting this together.

Madam Speaker, I want to invoke a great Republican member of this body who went on to become President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, who spoke of “government of the people, by the people, for the people.”

The tax plan that has been presented to us by the GOP in the 21st century is government of the 1 percent, by the 1 percent, for the 1 percent. It was written by a billionaire Cabinet of a billionaire President for the richest 1 percent of taxpayers in the country.

The same policy experts whose healthcare plan was to throw 30 million Americans off their health insurance and reduce women’s access to complete reproductive services now have a tax plan to sell America. But read the fine print first. In fact, you don’t even need to read the fine print. You just have to look at the headlines.

Under this plan, 80 percent of the total tax cut will end up going to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans who earn more than $900,000 a year. Let me repeat that: 80 percent of the money that will be saved in this tax cut will go to Americans earning $900,000 a year. That is astounding.

In the meantime, tens of millions of middle class families making between $50,000 and $150,000 a year will pay higher taxes than they were paying before. And check this out. The very wealthiest sliver of Americans, those who make at least $5 million a year, and, on average, $10 million a year, would get an average tax cut of over $1 million. That is a $1 million tax cut for millionaires.

The slogan for this plan should be: The Trump tax cut, because the rich just aren’t rich enough and everybody else is doing just fine.

Madam Speaker, if you know anyone who makes $15 million a year, please ask them to write me and tell me what they are doing with their extra $1 million. Maybe they will send it to a Swiss bank account or to the Bahamas; maybe they will run for Congress; maybe they will move to Australia, where a lot of the superrich are apparently now buying property in order to have a getaway plan from the escalating crises of climate change in North America.

So the billionaires make out like bandits. What about the rest of us? How much will this plan cost us?

Well, the bipartisan Committee for Responsible Federal Budget’s initial analysis shows that the GOP plan would add $2.2 trillion to deficits over the next decade. This is the result of cutting taxes for the wealthy by a staggering $5.8 trillion and then adding new tax revenue of only $3.6 trillion, so we are going to be adding $2.2 trillion in deficits.

What about the deficit hawks? They are an endangered species, as Congresswoman Pelosi now says. Actually, they have mutated into a completely new species. We don’t have deficit hawks anymore. We have deficit ostriches. They are willing to squawk and strut and kick dust like hawks when there is a Democrat in the White House, but when a budget-busting, deficit-ballooning, debt-deepening Republican occupies the White House and propels inflation of the deficit and the national debt, they panic and run away from thedeck with the most breathtaking fiscal recklessness anyone has ever seen, they become deficit chickenhawks and transmogrify into deficit doves, and then finally turn into fast scurrying deficit ostriches and simply bury their heads deep in the sand and let the debt and the deficits climb up all around them.

Speaker PAUL RYAN, when he was campaigning with Mitt Romney, said the national debt is threatening jobs today, it is threatening our prosperity today. Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL, while calling for changes to the Affordable Care Act in 2013, told supporters only one thing can save this country, and that is to get a handle on the deficit and debt issue.

Well, that was then, this is now, as they say. Now the GOP leaders are twisting arms to vote for a tax plan that will blow up the deficit and drive our children and our grandchildren’s generations deeply into debt.

What happened to all of the fine speeches we heard about how we owe it to our kids not to engage in deficit spending? What happened to the magnificent oratory about how the national debt is a moral crisis?

Can any of the Members of Congress, who built their careers on the principle of deficit reduction and ending the debt, explain why it is responsible today to add more than $2 trillion to our national deficit?

We await an answer, Madam Speaker. Why are they doing this to America? Who are they helping? Who are they helping? Who wins with this assault on the common good?

Well, let’s see. Donald Trump and his family certainly do. The only President who ever bragged that he would be able to make money by running for President is showing what a good job he is actually doing at achieving his objective.

A New York Times analysis shows that Trump and his family could save more than $1 billion under this plan. Those on Wall Street, like the Trumps, and his family could save more than $1 billion under the tax proposal that has been sent to us in Congress. Of course, it is impossible to know precisely how much would be saved because President Trump, despite his campaign promise to release his tax returns, if elected, still refuses to release his tax returns, which constitutes not only a radical breach of faith with the people, but a radical breach from past practices of other Presidents for the last half century. Congress has only their tax records for the rest of us to see.

But let’s see what we can do based on information we know. This proposal
would eliminate the estate tax, which would generate massive tax savings for President Trump and his family. If his assets, reportedly valued at $2.86 billion, were transferred after his death under today’s rules, his estate would be taxed around the 40 percent level, still leaving his heirs with more than $1 billion.

Repealing the Federal estate tax, which they propose to do, would save his family $1.1 billion, at least, in estate tax costs.

Why would we do this?
The Founders of our country were passionately opposed to hereditary wealth, just like they were passionately opposed to hereditary government. They thought it was dangerous to have the intergenerational transmission of wealth and great fortunes like that. They said that it would cause idleness and irresponsibility in the heirs to great wealth, and they would be able to convert their wealth not just into bigger estates, bigger purchases, bigger houses, but actually in the public offices. They had a very profound democratic critique of that kind of intergenerational wealth inequality, because, at a certain point, you can buy enough houses, you can have bought enough jets, and now you want a governorship, you want the Presidency, you want a Senate seat. In a democracy, we need to have much reduced levels of inequality that are being proposed under this idea of abolishing the estate tax.

They also are proposing to abolish the alternative minimum tax, which is the only reason that President Trump paid any taxes in the one year over the last two decades that we know he paid taxes in, in 2005. Remember, somebody mysteriously leaked information about that year to the Rachel Maddow show, and it turned out that the President paid taxes because of the alternative minimum tax, which says that if you can’t push a good joke too far, you can only use all of your deductions and allowances, and so on, up to a certain point. If you are at a certain place, in terms of your wealth, you have got to pay something.

Well, The New York Times now estimates that the GOP tax plan to repeal the alternative minimum tax would save the President at least $31.3 million. He would not have had to pay in that one year that we know where he paid taxes in 2005 because of the AMT. Because of the AMT, he has elected to have roads and highways and airports and schools and universities. That is what it means to be a citizen. People don’t care, as long as there is a basic sense in the public that everybody is participating and we are not getting ripped off.

And I am terrified that if they succeed in barreling this plan through Congress, that it is going to spread more cynicism and more disenchantment and more negativity about the tax system and about the government, and that because of the aftereffects of escalating crises of climate change, which are all around us, our people are suffering. We have millions of people in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands tonight who have no access to power, no access to clean water. We have people in Florida and Texas and Mississippi and Louisiana who are still recovering from the last hurricanes. We have Californians, many of whom have died already, who are struggling against the threat of climate change.

Now is a point when we need a tax system that brings our people together, that says that wealthier people can pay more because they are wealthy, but everybody is going to pay their share, and we are all going to participate together. That is the tax system we should be looking for, a tax system where we get rid of all of the special interest inflicted deductions and allowances and loopholes and rip-offs that are built into the system, where it is simplified.

In the European countries, you can pay your taxes in about 10 or 15 minutes, and you don’t have to go to the multibillion-dollar tax preparation industry, or go find a law firm to do it. We can simplify our taxes if we decide to get rid of all of the special interest loopholes. And wealthy people can pay more because they get more out of being part of this society, and they use more of the infrastructure of the country, instead of giving it to everybody else, instead of trying to rip off the system by paying nothing.

Madam Speaker, now is the time when we need the wisest and most principled leadership to get us through the accumulating crises of the time. This tax plan is totally irresponsible. I hope that it will be withdrawn and we can work together across the aisle on a bipartisan plan that will represent the best values of government of the people, by the people, for the people.

Madam Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague from California for allowing me this opportunity.
Mr. GOMERT. Madam Speaker, it has been an interesting number of days here this week. We continue to have hearings and fight for good legislation, and we continue to hear from people back home that we simply must at least work on our promises to repeal ObamaCare and bring their health insurance into a realm that is affordable.

They realize they were lied to. They will never get the insurance they liked back. They would like to try to get their doctors back.

One of the interesting things about the design of the devious architect of ObamaCare is the guy who bragged later: Yeah, we knew you couldn’t keep your insurance, you couldn’t keep your doctor, but we had to say that to sell it.

They actually incentivized the handful of insurance companies not to put the best cancer healthcare providers in their network. ObamaCare actually incentivizes insurance companies not to put the best heart healthcare providers or, in fact, any chronic, expensive disease that the insurance companies do not want. It is another reason the design of ObamaCare—and I think it was intentional—basically were penalized if they put the very best cancer treaters, heart treaters in their network.

So there actually are indications that insurance companies are being penalized if they do not put the very best cancer treaters in their network. In the small-business area, there are many small-business employers like one in Tyler who told me that he had to lay off several people simply because he is not going to have to start letting people go or drop their insurance.

Obamacare was created, the rules in place for it, the day would come when people got so outraged at how expensive their health insurance was that they would scream: Look, I just can’t stand it anymore. I never wanted the government to be in charge of my personal life; I never wanted the government to be better than the current system. Just let the government take it over.

Then, there you are, government controlling everybody's body, everybody's personal life.

Of course, we have got this Consumer Financial Protection Bureau out there created during the Obama years by the Democrats. We were not helpful in that. We thought, sure, we want to help people who are being taken advantage of by unscrupulous lenders, but we don’t need a Bureau to monitor everybody’s debit and credit card transactions. There were those who argued: Yeah, but this way, they can monitor, and they can tell if somebody’s been taking advantage.

There was a time, as a felony judge in Texas, that, if someone wanted your bank records, under the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution, we are supposed to be protected from unreasonable searches and seizures, and that includes anyone’s bank records. So people would come to me as a judge, they would have affidavits, and they hoped that would prove under oath probable cause that a crime had been committed, and then I would have affidavits, and if so, I could sign the warrant that allowed them to go get bank records.

We used to care about the Fourth Amendment. I know my friends across the aisle, our Democratic friends, they cared greatly, because I have heard over and over in Judiciary Committee arguments about the protections against unreasonable searches, and yet they set up a Bureau that violates that, says: Just give us all your information.

Well, sure, if somebody is being taken advantage of by an unscrupulous lender, then the remedy is they go to the appropriate government law enforcement or the SEC, whoever it is, and then they come to a judge like I was, get the warrant, get the records, and then make the determination if there is probable cause. We just lost so much of our privacy.

Several years ago, we said, well, since ObamaCare, since the mass gathering of people’s medical records and our Democratic friends set up this consumer protection racket here in Washington, we could conceivably have a day—and if we don’t do something about ObamaCare and the CFPB, then it is closer than I imagined—when you get your mail, Madam Speaker, and you see: Oh, I have got a letter from the government here. And you open it, and it says: We noticed, when you were at Brookshire’s grocery store, you bought a pound of bacon; and we also noticed, from your healthcare records, that your cholesterol rate is at this certain level, and so, therefore, since we control your healthcare now and we monitor your debit and credit purchases, here is the deal: you are either going to join a health club and start working out once a week and stop buying bacon, or we are going to have to raise the amount you have to pay for your policy.

I mean, this is where it goes when you have the Orwellian Big Brother that was advanced more through ObamaCare than anything that has ever occurred in U.S. history. It has got to be repealed.

I want to applaud and thank President Trump for taking steps today through executive order. He shouldn’t have had to do that. I am very, very grateful he did. God bless him for doing it. But we should have already taken care of that stuff. That is our job.

What do we do here in the House? It was contentious. The first bill was a disaster, but we got it to where it actually was going to bring premiums down for those people in the middle class. It was going to make their premiums cheaper.

It was going to make their deductibles lower. Then we had people in the Senate who got elected on the promise of repealing ObamaCare that voted “no.”

I loved seeing the President’s interview with our good friend, Sean Hannity, last night. I love this about President Trump. I think it is why he got elected. When Sean asked him about, basically, is this going to do this, get this, this, this, he gets this smile and says: No. We are not giving up, not giving up.

The truth is we cannot give up. People are counting on us. They don’t know what to do.

There are small-business employers like the one in Tyler who told me that a few years ago he was paying $50,000 for his employees’ health insurance. He has the same number of employees, and this year it is $133,000, and he is going to have to start letting people go or drop their insurance. It just cannot continue. People are already taking losses. It can’t continue.

Well, with the proper President in place, and here in Congress we have taken some steps to ameliorate some of the damage to jobs in America, things seem to be turning around some. But we actually have to keep our promise, and I think we do that by putting a lot more heat on the Senate as well as the House. Now, the Republicans. We have got to put pressure on the Senate. Like the President said, this fight cannot be over.

Normally, I have been told since my freshman term, you can’t do big things in an election year. But I am beginning to think, if America makes it clear to the Republicans in the Senate that you either will keep your promise on ObamaCare, you will keep your promise on tax reform or you will not be back in the Senate, then I think we could buck tradition in this place.

The idea was that we were told back in 2006, in January: Okay. Well, we didn’t keep any of our promises last...
I hear rumors that there are people from the FBI telling the Department of Justice: Yeah, we have looked into it. There is nothing there.

Yeah, just the way the FBI looked into the notice from Russia that the Tsarnaev older brother had been radicalized.

What do they do?

I know because I have asked Director Mueller after he had run off thousands of years of our best experienced FBI agents, done more damage to the FBI than anybody since Hoover. He has got plenty of young aggressive people without enough experience to call him out when he was making mistakes, as he made many.

They send out an FBI agent to talk to the older Tsarnaev after the second notice from Russian agents that this guy has been radicalized. He is going to be a threat. But because Director Mueller—now Special Counsel Mueller, who is hiring lawyers and investigators right now—took this on and built up a beautiful, comfortable nest for himself, that same Mueller, as Director of the FBI, had the FBI training materials on radical Islamists purged of anything that might offend radical Islamists.

So we are more concerned about the little lunches and dinners he had with CAIR—or the Council of American-Islamic Relations—than he was about people being killed in Boston, because if he had, he would have made sure that the Tsarnaev brothers were properly investigated after they got two heads-up.

If they had bothered to look, they would have seen where the older Tsarnaev went and would have known he went to a hotbed of radicalism. They would have known to investigate: What has he been reading? What scriptures from the Koran has he been reading? What has he talked about? Is he doing more memorization? What is his appearance looking like now? Who is he hanging out with?

But no. Because he was too concerned about what he called the outreach program to Islamic Americans, he didn’t want to offend anybody. He was more worried about offending somebody than saving the lives and limbs of Bostonians.

He created a massive problem at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and now we are turning special counsel over to this man.

We heard from Mr. Comey himself that he talked to Mueller even before his testimony before Congress. We heard from he himself that he leaked information that was clearly FBI information that should not have been leaked.

So there is a question of did he commit a crime, or did he just commit a breach of FBI ethics? What action should be taken?

Oh, no. We have FBI Director Mueller on the case, and if you go back and look at the Washingtonian back in 2013, they did a big expose on how wonder-ful Mr. Comey was; and they point...
out in there that, gee, basically if the whole world were on fire, Comey knew there would be one person that would still be standing with him there to protect him, Mr. Mueller; the same guy that is protecting him instead of investigating the leaks that have come from the FBI. I think it’s fairly clear that you have the exact same person through whom he leaked what he admitted. But, no, we have got Mueller, the same man who is going to be there through thick and thin to protect Comey; he is the only investigation.

If Jeff Sessions as Attorney General cannot investigate Mr. Comey and his violations, potential breaches of the law, then we need another special counsel, and it sure ain’t going to come from Mr. Rosenstein, that is for sure.

We need a special counsel. I think the Attorney General could do it, but I am not sure the extent to which he has recused himself. But this has to be investigated. Unfortunately, because of the emphasis on the FBI, I still have questions arise on things they investigate because I know the damage that Mueller did to their training materials, to their ability. As one of our intelligence agents explained, we have blinded ourselves of the ability to see our enemies.

But don’t worry, the guy that was the biggest blinder is now the special counsel growing his little bureaucracy. And I am sure, knowing how vengeful he is, when he hears what I have had to say, then he probably will open an investigation on me. That is just how vengeful this man has been.

But the truth is the truth. He damaged the FBI, running off thousands of years of experienced people. He purged the training materials that would have—and Michele Bachmann and I went through these, and another Congressman from Georgia went through some, and there were some things, sure; some take them out, fine. But these were serious things in there very clearly that every FBI agent needs to know to help them spot a radical Islamist, and Mueller blinded them of the opportunity to do that.

I will never forget, at one of our hearings, after it was so clear that he was more concerned about offending CAIR than he was of protecting Boston, and he was so defensive, I said: You didn’t even go to the mosque where Tsarnaev went to see if he had been radicalized done to the FBI. After fumbling around, I finally got him to tell me how he thought that was wrong, and he said: We did go to the mosque.

And I didn’t hear it at first. Unfortunately, I didn’t hear it until I had it played on the video.

He said: We did go to that mosque in our outreach program.

Oh, the outreach program. Yeah, you didn’t go to investigate Tsarnaev to find out if he had been radicalized by asking questions in the mosque where he worshipped to find out if he was now acting like a radical. And there are clear indications. That is why we don’t have to worry about most Muslims, but you sure need to know what you are looking for.

For those that want to call people like me an Islamophobe, well, it is another lie. But there have been plenty of lies around Washington. I have got enough Muslim friends in the Middle East and Afghanistan and other countries. They know they don’t want radicals. I am so proud of the President of Egypt, el-Sisi, a man who was before Islamists and told them: We have got to get our religion back from the radicals. That is a courageous great man. We owe him a lot of help.

So what do we have here on Capitol Hill?

We had guys that apparently never had a background search. And as we found out from the investigator for The Daily Caller, there were actually three or more members of Congress that in the year when Imran Awan would be in Pakistan doing his job, supposedly making sure Capitol Hill computers were secured.

We find out that there was suspicion when they saw this Imran Awan clan. His wife, another lady, got questioned when they would get up to the maximum amount one person could make on Capitol Hill, they would add another family member, and then they would get up to $160,000; add another family member, get them up, add another family member. And apparently all of these people didn’t work.

The people that had a lot of experience working at McDonalds probably didn’t have that much experience on computers, but he still had to pay $160,000 or so a year and, we find out—had no idea, just this week found out—they were able to gain $6 million to $7 million from the House of Representatives’ budget.

And we find out, gee, one of them, had gotten $500,000 from an individual with known ties to Hezbollah, and we don’t know for what reason, but clearly never came to Capitol Hill. He was put on the payroll of the U.S. House of Representatives, the guy that was owed $100,000 with ties to Hezbollah, and made over $200,000 or so before he was taken off the payroll.

That is a good way to pay back a loan, isn’t it?

So we had Imran Awan; Hina Alvi, his wife; Abid Awan; Jamal Awan; Rao Alisher; and possibly a couple of others. We found out—just incredible that this kind of thing could happen.

But the suspicion grew when he was supposed to be working on the computer system of Congressman, now attorney general in California, Becerra. No indication Becerra knew anything was wrong, but people here on the Hill watching this saw there had been 5,700 accesses to his computer system and 5,400, at least, were not from people who should have been getting into his computer system.

Then we find out, actually, he downloaded other Members of Congress’ servers completely onto Becerra’s server, and, actually, he had 2 terabytes of information that he said was for their child’s homework—a little child’s homework taking 2 terabytes.

But we also know, apparently, from what came out this week, he was downloading dozens of Members’ computers onto one server so that anybody he wanted to could access any of that information.

Now, there is no indication that classified information was revealed through the access to all these computer systems by people who were not hired by that Member of Congress. But we also know—I mean, General Petraeus, I read somewhere that it was actually a calendar that he gave to the lady who was to do a book, that he was having an affair with, that had some stuff that was considered classified. Well, on every Member’s computer system, you get their calendar, you get all their email, you get all their appointments, things that are going on in the office, you get reactions to people who come in over different bills, you get things that have been learned in the intelligence community. There are all kinds of things that people would pay a lot of money for.

Then we find out, you had a bankruptcy in the Awan history, you had domestic violence in the history, and now we find out this week, newly reported, that his wife is now upset. We can maybe get some answers now that she is upset because now, she has found out that not only was he being corrupt to the banks here in the United States and on Capitol Hill, but he also, without his wife’s knowledge, married another lady. So that may help bring the wife around, giving us more information about just how bad things got.

But the report was, this week, investigators with the IG’s office here on Capitol Hill have been quietly tracking the TT worked on—five members of the TT group—their digital footprints for months. They were alarmed by what they saw.

The employees, the Awans, appeared to be accessing congressional servers without authorization, an indication that they “could be reading and/or removing information,” according to the documents distributed at the previously unreported private briefings.

Well, we know that the lady who has reported here on Capitol Hill, well, it is being looked into, but there is no evidence of crime. Really?

Because we have also learned that there may have been hundreds of sent technological systems that cost $800 an iPad. But if you say that it is under $500, then it doesn’t go in the inventory, and it is easier to steal and sell, for example, hypothetically, in Pakistan, where there are reports that they have stolen the equipment and sold them to make extra money.

We know that he was not truthful and honest in his financial disclosures.
That can be a crime. But just one voucher where you claim something only cost $490 and the server system cost $310 when you know that item actually cost $800 and should go into the inventory, that could be a crime. It appears that happened countless times, but we need to be trying to count any way.

We know that there were many pieces of computer equipment found at his home after FBI agents said his wife appeared to not want him to come back, even though she had a trip back. We don’t know what representations have been made to get her to come back, but we know that the tenants who leased the house where they fled from had been threatened by Imran Awan’s lawyer for allowing law enforcement to have access to that computer equipment that was there at his house. Hard drives appeared to be destroyed so they could not be properly investigated.

We got a report that one of the group appeared to be home most of the time and was not here in Washington, D.C. But what a great gig, when you can make $100,000 a year for servicing computer equipment. And it appears all of these people involved in the group didn’t have competence to do computer or IT work, yet they were sure making a good living doing it.

But for those who continue to say “we just don’t think there is much there,” all that should tell you is the report by Luke Rosiak, of all the witnesses to this whole sordid matter, only about 20 percent of them have ever been interviewed by FBI or law enforcement. It tells you somebody around here in this town, this Hill, somebody does not want to get to the bottom of this. If law enforcement wants to get to the bottom of this, they will get to the bottom of it.

Kind of like Benghazi, if we really wanted to get to the bottom of it, we would do like Judicial Watch and be relentless till we got to the bottom of it. We haven’t gotten there yet.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is a lot that needs to be investigated, a lot that needs to be done. We need—somebody, sounds like, needs to be investigating Mr. Mueller, but certainly needs to be investigating the various leaks that appear to have come from Mr. Comey through the same sources as the one he admits he got to be investigated. And Mueller can’t do it and, apparently, the current Attorney General can’t. We have got to have somebody appointed to get to the bottom of what was happening at the DOJ during last year when an election was going on.

We need to have an investigation to thoroughly get into this matter of having a U.N.—our representative to the U.N. is unmasking American information. We were assured that kind of thing would not happen if we would just reauthorize that program: Oh, no, no. If there are Americans who happen to be incidentally picked up by the monitors, the wiretap, by listening in on conversations, look, if there is an American, we mask the name. You can’t just get that. You are protected. It is minimized.

Well, we find out that wasn’t true, that anybody that wants to go skipping and jumping to any political opponents can do that if you are corrupt enough. And if you are corrupt enough and you have corrupted other people, then it won’t be investigated.

Maybe there are things other people around here don’t want found out, but it is time we cleaned up the mess that has been left here, we clean up the wiretapping capability. It is coming up for reauthorization here. It has got to be done before the end of December, and I still need a lot of answers before I could even consider doing that.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we have got to help the American people by keeping our promises. I yield back the balance of my time.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN PAKISTAN AND SINDH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ARRLINGTON). Under the Speaker’s arrangement, Mr. SHERMAN is acknowledged for the balance of his time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for yielding me 30 minutes, more than enough time to deliver three separate speeches that I have prepared for presentation. The first two are informed, or two of these speeches are informed. The first and the third are informed by my 20 years of experience on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and the second speech I will deliver is informed by 40 years as a CPA in the world of taxation.

Mr. Speaker, I am the ranking member on the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee. I am the founder of the Sindh Caucus. In those two roles, I have focused on human rights and the rule of law in Pakistan, and particularly in its perhaps largest province, Sindh, comprising most of southern Pakistan.

We have dedicated ourselves in the Sindh Caucus to efforts to preserve the culture and the language of the Sindhi people, and particularly their dedication to religious tolerance. Unfortunately, those values are not well-pictured in Pakistan and in Sindh are not good. I would like to say a few words about the disappearance of Punhal Sario, the leader of the Voice for Missing Persons of Sindh movement, and about the very serious problem of disappearances in Sindh in southern Pakistan.

Just this past summer, Punhal Sario led a march between Sindh’s two major cities, Hyderabad to Karachi, demanding accountability for Sindhi activists who have been abducted by Pakistani security forces or simply disappeared. Where is Punhal now? It appears that he, too, has fallen victim to the very serious forces that he marched against.

Punhal’s case is hardly an isolated one. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan reported that over 700 people disappeared, were kidnapped, and never heard of again in Pakistan in the year 2016 alone.

In the last year, the United Nations Human Rights Committee, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the State Department’s own Report on Human Rights have all noted serious concerns about extrajudicial and targeted killings and disappearances in Pakistan and, particularly, in Sindh.

Elements of the government or military see an opportunity to simply make their opponents disappear. Here are a few particulars. In 2016, Amnesty International reported that the Pakistani security forces had, and these are their words, “committed human rights violations with almost total impunity.”

The Human Rights Watch observed that, “law enforcement and security agencies remained unaccountable for human rights violations.”

The State Department itself noted in Pakistan, “the most serious human rights problems are extrajudicial and targeted killings and disappearances, the lack of the rule of law.”

Two years ago, in 2015, Sindhi leader Dr. Anwar Laghari was brutally murdered in Pakistan. Days before his death, he had sent a memorandum to President Barack Obama about human rights violations by the Pakistani military and its ISI, the Inter-Services Intelligence, agency, an important part of the Pakistani military.

I attended a memorial service for Dr. Laghari here in Washington and have come to know of his work for human rights for the Sindhi people of southern Pakistan. The Pakistani Government has not been responsive to numerous inquiries into the reason for Dr. Laghari’s death and for why his perpetrators have not been brought to justice.

Two months ago, on August 18, I sent a letter to the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs and the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan expressing strong concerns about human rights violations of the Pakistani Government in Sindh. Six of my House colleagues—three Democrats and three Republicans—joined me in the effort.

There are other human rights concerns in Pakistan that I should also bring to the attention of this House. The people of Sindhi face religious extremist attacks, ISIS, for example, claimed responsibility for an attack on a Sufi shrine in Sindh that killed 80 people. Yet the government has not acted to protect religious minorities and, in general, has not acted to protect the people of Sindhi from Islamic extremism.

In addition, in Sindh, there are forced conversions of Sindhi girls belonging to minority communities.
While the numbers are unclear, reports suggest that every year perhaps 1,000 girls and young women in Pakistan, including many in Sindh, are forcibly converted upon a marriage, not of their choice, to Muslim men. The Pakistani Government does not seem enough to stop this practice, and reform measures have been circumvented and not enforced.

Human rights abuses of this type cannot go unanswered. Activists disappear for this reason. It is our obligation to speak out and demand accountability. These disappearances and other violations of human rights should be a major topic of conversation in all bilateral discussions between our government and the government in Islamabad.

**TAX PROPOSAL DELETES DEDUCTIONS**

Mr. SHERMAN. Now, Mr. Speaker I would like to move on to a second speech, one dealing with the tax proposal of the Trump administration.

The provision I would like to focus on chiefly are those involving taking away the deductions, the itemized deductions that so many Americans take to reduce their tax liability.

Now, these deductions are eliminated on the theory that, oh, they just go to the wealthy, and, for those purposes, they define the wealthy as the wealthiest 30 percent or so of the American people—say a family with an income of $100,000 or $150,000. We are told that is the same thing as increasing taxes on the top one-tenth of 1 percent, say a family with an income of $1 million or $2 million a year.

There is a difference in the ability to pay of those two typical families, typifying their income brackets. The fact is, that taxing hardworking families with incomes of $100,000 or $150,000, in order to provide reduced tax rates for those with incomes of $1 million or $2 million, makes our tax system more regressive. The proposal put the entire top 30 percent in one category for these income calculations.

That is why, and that is only one reason why, I oppose the elimination of the home mortgage deduction. Another reason that I oppose it is elimination of the home mortgage deduction and reduction for local property taxes will probably decrease the value of homes by 20 percent, is the best estimate I have seen.

Well, if you lose 20 percent of the value of your home, you may very well lose all of the equity in your home. How is that going to affect the economy? How is that going to affect the ability of homeowners to go and spend money in their communities and support the economy of their communities?

What does it do to the Federal budget when we are responsible through Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for underwriting home mortgages? We know that if you wipe out the equity of many homeowners in their homes, this can lead to defaults and cost the Federal Government perhaps more than we give up by having a home mortgage deduction.

Another element to keep in mind is that the entire idea of an income tax is that we tax people based on their ability to pay. If you are in a State with high income taxes, high property taxes, that diminishes your ability to pay. If you make a certain salary and money is taken out by your State government before you ever see it, your ability to pay is only on that net paycheck.

It is simply taking away the deduction for State and local taxes. But make no mistake about it, the purpose of removing that deduction is not just to hurt the top 30, or 40 percent, or 50 percent of the American people who itemize their deductions, it is designed to punish those who are dependent on State and local government.

All the conservative theorists say: If we can just eliminate the deduction for State and local taxes, we will cut the size of State and local governments.

We will create a political atmosphere in which they slash money for local schools, slash money for local health programs for the poor, slash money for police.

What will happen if we take away those credits? Not just the top 30 percent or 50 percent, but everyone in America, most particularly the poor.

Finally, I want to focus on the medical deduction. They take away the medical deduction in this program, this proposal of the Trump administration.

Now, keep in mind that we already have severe limits on deducting medical expenses. You can deduct medical expenses only if they exceed 10 percent of your family’s income. So medical expenses are itemized and deducted only by those families including someone with very significant health costs.

Now, we have worked hard in this House to make sure that people have health insurance. But even with health insurance, there are copays; there are deductibles. These can be absorbed in a family budget where no one has a particular strong medical need. But what if there is some member of the family who needs experimental treatments that are not covered, therapies that are not covered?

Under the present system, at least they get to deduct these extraordinary—not the first 10 percent of AGI, of adjusted gross income—but when they start looking at deducting costs in excess of 10 percent income, they can take a tax deduction—a tax deduction taken away in the Trump tax proposal.

I speak not just as someone who spent a lot of time as a tax expert who headed the second largest tax agency in the country, but as the father of a child with special needs. What does this tax proposal mean for such a family? Well, first, there is a cut in Federal expenditures on special education and on health research—congressional reports indicate a political attitude toward special education and medical research, parents of children with special needs can take solace in knowing that this plan will reduce taxes for the Trump family by over $1 billion in estate taxes and by tens of millions of dollars in income taxes. Perhaps we should tell parents of special-needs children that they should stop worrying so much about their children and start worrying about Donald Trump’s children. If they did, they would support the Trump tax proposal.

IRA Nuclear Control Deal

Mr. SHERMAN. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the issue of...
Iran and the nuclear deal, nuclear control deal that we signed with Iran.

First, a little background. In 1997, I said at the Foreign Affairs Committee that Iran and its nuclear program were the number one threat to American national security.

For the last 20 years, I have supported every effort to impose sanctions on the Iranian regime. When the Iran nuclear deal was finalized and published, I was the first of either party to come to this floor and say that Congress should not vote to endorse that deal.

But the question before us now is: Should we renounce the deal?

Now, it would be one thing if Iran decides that we are so tough on them on other issues that they choose to renounce the deal, but that is not the issue before us today. The issue before us today is whether America should renounce the deal, and the resounding and clear answer is that is not something we should do at this time.

Now, I will give you an example. Let’s say you bought a flawed automobile, the Iran nuclear deal is liable to not be working next decade. But that doesn’t mean you take back the car and the dealer keeps the money.

What happens if we renounce the deal?

Iran keeps the money. We unfroze very roughly $100 billion of their money. If we renounce the deal, they keep the money. We delivered over $1 billion in currency on big pallets. If we renounce the deal, Iran keeps the money.

Now, like a flawed automobile, the Iran nuclear deal is liable to not be working next decade. But that doesn’t mean you take back the car and the dealer keeps the money.

Now, like a flawed automobile, the Iran nuclear deal is liable to not be working next decade. But that doesn’t mean you take back the car and the dealer keeps the money. But what opponents—what some are proposing now is that we renegotiate the deal. Imagine you are in a jurisdiction where you have to take back the car and the dealer keeps your money. But what opponents—they identify as being part of the American renunciation of the deal, Iran keeps the money. We deliver currency, and the deal is renegotiated and the resounding and clear answer is that is not something we should do at this time.

The second way that America could renounce the deal will occur next January because the basic element of the deal—the basic promise from the United States—was an agreement that the President would, every 4 months to 6 months, it depends on the exact statute, waive particular identified sanctions. As it happens, the existing waivers all expire in the middle of next January. If the President were to fail to issue those waivers, that would be a clear American renunciation of the deal. So it does not meet our national security objectives to renegotiate the deal.

Second, Europe may join us in the sanctions. The first of these is on our mind today is whether America will stand with the deal at this time.

Now, the question is: Can we have sanctions on Iran and continue to force them to abide by the deal?

The answer is clearly yes. In July of 2015, Secretary Kerry came before our committee, and I raised this very issue: If we adopt the deal, can we impose sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran to deter terrorism? Or would that violate this agreement?

I specifically asked: When Congress and the United States free under the agreement to adopt new sanctions legislation that will remain in force as long as Iran holds American hostages or supports the murderous Assad regime? Secretary Kerry’s answer was clear. He stated: We are free to adopt additional sanctions as long as they are not a phony excuse for just taking the whole pot of past ones and putting them back.

So we can and should impose new sanctions on Iran to the extent justified by Iran’s behavior outside the area of nuclear research and uranium enrichment. Look at that as an opportunity because you could make a list of every sanction any one of us here on this floor has thought of. And add in the creativity of the United States Senate and make a list of every sanction we could impose, I assure you that those sanctions and more are justified by Iran’s behavior and will commit it to the regime in Tehran.

Iran is more responsible than Russia for the hundreds of thousands of deaths in Syria. The lifeline of Assad’s murderous regime is a lifeline to the aid, military weapons, training that Iran has provided—hundreds of thousands of deaths, an immoral responsibility of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Turn to Yemen, where tens of thousands of people have died because of Iran. Look at worldwide terrorism, and Iran is the number one state sponsor of terrorism year after year, according to our State Department. Look at the treatment by Iran of its own people, the murders by the state of women—it is usually women—accused of adultery.

The evil that comes from the Islamic Republic is far exceed the ability of this House to identify sanction points. That is why the proper policy for the United States is to impose the maximum sanctions and to explain to the world that this is not a phony renunciation of the nuclear deal, but it is the appropriate response to Iran’s actions that are outside of the nuclear deal.

If we do that, we will have substantial support from Europe, Asia, and elsewhere for demanding that Iran continue to be subject to all the nuclear limitations and inspections that they agreed to under the deal and which continue to be enforced well in the next decade.

What we shall do next decade, well, I will come back here and give another speech next decade. But at least many years deep in the next decade, this deal provides us with valuable limitations and valuable inspections of the Iran nuclear program, and Europe will insist that those be adhered to.

Second, Europe may join us in the sanctions when we sanction Iran for its actions in Syria, its actions to its own people, its actions in Yemen. One more I should add, and that is Iran’s violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions by testing and developing missiles and exporting weapons.

So if we stick with the deal and we sanction Iran, they may choose—if those sanctions are as effective as I think they can be—to walk away from the deal. But if they do walk away, they will have the whole world with us enforcing sanctions against Iran.

Now, there is one part of the policy I put forward that may not meet the psychological needs of the President of the United States and the American people, but I believe it is an uncontrollable personal need to pour disgusting liquids on anything associated with President Obama. Maybe it...
meets his psychological needs to say he is renouncing the nuclear deal. But the fact is we don’t have to renounce the nuclear deal and liberate Iran from its obligations in order to impose the toughest imaginable sanctions on this regime that is doing so much evil.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, let me just note I believe that our President is doing a terrific job. I think that the last Presidents of the United States have left us an inchoate, dangerous situation, and this President is trying to deal with it with strength and purpose, and, yes, being a forceful leader.

For example, during the Clinton administration, we provided $4 billion to $5 billion to North Korea, the same way the last administration tried to provide funds for Iran.

What do we have now? A crisis with possible nuclear weapons and missiles in North Korea. That is called kicking the can down the road. They sure kicked it down to us, and now the people want to kick the can down the road with the Iranians. No, let that again and leave future generations to face the music that we left them.

Our President wants to make sure that Iran does not become a nuclear power as long as it is controlled by radical, fanatic mullahs who don’t even represent their own people. In fact, if Iran was more peaceful and actually more democratic, then we wouldn’t have to worry about that because they wouldn’t want to have a wasteful program of nuclear weapons.

Those are the type of issues we face today. We face a lot of uncertainties at home and abroad, and it behooves us to look for explanations for the shifts in power, the dangers, and the influence that are taking place in the world today.

Europe, along with the United States, for five decades, seemed to be the center of world order and progress. NATO and the common market all seemed to be the epitome of sophisticated and proper governance needed to offset humankind’s destructive and combative inclinations. World Wars I and II had undercut, if not destroyed, the expansion of classical liberalism that was in the process of retiring royalist and imperialist domination of the world, which, of course, is where the world was at the turn and the beginning of the 20th century as classical liberalism began to replace imperialism and monarchy.

Yes, the two World Wars that we experienced were traumas that still impact our lives. The Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I was the last gasp of European colonialism. □ 1800

Maps drawn at that international gathering brought on World War II. Some of those other lines that they drew on that map plague us to this day.

Those national borders mandated by the Versailles Treaty made the world temporarily tranquil. Maybe we just heard about that a few moments ago, how we have got to overcome the tragedy right now, like we did in Korea, by not having confrontations with those people who were engaged in hostile activity.

Yes, the Treaty of Versailles gave the world temporary tranquility, but doomed following generations to instability and conflict. Such future challenges made us to look for an order of Nations. When that failed, the baton was passed to the United Nations.

Humanity, obviously, hoped that global government, in one form or the other, would solve everything. The EU, the common market, NATO, and other multinational bureaucracies would demonstrate how nation-states can cooperate and achieve a collective peace, freedom, and prosperity.

Well, just as things changed dramatically after the 19th century turned into the 20th century, and it became a different world, so, too, is our world changing. We must make sure that we have turned from the 20th century into the 21st.

The 20th century was dominated by the wars and by the defeat of the Soviet Union. Yet we are plagued with conflicts and upheavals that can be traced back to border and sovereign disagreements that are now dead, not only from the 20th century, but, as I said, from the end of World War I.

Many of the confrontations between various nationalities that we face today would not exist if the greatest threats of violence, insurrection, and war itself could be defused if our world would again recognize the right of self-determination.

It seems to have been forgotten that the United States was not only founded on the principles of liberty and independence, but also of the right of people to demand their rights, and, yes, that right of independence. They had a right to declare their independence.

This was the revolutionary idea that people have a right to select their government. This was the revolutionary idea that gave our Founding Fathers and Mothers the moral high ground to free themselves from the British Empire. Without this, they probably would not have won, if it were just a battle between powermongers.

No. This was what the fundamental beliefs were: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, but also the right of people to be free and independent to create a country based on shared beliefs and shared ideals and values.

This is what we hope—those shared values and beliefs in liberty and justice—are the things that unite us today. That is what united our Founding Fathers and Mothers and that is what made us a nation. After all, we don’t have one race or one religion, we are united by us as being Americans and create that unity.

But that said, there are many other countries of the world whose nationalism and patriotism are based on the fact that they have an identity with other people that share their cultural and racial identities. This is what unites them as a people. They are ethically the same, they are culturally the same, and they have the same type of national and racial roots in their past.

Yes, this is what most countries are like. That is what defines a nationality. Recognizing that people of similar values and culture do not want to live in the subjugation of others has been embraced or rejected by the powers that be throughout the world.

So we live in a world where this idea of just recognizing that people want to be like people with similar people. For example, you have differences between Catholics and Protestants in many areas of the world.

Yes, they like to have people who maybe speak their same language and have the same culture, enjoy the same music. There is nothing wrong with people identifying others as being part of their national family. We should promote that as a positive, rather than as a negative. We should encourage people to work together.

There are many, for example, Jewish charities, which is wonderful that Jewish people now, because they have gone through a certain amount of oppression throughout the world, take care of each other in Jewish charities. We have that. We have Catholic schools and different things.

Yes, it is meant because people do share certain values that they can work together on. That is a good thing. However, the idea that people like that might want to be in their own country, which is what our Founding Fathers said, because it was only shared values, it wasn’t specific that we wanted freedom of religion for all people.

Well, today the world is threatened by people who want to be independent of domination of others who don’t share their same values and their nationality. The reason why it is being rejected is basically by the power brokers throughout the world because it threatens those in power with losing authority over people who don’t want to live under their domination.

That is what self-determination is all about: letting people decide their own fate. If a majority of people in an area want to be independent, we be independent, that is what they should be, according to our Declaration of Independence. And this is something that brings a
more peaceful world, rather than trying to have subjugation of one people by another.

There has been a major cause of conflict in the world today when people don’t recognize that, yes, there are others who they are being oppressed by being forced under the jurisdiction of a particular government. They would like to have their own independence.

That, of course, has been especially true where people, since the end of the Cold War, have started looking at their own self-identification. When the right of self-determination is recognized, disputes are usually settled peacefully, as happened when, for example, after the fall of communism, the Czechs and the Slovaks, who had one country before, under the Treaty of Versailles, Czecho- slovakia became the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Well, that is fine. It is a good thing that they were able to separate. Now they can be friends.

But when they were one country, if the Czechs and Slovaks felt like they were being oppressed, they weren’t satisfied. It was a good thing to permit them to stay in that form. If you don’t want to be part of the country with us, yes, you can be a separate country. Otherwise, there would have been turmoil at one level or another. We saw a peaceful solution in countries like Slovenia. Yugoslavia was breaking up, Tito was dead, the Cold War was over, and guess what. Slovenia and a bunch of other republics within Yugoslavia wanted to be independent, and they were able to do the same thing.

Well, perhaps they were able to do it because the Serbs had already launched attacks on the Croatians and the Kosovars and other people in Yugo- slavia that now was splitting apart because the people wanted to be independent and free, but the Serbs attacked them.

They didn’t attack Slovenia, because I think by that time they realized that they needed going there with all of these various groups. Had the Kosovars and the Croatians been free to go and separate and become independent countries—as Croatia is today, and as the Kosovars would like to be—and as we are trying to help them to be—that would have been better for Serbia. It would have been better for everybody. There would have probably been by now an agreement for some kind of free trade zone.

Instead, when the Serbs used force to keep those people under its jurisdiction, we had violence throughout the Balkans that has lasted for several decades. That is a tragedy. We should be working today on the Balkans.

Let me just note that the Serbs today are an example of people who are reaching out, for example, to the Kosovars and others to try to find peaceful solutions and trying to come to some agreements that will make peace more likely.

But, again, if you would have had people who were under their thumb, nobody would be talking to them because they would be afraid of them. No. People who treat other people as equals and have rights as people in the world, they are more likely to reach understandings that are of mutual coopera- tion. Peace is more likely to the world.

I am not trying to say you have to submit yourself to some other group of people. The former Soviet Union, Ukraine, and other of the so-called Soviet republics were actually permitted at the end of the Cold War to, basically, peacefully establish their own independence. I know it is not as simple as that, but it happened in a peaceful way in which thousands of lives were not lost trying to force groups of people who do not want to be under Moscow’s control.

Those people, whether Ukraine or elsewhere in the Baltics or the Balkans, had the right—and also in Central Asia—and people were permitted to have, basically, an independent government, free from being only suppressed by Moscow and have to follow its orders.

That happened relatively peacefully. Had that not happened, there probably would be conflict throughout that part of the world. Certainly would have been, as communism faltered in Russia itself.

So it took a lot of prodding for us to make sure that the Russians in the So- viet Union, in Moscow, understood that they could not keep people under their thumb. It was the Cold War.

Thank God, we ended the Cold War peacefully, because that was the great gift that Ronald Reagan gave to us. I am very proud to have served with Ronald Reagan for 7 years in the White House as a senior speechwriter to the President for 7 1/2 years, as well as being a Special Assistant to the President and very involved with his efforts to try to move peace in the world. A lot of it was peace by recognizing people’s right to independence.

Look back, for example—Ronald Reagan was an Irish American—at the needless violence that the British perpetuated and what happened in Ireland because the British insisted that the Irish be kept under British rule for so long, when it was clear that the Irish people wanted to be independent of Great Britain.

Look at what happened, in contrast, in Singapore and Malaysia, where the British just peacefully permitted those countries that were basically under the domination—they were part of Great Britain and the British Empire—to leave and establish their independence peacefully. Then Malaysia and Singa- pore separated from Great Britain, and then separated from each other, peacefully.

But in any one of these cases, if somebody demanded that these people stay in this particular status within this particular government, there would have been a lot more violence.

When self-determination is respected, peace is more likely. When a people are subjugated to the orders of a government in a country they don’t want to be part of, violence is more likely.

How easy is that?

Special interests and power elites throughout the world are not so inclined to this obvious reason.

Why?

Because it is not in their interest to let people just go when they have them right there under their control.

So let’s look at a few examples where self-determination has manifest itself in conflict.

Today, one of the greatest conflict areas of the world is the Middle East. Again, many of the conflicts that we have seen, if not a majority, can be traced right back to the Treaty of Versailles, right back to World War I, and the decisions of colonialists and imperialists and royalty to draw bound- aries in the Middle East, just as they did in Africa and elsewhere, which made no sense.

Yes, we ended up separating whole nations. For example, one nation of people that we are aware of today are the Kurds. The Kurds were separated into various countries in the Treaty of Versailles by these British and French colonialists.

And we are supposed to just abide by their decision of what the borders should be today, 100 years later? No, I don’t think so.

The Kurds, of course, were not living just subjugating themselves to what they had been dictated. No, the Kurds have been our greatest ally in the fight against radical Islamic terrorism and what they are doing today and what they just voted on recently was they had a vote to determine if their people wanted self-determination and wanted to be an independent country from Iraq.

Yes, that was a good thing, and we should recognize that. They won overwhelmingly, and we should look at the map of—we should say a map of the Middle East needs to be changed so you can have a Kurdistan that flows all the way from Turkey and Iran and Iraq and Syria. There are more, for example, Kurds in Iran than there are in Iraq. In Turkey, there are more Kurds, and, of course, in Syria.

This should be a modern country. Why are we letting this turmoil go on when our greatest allies are looking for their own self-determination and these other countries are becoming or are already our enemies? Yes, it will behoove the United States to support the inde- pendence of Kurdistan and all the Kurds. We should support in bringing together these Kurdish people as a na- tion, because that is what they are. They are a nation without a state. Let them have their country.

There has been so much bloodshed in these attempts to get Kurds from the Iranians, from the mullah regime, but also the Shah before him. The Kurds were oppressed by Saddam Hussein,
and right now, what we have is a repression of people even in Iran where the mullah regime is oppressing not only the rest of its people, not only the other people who make up Iran, but the Kurds, in particular.

Look at what is going on with the Baloch, for example. Now, a small group—there are groups of people. There is an area in Iran where the vast majority of people are of the Baloch extraction. They would like their independence; they deserve their right to self-determination, and they are not suffering from the oppression of Iran.

By the way, if we are going to try to deal with Iran, let’s not ratchet up our militarism and threaten to attack them that way. Let’s ratchet up our support for people like the Kurds and the Baloch and the Azaris and other people who live in Iran who don’t like the oppression of the mullahs, and we can even—except for, of course, the Punjabis, the Sindhis, to the Singhs, you name it. You have got just a group of people who hate the mullah regime.

These are not our enemies in Iran. It is the mullah regime, the fanatics that would drop a bomb on us and not even think twice because they think they are orphans. They are the enemy. So we need to be supporting, for example, the Baloch, when I talk about in Iran. The Baloch are also persecuted, mainly persecuted by the Pakistanis who have them under their thumb, and they demand their people constantly. They pick these young people up and they murder them, and then they drop their bodies in little villages just to show people what is going to happen to them if they try to resist Pakistani authority.

This is the history of Pakistan. Right now they are doing it to the Baloch, to the Sindhis, to the youngsters, you name it. You have got just a group of people—basically, the uprising of the people in Bangladesh wanted to be independent. That is what they want to do because they have a right of self-determination, and they are suffering from the oppression of India.

Well, the Spanish overreaction to the efforts of the Catalonians just to have a poll—basically it was a vote on independence, but it was—you know, basically it had to be recognized for it to have effect. But instead of letting them do this and just saying, “Well, it has no legal effect,” instead, the Spanish Government came down with brute force to say, “You will not have a vote.” If they would think violence coming from terrorists would exert on a group of people in Spain. It was their own government that was exercising violence and force and intimidation against the people of Catalonia.

Now, of course, the people of Catalonia are united because they know the brutality and subjugation of what is going on with Madrid.

Now, the British knew how to do it. Unlike Madrid and Spain, the British permitted their people in Scotland to have a vote, and that was a wonderful thing. The Scots had their vote, there was no interference, and if they didn’t want to be part of Great Britain, they didn’t have to be, and that was a wonderful example of the world of how you should do this.

Now, the Scots decided to stay part of England, part of Great Britain. That is fine, but they had their chance. The Brits had an opportunity to vote on that. No, instead their government came down and beat them up when they tried to go to the polls. And let’s say also, the British seemed also to be demonstrating, they believe, in self-determination.

They are exiting—they are taking the Brexit issue of whether or not you should have Britain as part of the EU and the common market. That vote that they allowed their people to decide, it wasn’t decided by an elite. The British vote let all the people of Britain decide whether or not they were going to be basically part of a subjugated people in Europe or whether they were going to be an independent force and a nation, which is their history as a people of Great Britain.

I am proud that they permitted Scotland to vote, and I am also proud that they voted not to subjugate themselves to the EU and to the common market, et cetera.

We need to make sure that we stay true to our principles and have a vision about what this world will be. If you are just looking at things of what we can do every day, Ronald Reagan succeeded because he had a vision of a peaceful world based on those individual rights and those concepts of freedom and democracy that were at the heart of the American experience, but also an America that encompassed people from all over the world.

Reagan had a vision, and it wasn’t to get into a war with the Soviet Union and destroy communism. Reagan’s vision was let’s have—yes, we have to have strength in our military in order to defend this country and this American vision, because it was threatening the world peace. It was taking over countries and overthrowing governments and replacing them with atheist dictatorships. Reagan knew we had to stop that.

Just like today, our primary enemy today is no longer the Soviet Union because Reagan helped eliminate the Soviet Union, the communist threat. The threat today is radical Islamic terrorism, and there are countries who are murdering people all over the world and murdering people in their own countries in order to terrorize them into submission.

Well, the bottom line is, Ronald Reagan’s vision succeeded with Russia because, at that time, it was the Soviet Union, and now we have a Russia that we have so much more potential.

Now, there are a lot of flaws. There are a lot of flaws in the Russian Government, and there are things that we have to make sure that we are taking care of and standing firm on, but, by and large, we have to understand that they, today, are being attacked and murdered by radical Islamic terrorists as well. They know that, and they know the dangers that we face because they face a common danger.

We need to work to build a new alliance because what is happening is, Islam is making such inroads into the stability of our Western European allies that the western Europe that we know—here again, time is going on, 19th century into the 20th century. Now we are in the 21st century. The 21st century will see that Europe becomes a whole different place than what it has been for the last 150 or 200 years.

There will be Islamic countries in Europe, and they will be, then, either part of or they will fight against a radical Islamic terrorist threat that threatens the peace of the world just as the Soviet Union did that 10 years, or I should say, 10 decades ago.

So with that, we need a vision, and one vision that we should have is, number one, a vision of self-determination that we agree on our countries will be more secure and the world will be more peaceful and secure if we establish a new relationship in which we are
watching out for each other with four
countries. The United States, of
course; the other one is India, and I
will soon be going to India. In fact, I
will be going to India tomorrow. And
number three, Japan; and number four,
Russia.
Now, there is some work that needs
to be done to make a coalition like
that real, but a coalition of those
countries working together, not mandated
that we have to do this and we have to
subjugate ourselves to decisions of what
the four say, but, instead, seeking
out cooperation with those countries
where there is mutual benefit to do, we
can make this a better world. We can
secure our prosperity and secure the
peace of our own country and the secu-
ritry of our own country.
So with a vision and with a recogni-
tion of fundamental things like the
right of self-determination and the
right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of
happiness that our Founding Fathers
talked about, and limited government
where they said government only de-
erves its just powers from the consent
of the governed, let us champion these
values and these ideals.
Let us have a vision for the future, as
Ronald Reagan did, and we can make this
a more peaceful world as we side
with people all over the world who
want to control their own destiny by
having their own nation rather than
being subjected to someone else.
Mr. Speaker, with that, I yield back
the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
By unanimous consent, leave of ab-
sence was granted to:
Mr. C LYBURN (at the request of Ms.
PELOSI) for today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED
A bill of the Senate of the following
title was taken from the Speaker's
table and, under the rule, referred, as
follows:
Mr. ROHRABACHER.

5. 1985. An act to amend the Hizballah
International Financing Prevention Act of
2015 to impose additional sanctions with re-
spect to Hizballah, and for other purposes; to
the Committee on Foreign Affairs; in addi-
tion, to the Committee on the Judiciary; and
to the Committee on Financial Services for
a period to be subsequently determined by
the Speaker, in each case for consideration
of such provisions as fall within the jurisdic-
tion of the committee concerned.

ADJOURNMENT
Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I
move that the House do now adjourn.
The motion was agreed to; accord-
ingly (at 6 o'clock and 27 minutes
p.m.), under its previous order, the
House adjourned until Monday, Octo-
ber 16, 2017, at 10 a.m.

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. McCaul. Committee on Homeland
Security. H.R. 3699. A bill to improve and
streamline security procedures related to
global national charter air
carrier utilizing risk-based security stan-
dards, and for other purposes; with an amend-
ment (Rept. 113-346). Referred to the
Committee of the Whole House on the state of
the Union.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED
BILL.
Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the
follow-up action was taken by the
Speaker:
H.R. 3057. Referral to the Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure extended
for a period ending not later than November
9, 2017.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
Under clause 2 of rule XII, public
bills and resolutions of the following
titles were introduced and severally re-
ferred, as follows:
Mr. Speaker:
H.R. 4028. A bill to amend the Federal
Financial Institutions Examination Council
Act of 1978 to establish cybersecurity super-
vision and examination of large consumer-
reporting agencies, and for other purposes; to
the Committee on Financial Services.
By Ms. Speier:
H.R. 4029. A bill to direct the Secretary of
Education to make reasonable adjustments to
earnings data for graduates of cosme-
tology gainful employment programs; to the
Committee on Education and the Workforce.
By Ms. Speier: (for herself, Ms.
Bonamici, Ms. DeLauro, Mr. Delaunay, Mrs.
Engel, Mr. Espaillat, Ms. Frankel of Florida,
Ms. Jackson Lee, Ms. Kuster of New
Hampshire, Ms. Lee, Ms. Matsui, Mrs. Napolitano,
Ms. Norton, Mr. Quigley, Ms. Roybal-Allard,
Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Takano, Ms. Wasserman
Schultz, Ms. Maxine Waters of California, Mrs.
Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Mr. Gru-
jalva, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Ms.
Fudge, Ms. Shea-Porter, Mr. Court-
ney, and California): H.R. 4030. A bill to amend the Department of
Education Organization Act to codify into
law the "Revised Sexual Harassment Guid-
ance for Harassment of Students by School Em-
ployees, Other Students, or Third Parties",
issued January 19, 2001, by the Office for
Civil Rights of the Department of Education,
as in effect on January 1, 2017; and for other
purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. McCaul: (for himself and Mr.
Biggs, Mr. Frank of Arizona, Mr.
Gallo, Mr. Gosar, and Mr. Schweiker):
H.R. 4032. A bill to confirm undocumented
Federally-recognized rights-of-way on the
Gila River Indian Community's Reservation, clarify
the northern boundary of the Gila River Indian
Community's Reservation, to take certain
lands located in Maricopa and Pinal Counties,
Arizona, into trust for the benefit of the
Gila River Indian Community, and for other
purposes; to the Committee on Natural
Resources.
By Mr. Lamborn: (for himself and Mr.
Brown of Maryland):
H.R. 4033. A bill to authorize the Na-
tional Geologic Mapping Act of 1992; to the
Committee on Natural Resources.
By Mr. Harper: (for himself, Mr.
Kelly of Mississippi, and Mr.
Palazzo):
H.R. 4034. A bill to direct the Secretary of
Agriculture to issue to the Pat Harrison
Water Project, and the Federal Government,
and for other purposes; to the Committee on
Agriculture.
By Mr. W. B. WEBER of Texas: (for himself,
Mr. Madewell, and Ms. Weinberg): H.R. 4035. A bill to amend the Energy Pol-
icy Act of 2005 to repeal certain loan guar-
antees, guarantees, and programs under the
Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reassert article I au-
torities over the Department of Homeland
Security; and for other purposes; to the Com-
mittee on Energy and Commerce, and in ad-
dition to the Committees on Science, Space,
and Technology, and Appropriations, for a
period to be subsequently determined by
the Speaker, in each case for consideration of
such provisions as fall within the jurisdic-
tion of the committee concerned.
By Mr. Graves: (for himself and Ms.
Sinema):
H.R. 4036. A bill to amend title 18, United
States Code, to provide a defense to prosecu-
tion for fraud and related activity in connec-
tion with computers for persons defending
against unauthorized intrusions into their
computers and for other purposes; to the
Committee on the Judiciary.
By Mrs. Hartzler:
H.R. 4037. A bill to amend title 38, United
States Code, to provide for the non-applica-
bility of non-Department of Veterans Affairs
coventant not to compete to the appoint-
mee of the General Services Administra-
tion personnel; to the Committee on Vet-
ers Affairs.
By Mr. McCaul: (for himself and Mr.
Brown of California):
H.R. 4038. A bill to amend the Homeland
Security Act of 2002 to reassert article I au-
torities over the Department of Homeland
Security; and for other purposes; to the
Committee on Homeland Security.
By Mr. CARTWRIGHT: (for himself and
Ms. Brown of California):
H.R. 4039. A bill to amend title 5, United
States Code, to limit the number of local
wage areas allowable within a General
Schedules area, pay locally for employees of
the Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform.
By Mr. Cohen: (for himself, Mr.
Jones, Mrs. Beatty, Mr. Beyer, Mr. Blum-
enauer, Ms. Chao, Mr. Chaffetz, Ms. Chu of
California, Ms. Clarke of New
York, Mrs. Clark of Massachusetts,
Mr. Connolly, Mr. Cummings, Mrs.
Davis of California, Mr. Davis of
Connecticut, Mr. Deutch, Ms.
Esty of Connecticut, Mr. Grijalva,
Mr. Harris, Mr. Hastings, Mr. K.
Kilmer, Mr. King of New York, Ms. Lieu,
Mr. McDermott of Washington, Ms.
Loe
rren, Mr. Lowenthal, Ms. Lowey,
Ms. MICHELLE LULIAN GRISSHAM of New Mexico, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNEIL-NEY, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SETERS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TUTTS, Ms. TSONDAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 4038. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on one another, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. DENT, Mrs. Davis of California, Ms. ROSETTE, Mr. ROSENSTEIN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 4041. A bill to provide for the retention and service of transgender members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SOTO (for himself, Mr. BILIAR, Mr. LEFANU of Florida, Mr. CURIELLO of Florida, Mr. DESANTS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HUTCHINSON of Florida, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. POSHY, Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida, Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, Ms. ROS-UMOFF, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ROYCE, Mrs. SCHULTZ, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. YOKO, Mr. DUNN, Mr. GAetz, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DOMINGUEZ, Ms. CRIST, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. MARTZ):

H.R. 4042. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1555 South Kisseimee Florida, as the “Borinqueneers Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BLUM (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 4043. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to reauthorize the whistleblower protection program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SACALIS (for himself, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. RECK, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. VELA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. FLORES, Mr. SCHWAB, Mr. TITUS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. DUNN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. KELMER, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, and Mr. CRIST):

H.R. 4044. A bill to authorize the minting of a coin in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Borinqueneers Post Office Building; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ESTY of Connecticut (for herself, Ms. TUTTS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KHIUEN, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. DeGETTE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. BASS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HARKINS, Mr. DELAURourke, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. SWALWELL of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KHANNA, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. MARTIN of Maine, Mr. CARMICHAEL, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. PAYNE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. SCHWAB, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LAN-GEVIN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYE of Pennsylvania, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. CLACK of Massachusetts, Mr. GRI-JALIKARIMI, Mr. SETERS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. SHERRIAM, Mr. McCaINCH, Mr. LEE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PERRI-LUTTER, Mr. KAPITZ, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BEYER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. YAR-UMTH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SPEIER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. DAVIS of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BERIA, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, Mr. AYOTE, Mr. REYAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HOGGINS of New York, Mr. ADAMS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MEKES, Mr. MATSUI, Ms. SHIA-PORTE, Mr. DEMINGS, Ms. TITTS, Mr. PAGE of United Kingdom (for the 2017-2018 Parliament)):

H.R. 4052. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on one another, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. JACKSON LEWIS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. GONZALEZ DE LEÓN of Texas, Mr. SANTIO, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. DELAURourke, Mr. HOGGINS of New York, and Mr. GUTCHERREY):

H.R. 4063. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into an agreement with any other Federal agency to enter into an agreement with any other Federal agency to provide for the reimbursement of the Federal government for the cost of services rendered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the extent that such services are rendered under a contract under which the Secretary is reimbursed by the Federal government for the cost of services rendered by the Secretary.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. DELAURourke, and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 4057. A bill to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of a firearm or the issuance of a license to carry a firearm to any person who has been convicted of a felony offense or who is currently subject to a criminal justice information system and who has been convicted of a felony offense or who is currently subject to a criminal justice information system.

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS (for herself, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. BISHOP):

H.R. 4059. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs fulfill the responsibility for disaster relief to the States, to establish a private corporation to assure States against risks and costs of disasters otherwise borne by the States, and to provide for reimbursable Federal assistance to States for activities in response to disasters.

By Mr. MAJBRAY (for himself and Mr. ROYCE):

H.R. 4068. A bill to provide for the distribution of items of supply and equipment and the Workforce.

By Mr. BUSTOS:

H.R. 4047. A bill to provide for the identification and the monitoring of improper payments and the identification of strategic sourcing opportunities by reviewing and analyzing the universal charge cards; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 4048. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense prior to entering into a contract for the sale of real property for the use of such military department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 4047. A bill to provide for the identification and the monitoring of improper payments and the identification of strategic sourcing opportunities by reviewing and analyzing the universal charge cards; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 4047. A bill to provide for the identification and the monitoring of improper payments and the identification of strategic sourcing opportunities by reviewing and analyzing the universal charge cards; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 4048. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense prior to entering into a contract for the sale of real property for the use of such military department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.
By Mr. ROSS (for himself, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. LUKTENKEMYER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MEeks, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BARR, Mr. MERRIAM, Ms. WAGNER, Mr. PELHAM-DIETRICH, Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. HINES, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SWIFT, Mr. JIHEN, Mr. KIHUEH, Mr. PITTENGER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MESSER, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. TITPMAN, Mr. KILMER, Mr. WIL-CONE, Mr. POULIN, Mr. LOPEZ-VALENTINE, Mrs. LOVE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. MILLER, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. EMERZI, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. MACARMON, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RENACE, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. MOUNTTON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. TIBERI, and Ms. KRISTIN KELLY of New Hampshire):

H.R. 4068. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to clarify the treatment of authentic Alaska Native articles of handicraft containing nonedible migratory bird parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COFFMAN (for himself, Mr. EDFAST, Mr. RACON, and Mr. PA-NETTA):

H.R. 4069. A joint resolution authorizing the use of United States Armed Forces against al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, and any associated persons engaged in hostilities against the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H. Res. 85. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2266; considered and agreed to. Considered and agreed to.

H.R. 4069. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to clarify the treatment of authentic Alaska Native articles of handicraft containing nonedible migratory bird parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 4068. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to clarify the treatment of authentic Alaska Native articles of handicraft containing nonedible migratory bird parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROSS (for himself, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. LUKTENKEMYER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MEeks, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BARR, Mr. MERRIAM, Ms. WAGNER, Mr. PELHAM-DIETRICH, Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. HINES, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SWIFT, Mr. JIHEN, Mr. KIHUEH, Mr. PITTENGER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MESSER, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. TITPMAN, Mr. KILMER, Mr. WIL-CONE, Mr. POULIN, Mr. LOPEZ-VALENTINE, Mrs. LOVE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. MILLER, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. EMERZI, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. MACARMON, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RENACE, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. MOUNTTON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. TIBERI, and Ms. KRISTIN KELLY of New Hampshire):

H.R. 4061. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to improve the transparency of the Financial Stability Oversight Council, to increase the size of the councils, and to revise the process for designating systemically important financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (for himself, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. MILLER, Mr. WILSON of North Carolina, Mr. POULIN, Mr. LOPEZ-VALENTINE, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. DELBENE, Mr. MILLER, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. EMERZI, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. MACARMON, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RENACE, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. MOUNTTON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. TIBERI, and Ms. KRISTIN KELLY of New Hampshire):

H.R. 4062. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 4063. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to maintain a database of information on electricity outages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 4064. A bill to impose restrictions on the sale of binary explosives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY):

H.R. 4065. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish grants to reduce the incidence of hate crimes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 4066. A bill to establish a program to accurately document vehicles that were significant in the history of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. WALORSKI (for herself, Mr. MEeks, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BILIRIS of California, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 4067. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations status) to the products of Kazakhstan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. WALORSKI (for herself, Mr. ROSS, and Ms. Tittus):

H.R. 4068. A bill to make necessary changes in the competitive need limitations provision; to amend the Endangered Species System of Preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 4068. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to clarify the treatment of authentic Alaska Native articles of handicraft containing nonedible migratory bird parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COFFMAN (for himself, Mr. EDFAST, Mr. RACON, and Mr. PA-NETTA):

H.R. 4069. A joint resolution authorizing the use of United States Armed Forces against al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, and any associated persons engaged in hostilities against the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 4069. A resolution providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2266, with an amendment; considered and agreed to. Considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GATZ (for himself, Mr. BILL-KARIS, and Ms. ROSE-LIEFTINN):

H. Res. 570. Resolution affirming the historical connection of the Jewish people to the ancient and sacred city of Jerusalem and condemning efforts at the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to deny Judaism's millenia-old historical, religious, and cultural ties to Jerusalem; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. HANAHUSA (for herself, Mr. MCDERMONT, Mr. BORDALLO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LOFREE, Mr. MILLER of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LEE, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SPIELER, Mr. GIS-SALVA, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. TAKANO):

H. Res. 571. A resolution recognizing Filipi-no American History Month and celebrating the history and culture of Filipino Americans and their immense contributions to the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire (for herself and Mr. MACARTHUR):

H. Res. 572. A resolution supporting the President to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based upon the two countries' common interests and the United States' significant security interests in the region; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H. Res. 573. A resolution calling on the President to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based upon the two countries' common interests and the United States' significant security interests in the region; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GRAVES of Georgia:

H.R. 4036. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. O’HALLERAN:

H.R. 4037. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HARPER:

H.R. 4034. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 4035. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4039. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8; Clause 1 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4040. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8; Clause 1 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .

By Mr. SPEIER:

H.R. 4041. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SOTO:
H.R. 4042.

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

By Mr. BLUM:
H.R. 4043.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 US Constitution

By Mr. SCALISE:
H.R. 4044.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 5 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution:
"The Congress shall have power . . . to coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures."

By Mr. BARR:
H.R. 4045.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:
H.R. 4046.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:
H.R. 4047.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:
H.R. 4048.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of the Constitution:
"The Congress shall have Power . . . To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mrs. DINGELL:
H.R. 4049.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Art. 1 Sec. 8. "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. JUDY CHU of California:
H.R. 4050.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section VIII

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:
H.R. 4051.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article One of the United States Constitution, section 8, clause 18:
"The Congress shall have Power—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, or Article One of the United States Constitution, Section 8, Clause 3:
"The Congress shall have Power—To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes;"

By Ms. ESTY of Connecticut:
H.R. 4052.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:
H.R. 4053.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority for this bill is pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:
H.R. 4054.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. KILDEE:
H.R. 4055.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. KIND:
H.R. 4056.

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

By Mr. KING of New York:
H.R. 4057.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Consistent with the understanding and interpretation of the Commerce Clause, Congress has the authority to enact this legislation in accordance with Clause 3 of Section 8, Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS:
H.R. 4058.

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

By Mr. MARSHALL:
H.R. 4059.

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

By Mr. Pascrell:
H.R. 4060.

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

By Mr. ROSS:
H.R. 4061.

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

By Mr. KUPPERSBERGER:
H.R. 4062.

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

By Mr. SOTO:
H.R. 4063.

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

By Ms. VELAZQUEZ:
H.R. 4064.

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

By Ms. Velazquez:
H.R. 4065.

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

By Mr. WALBERG:
H.R. 4066.

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

By Mrs. WALORSKI:
H.R. 4067.

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

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 4068.

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

By Mr. COFFMAN:
H.J. Res. 118.

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

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

H.R. 113: Mr. NADLER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms.ギャバード, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 121: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 149: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 173: Mr. MACARTHUR.
H.R. 283: Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHI and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 246: Mr. CHEN, Mr. KING of New York, and Ms. HEHERA BRUTLER.
H.R. 299: Mr. ESPAILLAT and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 331: Mr. MCKINNEY.
H.R. 391: Mr. BANKS of Indiana.
H.R. 392: Mr. CURRIER.
H.R. 449: Mr. DeSALVADOR.
H.R. 451: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 465: Mr. BANKS of Indiana.
H.R. 502: Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 535: Ms. LOUPE, Mr. CLAY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 561: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Mr. COOK.
H.R. 620: Mr. TURNER and Mr. BARR.
H.R. 638: Mr. RUIZ, Mrs. TORRES, and Ms. BARBRAAD.
H.R. 733: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 747: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 778: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 821: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 826: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 846: Mr. CARRAJAL.
H.R. 870: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 878: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 959: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 960: Mrs. JUDD of Indiana and Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida.
H.R. 1017: Mr. AL GREEN of South Carolina.
H.R. 1046: Mr. POCAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. PAYNE, Mr. LAMAR, Mr. WALZ, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mr. WESTERMAN.
H. Res. 142: Ms. Esty of Connecticut and Mrs. Walorski.
H. Res. 274: Mr. Pocan and Mr. Reichert.
H. Res. 461: Mr. Lance and Mr. Panetta.
H. Res. 428: Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Ruppersberger, and Mr. Sensenbrenner.

H. Res. 443: Ms. Moore.
H. Res. 495: Mr. Brown of Maryland and Ms. Esty of Connecticut.
H. Res. 521: Mrs. Mimi Walters of California.
H. Res. 528: Mr. Schiff and Mr. Welch.
H. Res. 556: Mr. Pascrell.
H. Res. 557: Mr. Pascrell.
H. Res. 560: Mr. Hastings.
H. Res. 564: Mr. Meadows and Mr. Massie.
H. Res. 566: Mr. Grijalva.
Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, during my medical recovery, I missed the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

June 15, 2017  
Yea on Roll Call No. 308
Yea on Roll Call No. 309
Yea on Roll Call No. 310
June 21, 2017  
Yea on Roll Call No. 311
Yea on Roll Call No. 312
Yea on Roll Call No. 313
Nay on Roll Call No. 314
Yea on Roll Call No. 315
June 22, 2017  
Yea on Roll Call No. 316
Yea on Roll Call No. 317
Nay on Roll Call No. 318
Yea on Roll Call No. 319
June 23, 2017  
Yea on Roll Call No. 320
Yea on Roll Call No. 321
Yea on Roll Call No. 322
June 26, 2017  
Yea on Roll Call No. 323
Yea on Roll Call No. 324
June 27, 2017  
Yea on Roll Call No. 325
Yea on Roll Call No. 326
Yea on Roll Call No. 327
Yea on Roll Call No. 328
Yea on Roll Call No. 329
Yea on Roll Call No. 330
June 28, 2017  
Yea on Roll Call No. 331
Yea on Roll Call No. 332
Yea on Roll Call No. 333
Yea on Roll Call No. 334
Yea on Roll Call No. 335
Nay on Roll Call No. 336
Yea on Roll Call No. 337
Yea on Roll Call No. 338
June 29, 2017  
Yea on Roll Call No. 339
Yea on Roll Call No. 340
July 1, 2017  
Nay on Roll Call No. 341
Yea on Roll Call No. 342
Nay on Roll Call No. 343
Yea on Roll Call No. 344
July 11, 2017  
Yea on Roll Call No. 345
Yea on Roll Call No. 346
July 12, 2017  
Yea on Roll Call No. 347
Yea on Roll Call No. 348
Yea on Roll Call No. 349
Nay on Roll Call No. 350
Nay on Roll Call No. 351
Yea on Roll Call No. 352
July 13, 2017  
Yea on Roll Call No. 353
Yea on Roll Call No. 354

This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
Yea on Roll Call No. 481
Yea on Roll Call No. 482
Nay on Roll Call No. 483
Yea on Roll Call No. 484

September 12, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 485
September 13, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 486
Yea on Roll Call No. 487
Yea on Roll Call No. 488
Nay on Roll Call No. 489
Nay on Roll Call No. 490
Nay on Roll Call No. 491
Nay on Roll Call No. 492
Nay on Roll Call No. 493
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Nay on Roll Call No. 496
Yea on Roll Call No. 497
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Nay on Roll Call No. 499
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Nay on Roll Call No. 501
Nay on Roll Call No. 502
Nay on Roll Call No. 503
Yea on Roll Call No. 504
Nay on Roll Call No. 505
Nay on Roll Call No. 506
Nay on Roll Call No. 507
Yea on Roll Call No. 508
Yea on Roll Call No. 509
Yea on Roll Call No. 510
Yea on Roll Call No. 511
Yea on Roll Call No. 512
Yea on Roll Call No. 513
Nay on Roll Call No. 514
Yea on Roll Call No. 515

September 14, 2017
Nay on Roll Call No. 516
Yea on Roll Call No. 517
Yea on Roll Call No. 518
Yea on Roll Call No. 519
Nay on Roll Call No. 520
Nay on Roll Call No. 521
Nay on Roll Call No. 522
Nay on Roll Call No. 523
Yea on Roll Call No. 524
Yea on Roll Call No. 525
Nay on Roll Call No. 526
Nay on Roll Call No. 527
Yea on Roll Call No. 528
Yea on Roll Call No. 529

September 25, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 530
Yea on Roll Call No. 531
September 26, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 532
Yea on Roll Call No. 533
Yea on Roll Call No. 534
Nay on Roll Call No. 535
Nay on Roll Call No. 536
Yea on Roll Call No. 537

September 27, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 538
Yea on Roll Call No. 539
Yea on Roll Call No. 540
September 28, 2017
Nay on Roll Call No. 541

Yea on Roll Call No. 481
Yea on Roll Call No. 482
Nay on Roll Call No. 483
Yea on Roll Call No. 484

September 12, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 485
September 13, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 486
Yea on Roll Call No. 487
Yea on Roll Call No. 488
Nay on Roll Call No. 489
Nay on Roll Call No. 490
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Nay on Roll Call No. 492
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Yea on Roll Call No. 515

September 14, 2017
Nay on Roll Call No. 516
Yea on Roll Call No. 517
Yea on Roll Call No. 518
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September 25, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 530
Yea on Roll Call No. 531
September 26, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 532
Yea on Roll Call No. 533
Yea on Roll Call No. 534
Nay on Roll Call No. 535
Nay on Roll Call No. 536
Yea on Roll Call No. 537

September 27, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 538
Yea on Roll Call No. 539
Yea on Roll Call No. 540
September 28, 2017
Nay on Roll Call No. 541

HONORING STEPHEN CONQUEST
HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017
Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Stephen Conquest, who is celebrating his 50th Birthday. Defying all odds, Mr. Conquest has outlived the life expectancy given to him by doctors, who estimated that he would not make it past his teenage years. Born with Down Syndrome, a genetic anomaly that leads to developmental delays, the likelihood of Mr. Conquest developing life-threatening conditions was higher than most.

Mr. Conquest went on to join the Boy Scouts, receiving the Order of the Arrow; became an active member of the Future Farmers of America; won state gold medals in the 100-meter dash and long jump in the Special Olympics; and has been an invaluable employee at The McAllen Monitor since 1990.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Conquest is also a valued friend, coworker, and son. I am proud to represent constituents like Mr. Conquest, who set the example for how life should truly be lived.

Mr. Speaker, I again offer my congratulations to Mr. Conquest and his family. His perseverance, compassion, and versatility in leading a full life is exemplary and has not gone unnoticed. He has made the South Texas community a better place, and it is my honor to acknowledge him today.

HONORING DRISCOLL’S
HON. JIMMY PANETTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017
Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Driscoll’s, a company based in California’s 20th Congressional District as the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County’s 2017 Food Donor of the Year. The company, made up of dedicated independent growers, has been donating their fresh berries to the Second Harvest Food Bank in Watsonville for over two decades. In 2016 alone, Driscoll’s donated nearly one thousand tons of berries. Because of Driscoll’s efforts, many food insecure families on the central coast of California now have access to the vitamin-rich and highly nutritious berries and can make them a part of a healthy diet.

The Driscoll and Reiter families, the founders of Driscoll’s, have been producing berries in the Pajaro Valley since 1904. Officially founded in 1950 as Driscoll Strawberry Associates, Inc., the company originally sold only fresh California strawberries. Their creation of the first patented strawberry variety in 1958 made Driscoll’s the national berry of choice by extending the crop’s growing season and allowing berries to be shipped long distances. Today, they have expanded their operations from just strawberries to include raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries. Driscoll’s innovative work, along with the contributions from many other farmers and ranchers of the Central Coast, has contributed to my district’s reputation as an agricultural powerhouse.

Driscoll’s has always been committed to giving back to the local communities that have given them so much. Through their Berry Donation Program, Driscoll’s works to make sure families throughout their community have access to berries during local growing seasons. The company also supports a variety of food banks and related organizations such as the California Association of Food Banks and Ag Against Hunger.

Driscoll’s culture of philanthropy is not limited solely to their senior leadership, but extends to their employees who are closely involved in the company’s efforts to support their communities. Together, Driscoll’s and their employees have donated over 5 million pounds of berries to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

As the representative of the 20th Congressional District, I commend Driscoll’s for working to ensure that families on the Central Coast have access to the fresh and nutritious berries grown in their own backyard. We are lucky that they call the 20th Congressional District home. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating Driscoll’s on their 2017 Food Donor of the Year award.

HONORING DR. TED CHRISTOPHER ON HIS INAUGURATION TO PRESIDENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MEDICAL SOCIETY
HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017
Mr. BRENDA F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our nation’s most dedicated advocates for doctors and patients, Dr. Ted Christopher of Pennsylvania’s 13th Congressional District, who is to be sworn in on October 14, 2017 as the 168th President of the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

As a leader in emergency medicine, Dr. Christopher is the epitome of a physician who goes above and beyond—who uses his or her talents not only serve individual patients, but also the practice of medicine as a whole. Not only has he been a trustee of the Pennsylvania Medical Society since 2011, but he has also served as president of the Association of Academic Chairs of Emergency Medicine, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and the Philadelphia County Medical Society.

Dr. Christopher’s invaluable contributions to the field of emergency medicine are displayed through his robust academic research. As Professor and Chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, he has long been a leader in his field and an inspiring mentor to countless students.

I am confident that Dr. Christopher will bring his extraordinary skills and experience to this new position to the benefit of all advocates of best-practices in medical care, and represent Pennsylvania’s doctors with honor and distinction.

On behalf of Pennsylvania’s 13th Congressional District, I wish him my utmost congratulations and all the best for his coming term.
TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS TENTH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANNA G. ESHTOO OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my colleagues, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN and Congressman JIMMY PATELLA to honor the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) as it celebrates its Tenth Year Anniversary. The Peninsula Community Foundation and Community Foundation Silicon Valley merged in 2007 to increase their impact by creating SVCF. Under the superb leadership of CEO Dr. Emmett D. Carson, SVCF has grown to become the world’s largest community foundation with more than $8 billion in assets. SVCF has been able to do this by engaging, empowering, and collaborating with families, individuals, and corporate donors to generate positive impacts and by supporting organizations within and beyond county lines and national borders.

SVCF has become a comprehensive center for philanthropy and over the last decade has continued to advocate in pursuit of public policy issues and strategic initiatives in support of those in need. It also serves as a key leader and partner to nonprofit groups and institutions who work to advance ideas and direct resources strategically toward the pressing local needs of the community. SVCF has awarded $4.3 billion in grants since 2007, and the strong support that it has from the community and donors has enabled it to award $2.3 billion to local charities in nine Bay Area counties, with an additional $245 million awarded to other California charities. In their effort to assist students in their higher education and careers SVCF also awarded close to 400 scholarships totaling $1.7 million to students in high school, community college and university programs during the 2014 to 2015 school year.

SVCF exemplifies its values of collaboration; diversity; inclusiveness; innovation; integrity; public accountability; respect; and responsiveness. It is fitting and proper that we recognize the tremendous impact of philanthropy, and the spirit of generosity and community service that SVCF has had in the Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in commending Mrs. Resch for her continued commitment to the betterment of our communities both at home and abroad.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. SHARON RESCH AND HER LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO THE FINE ARTS, COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY, AND WORLDWIDE HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Sharon Resch of Green Bay for her ongoing commitment to community philanthropy, worldwide humanitarian efforts, and the fine arts. Mrs. Resch has achieved this by being a dedicated supporter of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay’s mission and a vital resource and partner to its students.

Mrs. Resch has helped transform the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay through her leadership in bringing the American International Czech and Slovak Voice Competition to campus on a semi-annual basis. Mrs. Resch has also founded the Sharon J. Resch Endowed Scholarship for Fine Arts, which is reserved for students who graduate from the non-profit Fine Arts Institute and continue their music studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Mrs. Resch’s efforts are not limited to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Her generosity can be seen all across northeastern Wisconsin, with contributions to the Resch Center, Miracle League of Green Bay, and Resch Aquatic Center at Fisk Park.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in honoring Mrs. Resch for her continued commitment to the betterment of our communities both at home and abroad.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP CLIFFORD M. JOHNSON, JR.’S 48TH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF MOUNT PLEASANT CHURCH AND MINISTRIES

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American and a visionary leader—Bishop Clifford M. Johnson, Jr. This month, Bishop Johnson celebrates his 48th anniversary as Pastor of Mount Pleasant Church and Ministries, which is located in my Congressional District in Baltimore, Maryland. For nearly half a century, Bishop Johnson has used his God-given talents and abilities to uplift the people of his church and those in the surrounding community.

As a passionate Bible scholar and avid reader, Bishop Johnson was drawn to studying the Word of God at a young age. A native of Baltimore, he graduated from Kenwood High School in Baltimore County and pursued additional studies at the Baltimore College of Commerce and the Community College of Baltimore. Bishop Johnson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pastoral Theology from the Washington Bible College and Capital Seminary. In 1975, he received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Virginia Seminary and College of Lynchburg, Virginia.

Under Bishop Johnson’s dynamic leadership, Mount Pleasant Church and Ministries has grown to serve a congregation of 8,000 people. He turned a deteriorating shopping center into a thriving 17-acre campus with several ministries that reach beyond the walls of the church to bring resources and support to neighbors in need. Those ministries include: Kingdom Men Bible Class, the Prison Ministry, the Adult Learning Center, the Word of Life Ministry for children, the Evangelism Ministry, the Food and Banquet Ministry, and the Lampstand Christian Bookstore.

Because of Bishop Johnson’s deep belief in the power of education to change the trajectory of the lives of young people, he established the Mount Pleasant Christian School. The school serves children from Kindergarten through grade five, and everyone involved with the school—from teachers, to parents and support staff—has committed to the mission of “awakening the genius in every child.”

Bishop Johnson’s influence runs deep throughout the City of Baltimore. He is highly regarded by elected officials, business and civic leaders, and the people of the community. I witnessed this influence first-hand during the city’s unrest following the killing of Freddie Gray. Bishop Johnson was one of the first pastors to join with me and other spiritual leaders to help bring calm to the streets of Baltimore. Bishop Johnson then helped to devise a long-term plan to heal the shattered relationship between police and the communities they serve and protect. His genuine connection to the people of the community helped us assess and respond to their real needs.

Bishop Johnson has such a powerful ministry because he relates the Word of God to people’s everyday lives. He has made an impact throughout the world by ministering in Canada, Israel, Sweden, France and Africa. He recently earned the distinction of being the first African American to preach and evangelize in Cuba.

A loving family man, Bishop Johnson has been married to Dorothy Johnson for more than 50 years. They have five children and thirteen grandchildren.

I am honored to pay tribute to Bishop Clifford M. Johnson, Jr. for his 48 years of pastoring Mount Pleasant Church and Ministries. He is a noble American who continues to serve his church, his community, and his country with distinction, and I thank him for his ministry.

CELEBRATING THE REUNION OF THE 50TH COMPANY, INFANTRY OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL CLASS OC 24–69

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR. OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special group of Americans who are worthy of our recognition for the sacrifices they made for our country.

In October of this year, the surviving members of the 50th Company, Infantry Officer Candidate Schools Class OC 24–69 will have their first reunion at Fort Benning, Georgia, 48
years after pinning on the gold bars of Second Lieutenants. It was a time when the United States was still deeply mired in the Vietnam war.

The young men who made up the 50th Company came from 42 of our 50 states and represented all walk of life and ethnic heritages. Almost all of them had recently graduated from college, and were of an age at which most of their contemporaries were starting their careers, not facing military service and the rigors of war and sacrifice.

They were fully aware that the Vietnam war did not receive the near universal support that the country had offered the servicemen and women of World War II, in whose shadow they had grown up. The feelings of these men toward the war in Southeast Asia were as varied as those of their countrymen.

Nevertheless, they accepted the risks inherent in their decision to become Army officers. Despite their varied backgrounds and their support for, or opposition to, the Vietnam war, they shared more important traits—a love of the United States of America, an abiding belief in democracy, and a devotion to duty no matter the consequences. They had all volunteered for the OCS.

Within a year of graduation, over half would receive orders for Vietnam. Two classmates made the ultimate sacrifice for our country—James DuPont from North Canton, Ohio and Thomas Edgren from Libertyville, Illinois. Many others were awarded the Purple Heart.

They all, no matter where they served, made sacrifices as previous generations who had served in the armed forces had sacrificed—separation from families, missed holidays, arduous and often dangerous work, and sometimes miserable living conditions. And sadly, for these men of the Vietnam era, their sacrifices were often met upon their return with indifference and even open hostility from the country had offered the servicemen and women of World War II, in whose shadow they had grown up.

Some of these men made the military a career. But most were classic “citizen soldiers” who returned to civilian life once they had served. They became doctors, lawyers, business owners, farmers, and business men.

Over the years, many of the men of the 50th Company put their time in the service behind them. They lost contact with each other as other life issues took precedence. But through the efforts of a few determined classmates, plans were laid for this fall’s reunion. They will gather again at Fort Benning, another generation of Americans who laid down their plowshares to pick up rifles, only to be returned to plowshares when duty was honorably done.

At the reunion, these old comrades-in-arms will renew the bonds that were forged 48 years ago through the long marches in the brutal Georgia heat, the early morning runs in combat boots and rain, the countless pushups, and the brotherhood of blood and sweat of hard Army training. Now they will share their pride in how they served.

I ask my colleagues to join me in pausing to reflect on the sacrifices made by these men and the millions of others they represent, and to extend to them our personal thanks and the thanks of our country.

ST. OMER FOUNDATION
HON. FRANCIS ROONEY OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the St. Omer Foundation as it commemorates a great American family, the Carrolls, who played a tremendous role in securing our constitutional freedoms, and the founding of our country.

Prior to the American Revolution, and before the freedom of religion was enshrined in the United States Constitution, Catholic families sent their children to France for an education. Many of these students attended an English-speaking, Jesuit-run university in St. Omer, France. Notable among these children were the sons of the distinguished Carroll family, who owned much of Maryland, including the future site of the United States Capitol. Charles, Daniel, and John Carroll all studied at the Jesuit University in St. Omer before returning to the colonies to play significant roles in the American Revolution. In St. Omer, the Carrolls learned the values that helped inspire their participation in the fight for independence from the British Empire. Charles Carroll signed the Declaration of Independence. Daniel Carroll was involved in the ratification of the Articles of Confederation and the United States Constitution, and John Carroll became the first Catholic Archbishop of the United States, founded Georgetown University, and established the first Catholic seminary in our country.

During the French Revolution, the Jesuit University in St. Omer was disbanded, many of its buildings were destroyed, and the memory of the Americans who studied in France began to fade. Recently, the people of St. Omer, alongside many friends in the United States, sought to refresh this memory, and reminded Americans and Frenchmen alike that the American Revolution took some of its impetus from a Jesuit university in the North of France. Together, they restored the handsome Jesuit chapel where the Carrolls attended mass as students in the 18th century.

On October 15, Archbishop Lori of Baltimore will cut the ribbon on this newly renovated chapel and kick off a weekend of celebration and dialogue between the Carroll family and their contribution to our great nation.

I thank the St. Omer Foundation for its contributions to help preserve the legacy of heroes of the American Revolution.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JIM MCLAUGHLIN
HON. BOBBY L. RUSH OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Herman Roberts, who is to be inducted into the Chicago Blues Hall of Fame this Sunday, October 15, 2017.

Born in Beooge, Oklahoma in 1924, Herman Roberts and his family moved to Chicago when he was 12. He entered the workforce a few years later working for a cab company washing cars. At the age of 15, he was given the responsibility of driving those cabs and by 1944, he became owner of his own business, the Roberts Cab Company.

Mr. Speaker, like many young men of the era, Mr. Roberts fulfilled his patriotic duty by serving in the army during World War II. After returning from war, his ambition drove him to return to his cabs.

I ask my colleagues to join me in pausing to reflect on the sacrifices made by these men and the millions of others they represent, and to extend to them our personal thanks and the thanks of our country.

HON. ZOE LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Jim McLoughlin, an outspoken advocate for working families for over forty years. The San Antonio Redevelopment Plan’s twelve story tower located in the heart of downtown San Jose, constructed in 1975 and 1976 thanks in large part to his efforts, will be renamed in Jim’s honor.

Jim first joined Local 428 of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (then the Retail Clerks International Association) in 1937 as a clerk at Piggly Wiggly. A quick learner and a natural leader, he was elected to lead Local 428 that same year. His leadership continued for the next forty-three years, during which time Jim expressed solidarity for his brethren in labor throughout the world by serving as a trade union delegate to labor organizations in China, Argentina, Israel, Iceland and Sweden.

Jim dedicated his life to organizing and civic engagement. He was a member of the Committee on Political Education and the AFL–CIO for over forty years. He participated on various state task forces, including Governor Pat Brown’s Committee on Automation and Employment in 1958, the Industrial Commission-Mercantile Wage Board in 1972 and the California Attorney General’s Volunteer Advisory Council in 1973. Serving as Vice President among the 1.5 million members in the California Labor Federation from 1972 to 1980, Jim made a substantial impact for a generation of working families in California.

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Jim advocated for “guaranteed employment rights, wages, and benefits which match the cost of living to enable workers to be a force for progressive change in the communities.” His worldview that the treatment of workers is critical to the wellbeing of the community remains as relevant now as it was in Jim’s time. I am proud to have been Jim’s friend, and thankful for the many ways in which Jim advocated for workers in California and throughout the world.

RECOGNIZING HERMAN ROBERTS
HON. FRANCIS ROONEY
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

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His success as a club owner is evidenced by the headliners he booked: Nat “King” Cole, Sammy Davis, Jr., Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, R&B acts like the Tempters, Brook Benton, Sam Cooke, and Jackie Wilson, and jazz diva Dinah Washington. While Mr. Roberts focused primarily on black acts, he would make exceptions for people like Tony Bennett and Gene Krupa.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Roberts’ pioneering spirit wasn’t limited to the musical sphere. In fact, he was the first entertainment business owner to give the famed Dick Gregory a chance when he hired him as a late-night emcee at the Herman Roberts Show Lounge in Chicago in 1958. In the political realm, his motel served as the original meeting place for another pioneer when he hosted Chicago Mayor Harold Washington’s initial campaign.

In short, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Roberts’ venues served as the epicenter for Chicago’s Black civil society and he served as the Godfather of Chicago’s Black entertainment industry.

Finally, after decades of hard work, Mr. Roberts retired in 1992 and still, today, maintains his home on Chicago’s Southside.

Mr. Speaker, clearly Mr. Roberts is an accomplished individual and we, in Chicago, are proud to call him one of our own. I am delighted to congratulate my longtime friend and supporter, Mr. Herman Roberts, on this important achievement. On behalf of all my constituents in the 1st Congressional District of Illinois, I extend my heartfelt congratulations.

CONGRATULATING WAukeGAN TO COLLEGE (W2C)

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Waukegan to College (W2C) for its recent selection as an exemplary organization for promoting Latino success in higher education by Excelencia in Education.

This is a true honor, and the staff, volunteers, students, and families of Waukegan to College should be very proud.

Waukegan to College demonstrates how community support, resources, and encouragement can help students achieve their dreams of attending and graduating college.

Through services such as tutoring, mentoring, college and scholarship application coaching, and advising sessions that include parents, Waukegan to College equips students with the tools they need to succeed not just in higher education, but in life.

This prestigious award is a testament to their commitment to the youth of Waukegan. The time, effort and energy that they invest in this program do not go unnoticed—and sets a national example of the impact that a community-based organization can make.

I congratulate the team at Waukegan to College on this impressive accomplishment, and thank them for all they do to make a difference in the lives of our youth.

HONORING TERESA P. PEREZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Weslaco, Texas native, Mrs. Teresa P. Perez, who is celebrating her 60th birthday.

Born on October 14, 1957, she has been a pillar in the community. Mrs. Perez has resided in Weslaco since 1998 and is a lifelong member of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church.

Mrs. Perez has held many successful roles throughout her life but none more important than those to her family as a daughter, sister, mother and grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, I again offer my congratulations to Mrs. Perez and her family: Cindy, Tommy, Louie, Rose, Arturo, Tommy, Ruben, Mike, Andrew, Cathy, Danny, and all 20 of her beloved grandchildren. Ms. Perez and her family have made South Texas a better place, and it is my honor to acknowledge her today and wish her a very happy birthday.

HONORING REVEREND SAMUEL E. GASKINS, SR.
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Samuel E. Gaskins, Sr. for his tireless dedication to improving the lives of residents in my district.

Born in Lake City, South Carolina in 1937, Rev. Gaskins enlisted in the United States Army at the age of fifteen. By the age of seventeen he was promoted to Staff Sergeant and later a Chief Petty Warrant Officer, a testament to his innate leadership skills. After twenty four years of military service, including two tours as a chaplain in Vietnam, Rev. Gaskins settled in Seacliff, California where he continued serving the public. In the late 1990s, the United States Army donated the former Fort Ord’s Army chapel to Rev. Gaskins. Through tireless work, he restored and converted the building into the Christian Memorial Tabernacle’s chapel still in use to this day.

Rev. Gaskins’ efforts to improve the lives of his fellow citizens extend far past the walls of his church. Rev. Gaskins has founded numerous organizations and initiatives aimed at helping those in our community who are most in need. One such program is a new homeless ministry named “The Stepping Stone Outreach Program.” Rev. Gaskins’ five year program aims to provide housing and education for over 500 people in need. I commend Rev. Gaskins for his dedication to caring for those in my district who need help the most.

Apart from his work to care for the less fortunate, Rev. Gaskins has worked to foster solidarity and strong relationships among communities in my district. One such initiative is “One Great Fellowship,” which he created in conjunction with Jason Harbert of the Carmel Presbyterian Church. One Great Fellowship aims to promote racial harmony between communities on the Monterey Peninsula. The program, which involves multiple Peninsula churches, has held several interfaith and interdenominational services per year which regularly drew hundreds of people.

Rev. Gaskins has proven himself to be a natural leader in service to his country and community. His life’s work adds up to nothing short of transforming the lives of the residents of the Central Coast. We are lucky to have someone as selfless and dedicated as Rev. Gaskins call the 20th district home. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Rev. Samuel E. Gaskins, Sr. for his many accomplishments and contributions to the betterment of his community, country, and fellow man.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR. JEROME E. JACKSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Jerome Jackson, professor of Criminology at California State University, Fresno. Dr. Jackson has had a remarkable career, spanning over 30 years. He is a renowned criminologist, author and lecturer known for his work for various civil rights causes.

Dr. Jerome Jackson was born in Texas before relocating to California. He earned his Bachelors in Arts in Political Science from Southern University in Baton Rouge Louisiana, a Master’s in Public Administration from Texas Southern University and a Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University. Currently, Dr. Jackson is the first and only African American born in the state of Texas to graduate from the distinguished Ph.D. program at Sam Houston State University. He also holds a Masters in Theological Studies and Doctorate in Theological Studies from the Faith Seminary in Tacoma, Washington.

Currently, Dr. Jackson is a tenured Full Professor of Criminology at California State University, Fresno. During his tenure at Fresno State he took on a number of roles. This includes serving as the president of the Black Faculty and Staff Association and chairing the Martin Luther King Monument Statute Committee, helping to raise over $75,000.00. His work has been well recognized and he has received a number of honors throughout his career. This includes the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1998. His outstanding work has also been recognized by the cities of Fresno and Clovis.

Mr. Speaker, it with great pleasure that I ask you to join me in celebrating the career of Dr. Jerome E. Jackson. I wish Dr. Jackson and his family continued success and happiness going forward.
Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my hometown in celebration of ZF, one of the top automotive suppliers in the world. For thirty years, this company has been a part of our Hall County, and I commend the city of Gainesville for establishing September 23 as “ZF Day.”

When ZF opened its first North American production facility on Palmour Drive back in 1987, no one could predict the impact that this company would have on our community in northeast Georgia. What began as one location and a few jobs quickly grew to more than 50 locations and 31,900 jobs across North America.

Hall County alone is now home to four production facilities and over 1,000 employees representing ZF.

The Greater Hall County Chamber of Commerce played a significant role in bringing this company to Georgia and helping them achieve success. I want to thank them for all of their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I take pride in the number of international companies, like ZF, that have chosen to invest in my home state over the last several decades. These companies have provided many neighbors with careers and the means to pursue their dreams. I wish the company well as it continues to expand and create more opportunities for hard-working men and women.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to residents of California’s 42nd Congressional District who were tragically killed during the massacre at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada on Sunday, October 1, 2017.

Thomas Day, Jr. was born and raised in my hometown of Corona, California. After graduating from Corona High School, Tom attended Riverside Community College and later went to work for Portrait Construction, a home building company founded by his father, Tom Sr. Those who worked with Tom knew him as someone who was easy to talk to and get along with. The Day family has been active in our community for many years, making a number of important contributions to non-profit organizations. Attending concerts and music festivals with his children was a win-win for Tom because it allowed him to do two things he loved at one time—listen to music and spend time with his family. Tom was attending the Route 91 Harvest country music festival with his children when he was senselessly taken from us.

Rocio Guillen grew up in Anaheim, California and attended Katella High School, where she ran track and cross country. Most recently, she worked as an assistant manager at a California Pizza Kitchen. Rocio was a tireless worker both at her job and at home caring for her children. She was blessed with four children: 18-year-old Marcus, 13-year-old Christopher, 10-month-old Christopher Jr., and 1-month-old Austin. Marcus recently described Rocio as an “amazing mother. She worked so many hours at work and would come back and take care of all of us.” Rocio’s fiancé, Chris Jaksha, attended the Route 91 Harvest country music festival with her and comforted her in those terrifying final moments of her life.

Pati Mestas lived in Menifee, California and was a graduate of Garey High in Pomona. While she previously helped manage the deli at a Corona gas station, Pati recently stopped working to spend more time with her three children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Pati loved going to country music concerts and having a good time with her friends. Her son Brandon wrote, “She left this world surrounded by friends, singing and dancing with thousands of people. If I had to write the script myself, I could not have done a better job.”

Christopher Roybal proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy as a dog handler, completing multiple tours in Afghanistan. After leaving the Navy, Chris returned home to Corona, California, and managed Crunch Fitness gyms. According to family and friends, Chris loved to sing and enjoyed all genres of music—they say he was a karaoke king. Chris is survived by his wife Dixie Roybal, his mother Debby Allen, father Samuel Roybal brothers Jacob, Jayson and Nicholas, and sisters Nina and Jillian. We are eternally grateful for Chris’ service to our nation.

Our hearts ache for all of those whose lives were cut short and forever impacted by the evil acts of that evening. We pray that their loved ones, colleagues and friends find comfort in the memories shared with those we have lost. We also pray for the speedy recovery of all of the wounded. As a country we must stand together in the wake of this horrific event and demonstrate that the love, decency and compassion inside all of us is far stronger than any evil act.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor today to honor the Morristown & Morris Township Public Library’s Willis Wing.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morristown & Morris Township Public Library’s Willis Wing, located in Morristown, New Jersey on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.
Library services have been available in Morristown since 1792. The first circulating library consisted of 97 members and 96 books. The Morristown Library Association was formed in 1812 and by the middle of the 19th century the library had grown to several thousand volumes. From 1875 to 1914 the Library was housed on South Street in the Morristown Library and Lyceum, an organization that officially incorporated in 1866. Its collection grew from 8,000 books to over 30,000 when the building, and almost everything in it, was destroyed by fire in 1914.

A temporary library was soon opened in the old YMCA building on South Street. With money from both insurance and the sale of the land on which the Library and Lyceum stood, the property at the corner of Miller Road and South Street was purchased with the intention of building a new library building.

In 1916, Grinnell Willis, a retired textile merchant who lived in Morristown since 1889, approached the Library Trustees and offered to pay the entire cost of a new fireproof building. The new Library would be built in “grateful remembrance of the love and affection bestowed on his late wife by her friends and neighbors in Morristown.” The day after Mr. Willis made his offer, an Act of Incorporation for the Morristown Library was filed. Its objective would be “to establish and maintain a free public library and reading rooms, to establish and maintain an art gallery and museum for the encouragement of arts and science, to establish and maintain a collection of books and documents of historic interest and to advance the literary and educational interests of the community.” On December 13, 1917 the Library, with 8,000 volumes and a staff of four was opened to the public.

In 1929, with the collection now totaling 43,500 volumes, Mr. Willis funded the cost of an addition to the original 1917 building. This addition, which opened in 1930, contained the Children’s Wing. Grinnell Willis died shortly after the new wing was completed. In his will he left the library an endowment of $200,000.

The Library continued to grow and serve its public as an association library until 1966 when the residents of Morristown and Morris Township united in the support, maintenance, and control of a joint free public library.

In 1987 the cornerstone was laid for an addition to the Library largely financed by Edythe and Donald Dowlings, many members of the community contributed to this addition which doubled the size of the Library. In 2006, the latest addition of the Library was completed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating the Morris- town & Morris Township Public Library’s Willis Wing, on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary.

CONGRATULATING THE TAI LOOK MERCHANTS’ ASSOCIATION ON THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY GALA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Tai Look Merchants’ Association on their Centennial Anniversary Gala. I thank you for your commitment to bettering the community of Chinatown and the community of New York City as a whole.

The Tai Look Merchants’ Association was established on 1917 in Hong Kong but expanded to New York less than a decade later and has been a part of our community ever since. For a century the Tai Look Merchants’ Association has contributed to the community through the mission, “for the love of the Country and Motherland.”

Under the leadership of Teddy Mui and representing over a hundred members and small businesses, Tai Look Merchants’ Association has shown the good that can be done when people work together, from raising money for victims of the Sichuan Earthquake and Hurricane Katrina to holding local Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations for Chinatown’s seniors.

As they celebrate 100 years of tremendous work, I am confident the Tai Look Merchants’ Association will continue to build on its history of service and find many more years of success.

WORLDWIDE REFUGEE CRISIS

SPEECH OF
HON. ELIO T. ENGLE
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative CASTRO for calling for this special order to discuss the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya people from Burma.

It’s a heartbreaking humanitarian disaster and day-by-day the situation continues to deteriorate.

Just today, Bangladesh Border Guards are reporting that more than 11,000 Rohingya refugees entered Bangladesh from Burma. These refugees are the result of the unprecedented level of violence in Burma’s Rakhine State.

Because of this bloody conflict, more than half a million Rohingyas—60 percent of whom are children—have fled as refugees across the border into Bangladesh.

This is the swiftest exodus of any population since the 1994 Rwanda genocide and Serbia’s 1999 ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

The Burmese military has claimed that this brutal crackdown is the response to a clash that took place on August 25th, in which border security forces faced off against Rohingya insurgents reportedly using knives, small arms, and small explosives.

But this isn’t a legitimate counterinsurgency or counterterrorism operation. The Burmese military and border security forces have specifically targeted Rohingya using military tactics: slash and burn, rape, indiscriminate killing. Twenty-one square kilometers of villages systematically burned to the ground.

As I see it, the only person in Burma who could put an end to the violence, clear the way for humanitarian aid, and allow for a full accounting of what has occurred is Min Aung Hlaing, Commander in Chief of the Burmese military. Unfortunately, the intentions of the military are clear: to remove the Rohingyas from Burma.

Welcoming these refugees, thankfully, is the Government of Bangladesh, which is now hosting nearly a million Rohingya refugees.

And while Bangladesh opens its doors, I consider it an embarrassment that the United States is closing ours. The Trump Administration has lowered our yearly cap on refugees from all over the world to 45,000 per year—the smallest number ever. As this crisis grew worse, the US and Bangladesh took in that many people every four days.

This policy harms American leadership in the world. It undermines our ability to speak credibly about refugees, human rights, or living up to basic international humanitarian principles. It diminishes our standing in a part of the world where China is only too happy to fill the void.

The United States has allocated $38 million to assist with the crisis. That number seems grossly inadequate considering the scale of the humanitarian nightmare now facing the Government of Bangladesh and the Rohingyas who have found refuge there.

We need to do more, and that starts by shining a light on this tragedy. So I’m grateful to Mr. CASTRO, I’m grateful to all my colleagues who are putting this issue front and center. I hope that the Administration will give this crisis the focus and resources needed. This is a situation that calls for American leadership, and I’ll keep making the case in Congress that we can and must do more.

IN APPRECIATION OF REGINA MILLEDGE-BROWN AND HER SERVICE TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, I join with my colleague, Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, in expressing our appreciation for Regina Milledge-Brown’s service to the Committee.

Regina has enjoyed a distinguished career in service to our Nation. Regina is an employee of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), who joined us on detail at the beginning of this year. An attorney who graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law, Regina has worked for over fifteen years at ATF in various capacities. In her detail to the Committee, her experience with law enforcement and firearms issues has been invaluable assistance to the Members and staff of the Committee.

Regina has worked on a variety of important issues as the Committee has pursued its legislative and oversight agenda during 2017. In addition to her work on firearms-related issues, Regina has worked on issues such as hate crimes prevention, forensics, DNA identification, law enforcement grants, the protection of law enforcement officers in federal prisons, reauthorization of the United States Secret Service, protecting the victims of trafficking, and preventing violence against women.

In these and other legislative issues, Regina has displayed a high degree of professionalism and personal commitment, providing Members of the Committee and staff with wise counsel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 10, 2017

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In all of this, Regina has demonstrated magnanimity, energy, and enthusiasm, which has helped all of us immensely.

We thank Regina for her selfless service to the Committee and our country, and wish her the very best as she returns to the ATF at the end of her detail.

All of her colleagues here will miss her dearly and continue to value her friendship into the future.

FORT JACKSON—REMEMBERING LIVES LOST

HON. JOE WILSON
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America was deeply saddened by Friday’s tragic accident at Fort Jackson Army Base that claimed the lives of two brave soldiers and injured six others. Fort Jackson is a crown jewel of the Midlands of South Carolina. Established in 1917, Fort Jackson is the Army’s largest training center, where my three sons and I have trained. Maj. Gen. Pete Johnson is commending with compassion and professionalism.

We are grateful for the sacrifices of every soldier whose service brings them to Fort Jackson, and we consider each of them part of the Midlands family. Today, I would like to honor the memory of those soldiers: Pvt. Ethan Shrader, from Prospect, TN, and Pvt. Timothy Ashcraft, from Cincinnati, OH. They will never be forgotten.

The following soldiers are still recovering from injuries:

Pvt. Emmett Foreman, from Daleville, AL.
Pvt. Hannah New, from Cartersville, GA.
Pvt. Benjamin Key, from Livingston, TN.
Pvt. Alan Kryszak, from Clarksville, TN.
Pvt. Cardre Jackson Jr., from Laurel, MD.
Pvt. James Foster, from Macon, GA.
Pvt. Alan Kryszak, from Clarksville, TN.
Pvt. Benjamin Key, from Livingston, TN.
Pvt. Hannah New, from Cartersville, GA.
Pvt. Emmett Foreman, from Daleville, AL.

As the father of four sons who have served with the military, I would ask that everyone pray for those families who are grieving and for the speedy recovery of those who were injured. I know the opportunities for recruits to have fulfilling lifetimes through military service protecting American families.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY AND KCK

HON. KEVIN YODER
OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, and recognize the community and people who helped make the consolidation possible.

In 1997, the governments of Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County decided to consolidate into one entity in the effort to help the city and county become a prosperous community in Kansas. That vision and foresight led to 20 years of growth and prosperity in the area.

I’ve witnessed firsthand some great successes of Wyandotte County in the last 20 years—rebuilding neighborhoods, diversifying the local economy and expanding the tax base. The consolidation has led to a better quality of life for residents, and a booming tourism industry for the state. The Kansas Speedway really led the way out west and Sporting KG’s Children’s Mercy Park stands out as one of the best, state of the art soccer stadiums across the country and the world.

Mr. Speaker, the Unified Government should be proud of their successes on this 20th anniversary. I’m honored to represent this county in Congress and to be a part of their enriched community. Thank you to the local leaders and residents who came together to make this vision a reality.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DANIEL RUIZ

HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Special Agent Daniel “Danny” Ruiz for his outstanding work as Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) at the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), a directorate within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE). Special Agent Ruiz serves as RAC in the Fresno, California office.

Special Agent Ruiz began serving as the Resident Agent in Charge at HSI Fresno on November 1, 2015 and was responsible for fulfilling the mission of HSI in Tulare, Merced, Madera, Mariposa, Fresno and Kings Counties.

In his capacity as the Resident Agent in Charge at Fresno HSI, Danny is always available to discuss and work together on issues of concern with me and my staff.

Danny has been a U.S. Government employee since 1994. Before his Fresno HSI assignment, Danny served in multiple capacities and positions in Newark, New Jersey; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Jacksonville, Florida; Dallas, Texas, and two separate tours in Washington, D.C.

Danny holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Saint Peter’s University, Jersey City, New Jersey with a Major in Political Science and Minor in Criminal Justice.

It is with great pleasure that I applaud and congratulate Daniel Ruiz for his many years of wireless work on behalf of the United States Government and to our local community. His ongoing dedication to public service is extremely commendable.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the commitment, dedication and success of Daniel “Danny” Ruiz, and wish him well as he embarks on new endeavors in his role with HSI Florida.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

HON. ANDRE CARSON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Higher Education Employment and Transparency Act. This important legislation would help ensure that students are adequately informed of their choices as they navigate the process of applying to college.

While a college degree is as valuable as ever, the choices facing students as they attempt to choose the right school remain daunting. While most students cite employment as a prime motivator for college attendance, they nevertheless are often inadequately informed about the employment outcomes at various institutions of higher education and for various fields.

Navigating the college application process is hard enough. While in some cases data on employment and earnings information does exist, in too many cases it is unclear or not easily accessible to prospective students. Making this information more transparent— and pointing prospective students in the right direction—would go a long way in ensuring that students are making the best choices tailored to their individual needs.

The Higher Education Employment and Transparency Act seeks to tackle these challenges. Our bill represents one piece of the puzzle to ensure data on higher education outcomes is presented in a manner that is clear, transparent, standardized, and above all easily accessible to prospective students. Without requiring the collection of new data, the bill would give students better access to higher-quality information about the schools they are considering.

The legislation would make a number of key changes:

First, it would expand on current requirements for Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to disseminate certain information to prospective and enrolled students, through appropriate publications, mailings, and electronic media. The Higher Education Employment and Transparency Act would update this requirement to include, disaggregated earnings and employment information, and require the use of data from more reliable sources.

Second, it would expand and improve the College Navigator, which is already a useful tool presenting a variety of information about IHEs. The Higher Education Employment and Transparency Act would require additional information to be included on this site, in addition to what is currently required: a link to a page with that same, higher-quality information that IHEs are newly required to disclose; a link to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Occupational Outlook Handbook website, which includes regional data on starting salaries in all major occupations; and, a link to a website that provides information about former students’ employment and earnings information, based on high-quality federal data.

Last, under this legislation, IREs would also be required to provide prominent links on their own websites to each of these new pieces of information.
While disagreements exist regarding potential long-term changes to our higher education data regime, this bill is a key step that would improve students’ access to data that already exists. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

**MIDNIGHT CIRCUS IN THE PARKS**

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an initiative launched to raise community funds and to rebuild parks—Midnight Circus in the Parks.

The program is presented in part by the Chicago Park District’s Night Out in the Parks, which brings over 1,000 cultural events to neighborhood parks each year. The program is in its 5th year and the Night Out in the Parks series continues to grow. The Midnight Circus has been able to raise more than 1,000 events to neighborhood parks throughout the City of Chicago, making community parks safe havens and hubs of cultural activity.

To help bring awareness to the program, Jeff Jenkins, founder and executive director of Midnight Circus in the Parks, envisioned a perfect opportunity to bring his circus to the community and raise money for park improvements. Midnight Circus tours Chicago parks every year bringing over 15,000 people together in their park to celebrate and make a difference. This venture is a true family collaboration: Jeff’s wife, Julie, is the artistic director; their son, Alex, is an acrobat and musician in the show, and their daughter, Samantha, does the trapeze. Their rescued pit bull also performs. Every year, they add new and incredible artists.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Jenkins Family for launching Midnight Circus in the Parks, and the Chicago Park District for having the vision to bring a circus to the Chicago communities and for all their countless hours of volunteer efforts.

**IN RECOGNITION OF LT. KEN HOBBS FOR BEING NAMED YPSILANTI’S 2017 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Ken Hobbs for being named 2017 Firefighter of the Year by the Ypsilanti Fire Department.

Since the inception of the Ypsilanti Fire Department in 1986, Lt. Hobbs has worked tirelessly to protect Ypsilanti residents and promote a positive relationship between the department and the city at large. The City of Ypsilanti Fire Department is a full-time department that provides prevention and protective fire services to Ypsilanti and the Eastern Michigan University campus, and Lt. Hobbs is well regarded by the more than 40,000 constituents served by the department. Throughout his career, he has made it a priority to give back to the community he serves by holding community fire prevention and education workshops and attending various fundraisers throughout the year. In addition to being recognized as Washentaw 100 Honor Firefighter of the Year and Ypsilanti Firefighter of the Year, Lt. Hobbs has served as President of the Ypsilanti Firefighters Union for many years and has received widespread acclaim for promoting unity between the union and fire department. Additionally, he has played a key role in securing grants for the department through the Department of Homeland Security, which has allowed for increased firefighting staff and much-needed equipment.

Their success in securing federal grants over the years speaks to the quality of their applications and the great work being done by Lt. Hobbs and his fellow firefighters. Lt. Hobbs has also been instrumental in fostering greater diversity at the department and advocated for hiring a female firefighter with a 2014 Department of Homeland Security grant. His dedication and efforts on behalf of the city of Ypsilanti are worthy of commendation, and I know that Lt. Hobbs will continue his diligent work on behalf of the area residents in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lt. Ken Hobbs for being named Ypsilanti’s Firefighter of the Year. His advocacy and service on behalf of the citizens and firefighters of our community are worthy of public acclaim.

**IN RECOGNITION OF JEFF CARROLL’S 20 YEARS OF SERVICE ON MY STAFF**

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to honor my longtime Chief of Staff and the current Staff Director for the Energy & Commerce Committee Democrats. Jeff Carroll, on 20 outstanding years serving on my staff.

My office, the Energy & Commerce Committee, the Congress, and the entire state of New Jersey have benefited enormously from Jeff’s steady leadership, strategic guidance, and commitment to achieving meaningful progress.

Jeff is known on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the Capitol for his candor, negotiating skills, and boisterous laugh. He is a diehard fan of the Mets, Giants, and the vaunted pork roll. He’s a Jersey guy, through and through.

A native of Lyndhurst, N.J., Jeff joined my office as an Executive Assistant in 1997 after graduating from George Washington University and briefly serving as a Staff Assistant to Senator Robert Torricelli. Within six years, he became my Chief of Staff, serving with distinction the people New Jersey’s Sixth Congressional District for 12 years. In 2015, I was elected the Ranking Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Jeff became the Democratic Staff Director.

Jeff has been by my side through my greatest trials and successes, and I thank him for his unwavering commitment and measurable contributions over the years.

I also want to acknowledge the support provided to Jeff by his wife Shannon, daughter Lizzie and son Ryan, who share this dedicated husband and father with the House.

**HAPPy 100th ANNIVERSARY FORT STOCKTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Fort Stockton Independent School District, a premiere public school district dedicated to the education of students in West Texas.
Fort Stockton Independent School District was approved in the 35th state legislature on May 17, 1917. It is now home to five public schools and over 2,500 students, teachers, and staff. Over the past two-and-a-half years, I have visited Fort Stockton Independent School District on numerous occasions. In fact, I was able to participate in the Coin Toss at a Panther football game this month.

Today I applaud the graduates and countless faculty and staff members who have helped spread the knowledge, skills, and values they learned at Fort Stockton Independent School District with Texas, the United States, and the entire world. The positive impact of this public school system resonates across Texas' 23rd Congressional District.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HORSE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ACT OF 2017

HON. STEVE COHEN
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Horse Transportation Safety Act, a bill I introduced earlier today along with my esteemed colleague, Rep. JONES from North Carolina, to ensure the humane and safe transportation of horses.

The Horse Transportation Safety Act seeks to end the exploitation of a regulatory loophole designed to ban the transport of horses in double-deck trailers, whereby drivers have an incentive to inhumanely transport horses to assembly points, then reload them into single level trailers just outside their final destination.

The practice is dangerous and inhumane not only to the horses, it poses a threat to the travelling public.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, “double-deck trailers do not provide adequate headroom for equines, with the possible exception of foals and yearlings. We do not believe that trailers that have two or more permanent levels that are not collapsible can be adequately altered to accommodate adult equines, especially tall equines.”

The legislation is strongly supported by agricultural interests and animal protection groups alike. Among the organizations endorsing the bill are the Humane Society of the United States, the Animal Welfare Institute, the National Black Farmers Association, and Return to Freedom Wild Horse Conservation.

Moreover, in 2010 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure unanimously adopted this bipartisan legislation.

This is common sense legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the swift passage of the Horse Transportation Safety Act.

HONORING THE HARRIET TUBMAN PRESS IMPRINT

HON. MAXINE WATERS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Harriet Tubman Press on the occasion of its first publication.

The Harriet Tubman Press, an imprint of Tsehai Publishers, is an important new publishing platform based in Los Angeles, California. It is named after one of the great icons of American history, and it is one of the only imprints in the country dedicated to providing a platform for the voices of today’s African-American scholars and writers.

The Harriet Tubman Press is housed in the Marymount Institute for Faith, Culture, and the Arts at Loyola Marymount University, which is one of the centers of higher learning in my congressional district—the 43rd District in California.

The first publication of the Harriet Tubman Press will be Voices from Leimert Park Redux, a diverse collection of poetry that beautifully captures the heartbeat of the Leimert Park community. For decades, this Los Angeles neighborhood has been a thriving beacon of African-American activism, culture, and the arts. At a time when gentrification and displacement threaten neighborhoods across Southern California, the preservation of African-American cultural heritage in Leimert Park could not be more important.

I congratulate Loyola Marymount University, Tsehai Publishing, the Harriet Tubman Press, and all the members of the South Central Los Angeles community that worked so hard to make this first publication possible. Your dedication and fortitude is necessary to the preservation of the African-American voice. I’d like to further thank the artists, authors, and poets who stand up and propel that voice into our country’s consciousness. Your voices are the only currency that can never be taken from you.

May the first publication of the Harriet Tubman Press signal the birth of a new force devoted to propelling, celebrating, and highlighting African-American culture through literature.

RECOGNIZING RUBY’S PLACE ON ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ERIC SWALWELL
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the grand opening of the Hall County Correction Institute’s welding shop—a new addition to Hall County’s Re-entry Accountability Court Transition program—which will equip inmates with skills that they can take with them as they re-enter society.

Since 2014, the local accountability court program has assisted offenders by providing vocational resources that can help deter recidivism and restore these individuals as productive members of the community. By allowing program participants to obtain state certifications in welding, the program will help people who will soon be released to find job security upon their departure.

Criminal justice reform is a priority for northeast Georgia as it is for me in Washington, which is why I introduced the Prison Reform and Redemption Act to help lower recidivism rates among federal prisoners through vocational training and other evidence-based programs.

Mr. Speaker, every person has value, and efforts like the Hall County Correction Institute’s welding shop recognize and seek to magnify that value and potential. Investing in all of our neighbors—even those who have broken the law—can pave the way for stronger, safer communities for every man, woman, and child.

I thank Sheriff Couch and the Hall County Sheriff’s Department for their commitment to improving the lives of inmates, and look forward to seeing the impact that the welding initiative will make on northeast Georgia.

HONORING THE CARDOZA FAMILY

HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, family reunions are a great way of staying connected, strengthening bonds and recognizing heritage.
As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I take this opportunity to commend and congratulate the Cardoza Family on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary and Family Reunion which was held at the Bird Ranch in Gustine, California on September 9, 2017.

There is nothing quite like a family reunion. Family from far and wide gather and share in the joy of fellowship, love and precious memories that reunions generate. Therefore, I commend and congratulate them and pray that they had a wonderful weekend.

The Cardoza family story begins in the early 20th century. In approximately 1915—1916, Manuel S. Cardoza, an orphan, emigrated from the island of Terceira, Azores, Portugal. He was sponsored by his uncle, Joe S. Cardoza, and arrived to the San Joaquin Valley to work on his dairy farm. Manuel worked for room, board and a cow as his compensation. Their implied agreement was that as soon as Manuel had a string (15) of dairy cows he would go out on his own as a dairy farmer. He quickly accomplished his goal.

At approximately the same time, Manuel Coelho emigrated from the island of Terceira, Azores, Portugal. His name has never appeared on any ship roster, but it is rumored that he was a stowaway destined for Stratford, California in the San Joaquin Valley. By 1916, Manuel had earned enough money to send for his family. Shortly thereafter, his wife, Rose, her daughters Lucy, Lucille, Olympia, and Margaret, and sons, John and Manuel, boarded the Cornucopia and sailed for the United States.

Shortly after, Manuel S. Cardoza met Lucy Coelho, they married and started a dairy farm in partnership with another Azorean immigrant. The two were blessed with three sons and 5 daughters, whose descendants are here today. Through hard work, tenacity and faith, they survived World Wars and the Great Depression. They always managed to have enough to eat, clothes on their backs, and a roof over their heads.

The first generation consisted of dairymen; a butcher; an HVAC specialist; and a grocer. The occupations of the second generation consisted of a wine specialist; a graphic artist; a doctor; a nurse; a teacher; an accountant; HVAC specialists; a real estate appraiser; a real estate broker; a politician; a cattleman; an office manager; CEO and a medical supplies specialist. The third generation includes marketing professionals; lawyers; accountants; teachers; financial advisors; construction managers; a pharmacist; tech professionals; an environmental consultant; and a software engineer. What the next generation will achieve only time will tell.

Mr. Speaker it with great pleasure that I congratulate the Cardoza family on the occasion of their 100th anniversary and family reunion. The Cardoza family truly embodies the American dream. They are one of hundreds of immigrants that came and settled in California to seek the opportunities that our state has given to immigrants past and immigrants present. I ask that you join me in wishing them continued success and prosperity.

David Dreier Receives Order of the Aztec Eagle Award

HON. DAVID E. PRICE
OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend, former colleague, and leader in promoting international cooperation and understanding, who was recently recognized by a key U.S. ally for his outstanding work. Last month, David Dreier received the Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest honor bestowed by a foreign national by the Government of Mexico.

Those of us who served with Representative Dreier know him as the former chairman of the House Rules Committee, as a faithful representative of his Southern California district for more than three decades, and as a forceful champion of democracy, free trade, and the rule of law. An avowed “Reagan Republican,” Dreier was instrumental in crafting many of our nation’s trade policies, including the North American Free Trade Agreement.

What some may not realize is that Representative Dreier was also a leader in cultivating closer ties and cooperation between the United States Congress and its partner legislatures around the world. Through our work on the House Democracy Partnership (HDP)—which he served as the founding chairman and I as chairman during the years of Democratic leadership—we had the opportunity to work together to advance the cause of parliamentary democracies, traveling widely and memorably to parliaments from Peru to Pakistan and hosting dozens of delegations of visiting legislators and staff in Washington. During these engagements, Representative Dreier was a consummate diplomat and a skilled mentor, navigating sometimes-difficult bilateral issues but also the practical questions of how parliamentary institutions could be more effective. Our work together epitomized the maxim that partisanship should end at the water’s edge—a spirit that persists today under the leadership of current HDP chairman Peter Roskam.

While our work with HDP focused on less developed democracies, Representative Dreier always had a special interest in—and fondness for—the parliamentary democracy on our southern border, Mexico. He was an active member of the U.S.-Mexico Binational Commission, a leader of the U.S.-Mexico Inter-parliamentary Group, a co-chair of the U.S.-Mexico Congressional Caucus, and a frequent participant in congressional delegations to Mexico. During our work with HDP, he often invoked Mexico as an example of democratic development and spoke fondly of his work as an election observer in the country.

It is fitting that Representative Dreier has been acknowledged for this work by receiving the Order of the Aztec Eagle, joining leaders such as President Eisenhower, Nelson Mandela, and Queen Elizabeth II as well as cultural icons such as Walt Disney, Plácido Domingo, and Bono. I know that he will break for many in extending him my warmest congratulations, and in wishing him well in his continued post-congressional service.

Honor Jennifer Y. Brown to Retire

HON. LAMAR SMITH
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Jennifer Young Brown’s last day as Chief of Staff of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. For more than 28 years she has helped me represent the residents of the 21st District of Texas and, more recently, helped the Science Committee enact numerous policies that benefit the American people.

Jennifer started working in my personal office after she graduated from the University of Colorado. She has held five different positions, including Chief of Staff. For several years, she served as COS both in the personal office and on the Science Committee, a rare double COS, before becoming the full-time Science Committee Chief of Staff in 2016. Her talents and skills are many. She has mastered the difficult art of multi-tasking—no one does it better.

Jennifer is simply a remarkable woman. She manages to balance well the demands of husband, children, school activities, Science Committee work, and friends. Almost 200 of whom attended a reception for her yesterday.

If Jennifer is going to leave us, at least it is for a worthy cause—Texas Tech University. Over the years Texas Tech has supplied our office with impressive interns and graduates and even made me an honorary alumna.

Jobs may end but friendships continue. Jennifer and her family—husband Barry, son Leighton, and daughter Gipson—will always be special friends and I know I will continue to see them often.

So Jennifer, I thank you for all you have done for me. Her family is fortunate to have her as a role model. And I am fortunate to have had her influence on my life for over 28 years.

As I’ve learned to say, “Go Raiders.”

Honor Diane Glasser (1928–2017)

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida, passed away Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at the age of 89.

Diane was a woman who wore many hats in her time. She served as a Commissioner and Vice Mayor of the Tamarac City Commission, as Broward County’s State Committeewoman to the Florida Democratic Party, and as a delegate to six consecutive Democratic National Conventions.

In an era when western Broward County was synonymous with massive developments of senior condos, Diane became a nationally-known political powerhouse through her ability to bring the ward-style organization from her home precinct into the Democratic community known as Kings Point in Tamarac.

If you were a candidate or elected representative planning to set foot in Kings Point,
you did so only with Diane’s blessing. She was an indomitable civic force in our community and built a get-out-the-vote operation in thecondos that brought thousands of seniors to the polls for each and every election.

If Diane stumbled on a wrong, she was determined to make it right. She was a passionate advocate for the underserved, a defender of civil rights and someone who helped make Broward County a kinder, more compassionate community. She was a problem-solver and a leader, and brought people along where she saw a chance to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

Her passing brings with it the end of an era in South Florida politics. Diane is survived by her two sons, Craig and Lloyd Glasser, and one granddaughter, Dara.

RECOGNIZING RABBI JONATHAN BIATCH OF TEMPLE BETH EL

HON. MARK POCAN
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record the following Proclamation:

Whereas, Temple Beth El was founded in 1939 as Madison, Wisconsin’s first and only Reform Jewish congregation; and
Whereas, Rabbi Jonathan Biatch has been the spiritual leader supporting the vision and mission of Temple Beth El since 2004; and
Whereas, boys celebrate Bar Mitzvah when turning 13; and
Whereas, the Temple Beth El community proclaims Rabbi Jonathan Biatch a “Bar Mitzvah” celebrating his 13th year of service,

Now, therefore, I congratulate Rabbi Jonathan Biatch on his 13 years of leadership at Temple Beth El.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR GENERAL MIYAKO SCHANELY ON HER PROMOTION TO COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE 416TH THEATER ENGINEER COMMAND

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Major General Miyako Schanely on her assignment as the Commanding General of the 416th Theater Engineer Command.

MG Schanely will lead the 416th Theater Engineer Command in conducting theater-level engineer operations supporting a joint force, and execute unified land operations while providing a training and ready combat-capable force to support mission requirements.

MG Schanely has had a long history of serving her country. Since she received her commission as a Second Lieutenant in 1986, she has served in both active and reserve units of the U.S. Army for over 31 years. MG Schanely is a graduate of the Army War College and holds several civilian master degrees. Previously assigned as the Commander of the 102nd Training Division, MG Schanely has become the first female Japanese American to become commander of the Theater Engineer Command as a two-star and is ready to take on the challenges associated with this rapidly evolving role.

On behalf of the 21st District of New York, I would like to congratulate MG Schanely on her well-deserved promotion, and wish her luck in her new role.

I want to thank MG Schanely for her service to our country and for the sacrifices she will make in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THOSE AFFECTED BY INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to Breast Cancer including one of the rarest, but most lethal forms, Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC).

One in eight women in the United States are diagnosed with Breast Cancer every year, and too many women die because of late diagnosis. Any opportunity to raise awareness is an opportunity to save lives.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Although IBC is not the most common form of breast cancer, it is one of the most aggressive. It is critical that we recognize the severity of IBC and the importance of education and prevention efforts.

IBC is not commonly known as it accounts for only 1 to 5 percent of all breast cancer cases. However, it is one of the most aggressive and deadliest forms of the disease. This form of cancer does not display the early symptoms ordinarily looked for by medical professionals. Since it is one of the rarest forms of Breast Cancer, many nursing and medical programs do not train students on IBC screening, leading to misdiagnosis and increased fatalities. The patients who start to show symptoms of this disease tend to be correctly diagnosed at stage 3, leaving little to no time to seek treatment.

The courage of women battling Breast Cancer and IBC should not go unnoticed and they deserve our continued support for continued research efforts to seek for prevention and treatment for this deadly disease.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately on October 10, 2017, I missed Roll Call vote no. 558 and Roll Call vote no. 559 both under Suspension of the Rules due to family-related medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on both.
Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Diane Glasser, a committed public servant in South Florida who served on several boards, including the Senior Advisory Task Force and the Broward Human Services Authority. A recipient of the Senior Advocate of the Year Award, Diane always encouraged of my efforts, working with me on many initiatives to strengthen the community.

In addition to holding elected office, Diane served on several boards, including the Senior Advisory Task Force and the Broward Human Rights Board. She selflessly used her voice to advocate for those whose voices she felt weren’t adequately heard.

Diane also had unique experiences representing the State of Florida as a delegate to the past six Democratic National Conventions and as an elector in the 1996 and 2000 Electoral Colleges.

Our community has lost a leader whose service will always be appreciated and remembered. I am honored to have called Diane Glasser my friend.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LOU PARDINI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legendary career of Mr. Lou Pardini. Lou is a Grammy nominated keyboardist, vocalist, composer and Fresno, California native. For the last 8 years he has been a member of the legendary rock band Chicago. Lou has successfully worked alongside various high profile musicians throughout his career. He is a distinguisher composer that has base fans all over the world.

Lou Pardini was born in Omaha, Nebraska and raised in Fresno. He attended local schools including my alma mater San Joaquin Memorial High School. Lou would go on to attend Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno. Eventually he enrolled at the renowned Berklee School of Music in Boston to follow in his favorite musician’s footsteps. Lou met and married the love of his life Beety and the two would eventually move to Los Angeles, where Lou could fully pursue his music career.

Lou’s natural talent was apparent early on in his childhood. He could easily perform songs on the piano by ear. His parents took notice and enrolled him in private guitar and piano lessons when he was just five years old. As he grew older his taste in music progressed. Among his favorite artists were Stevie Wonder, Donny Hathaway, Marvin Gaye, Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple, and Black Sabbath.

Lou is a remarkable multitalented artist. He is known for his work with Stevie Wonder, The Doobie Brothers, The Temptations, Elton John, Smokey Robinson, Earth, Wind and Fire, Patti Austin, Larry Carlton and many more. He has worked with artists in Rock/Pop, R&B, Jazz, Blues and Gospel genres.

Lou’s biggest break came when his song “Just To See Her” was recorded by the legendary Smokey Robinson. The song won Smokey’s first and only Grammy for “Best Rhythm and Blues Vocal”. Lou has also recorded two solo albums which are fan favorites to this day.

In 2009, he got a call that would truly change his life. Following the departure of longtime member Bill Champlin, Lou was asked to join Chicago on a permanent basis. This was the culmination of a career marked by hard work and a true passion for his craft.

He continues to build his fan base around the world. As a member of Chicago, Lou tours the world, drawing sell-out crowds wherever they go. On April 8, 2016, Chicago was inducted into the 31st Rock and Roll Hall of Fame cementing their place in history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask that you join me in celebrating the career of Lou Pardini as he makes his homecoming to the city of Fresno. We are honored to have Chicago performing today at the Big Fresno Fair. I ask you to join me in wishing Lou and his family continued success and prosperity.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LESTER MANDELL
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Lester Mandell, who transformed countless communities in central Florida though his work as a builder and transformed countless lives through his generosity as a philanthropist. Lester passed away recently at the age of 96, leaving behind a large and loving family, but his legacy will live on.

Born in a hardscrabble Brooklyn neighborhood, and a veteran of World War II, Lester did not graduate from college. However, neither his lack of formal education nor the anti-Semitism he frequently faced could stop Lester from achieving his professional goals, because they were no match for his talent, tenacity and toughness. Lester’s life was a quintessentially American story of success earned through hard, disciplined, joyful work.

As one of Lester’s grandsons said about his grandfather: “He believed that, if you work the right way, you will get the right result.” This is the essence of character.

Lester was a master builder, in both the literal and figurative sense. The homes, neighborhoods, and public parks he developed throughout central Florida over the course of many decades are his most visible legacy.

Lester also built bonds of a more intangible nature. He donated generously to many causes he cared about, from scholarships for inner-city children to support for the Jewish community he loved so much. Lester often donated anonymously and rarely spoke about his donations, even to his own family.

As his grandson recounts, Lester was a serious man who did serious work, but he did not take himself too seriously. He had a sense of humor and light-heartedness that disarmed friend and stranger alike.

Lester’s greatest legacy, of course, is his family. He leaves behind his wife and partner for life, Sonia. They were married for 70 years. Sonia and Lester had four children, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

I know they miss Lester. But I hope their loss is eased by the knowledge that Lester was a great man and, even more importantly, a good man.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOCAL SOUTH FLORIDA ARTIST, XAVIER CORTADA
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a constituent and local South Florida artist, Xavier Cortada, and congratulate him on his inaugural art exhibition titled “Florida Is” at the Hibiscus Gallery at Pinecrest Gardens.

Throughout the years, Xavier’s passion has been to generate awareness for our environment and global climate change through his art and his work.

His work is included at my alma mater, Florida International University, where he serves as Artist-in-Residence.
across the region—in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, the $1.7 billion in small bills. As we heard yes-
will probably wind up in the terrorists' hands—
an interview that was carried by CNN, we 
sion of an estimated $115 billion dollars in 
desire to impose nuclear blackmail on the 
dent that a nuclear warhead without a delivery 
on or from the rest of Iran's violent campaign 
was deeply flawed. It was clear that it was 
driven it toward bankruptcy, the JCPOA is 
we heard yesterday in testimony from General 
Wald, the Iran deal ''places Iran on a trajec-
I'd like to thank Chairman ROYCE for his 
Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as 
Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to con-
right consultations with democratic Taiwan, not 
service at Edwards Air Force Base. Their cre-
and women who have served and currently 
displayed in the main hall on the first floor of 
Washington, D.C. The very Bell X–1, in which 
landing at Edwards on April 12, 1981. As we 
ments, the very first space shuttle mission 
moved more than six times the speed of sound. Addi-
Yeager paved the way for a new era of air 
space travel on that day and ushered in 
advancing American aviation.

Under Xi Jinping's leadership, China has 
become more repressive domestically, more 
protectionist in its trade policies, and more as-
sertive globally. As documented by the Con-
gressional-Executive Commission on China 
(CECC), which I cochair with Senator MARCO 
RUBIO, China's domestic repression is the fuel 
for its international aggression, threatening 
American jobs and security, including in the 
South China Sea, in the Taiwan Straits, and in 
Hong Kong, where the “one country, two sys-
term” model is fast eroding. China has also im-
prisoned Taiwanese citizen and democracy 
advocate Lee Ming-che, whose wife Lee 
Ching-yu, sat in this very room in July at a 
hearing I chaired and asked the international 
community to work for her husband's release.

China will never be happy with U.S.-Taiwan 
policy or the Taiwan Relations Act. Communist 
China will never be placated by our self-im-
posed restrictions on travel and consultations. 
We should not try. As China squeezes Tai-
wan's international space and openly threat-
then militarily, the U.S. must have more di-
cision to contain SARS to Mainland China and 
Taiwan in past.

The U.S. and Taiwan are cooperating in 
containing H7N9 virus, as we did 14 years ago to contain SARS. As such, China's ac-
tions to exclude Taiwan from the WHO and 
other international bodies is dangerous and 
unacceptable. Taiwan should be allowed to 
join the WHO. It is not only an interest of Tai-
wan, it is in the interest of global public health.

Restrictions on the travel of Taiwanese offi-
cials to the U.S. and on high-level U.S. offi-
cials to Taiwan are self-imposed rules inten-
tended to placate Mainland China. In the cur-
rent strategic climate, these rules are now 
counterproductive and the policy should be 
changed.

We should be expanding cooperation with 
Taiwan on a number of fronts, particularly now 
that Communist China has stepped up efforts 
to isolate and bully democratic Taiwan. If 
China persists in its efforts to exclude Taiwan 
from international bodies like Interpol and 
WHO and the International Civilian Aviation 
Organization, the U.S. should be sending cabi-
net level officials from HHS, Transportation, 
and the Justice Department to consult with 
Taiwanese officials on how to host their counter-
parts here in Washington. Such meetings will 
advance and protect American interests.

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less.
work tirelessly to innovate and to further its mission. I wish Edwards, and the United States Air Force, many more years of innovation and success.

CELEBRATING ALLPEOPLES COMMUNITY CENTER’S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate All Peoples Community Center, a community-based organization in my 40th Congressional District, on the celebration of its 75th Anniversary.

The center was originally founded as All Peoples Christian Center in the 1920s, in the historic area of South Los Angeles. During World War II, the center was vacated due to the tragic relocation of its Japanese American members to internment camps.

In 1942, Pastor Dan Genung and his wife Frances moved from Chicago to Los Angeles with the primary goal of establishing a church, and founded the All Peoples Christian Church. Pastor Genung was hired to minister to the remaining Japanese American families and other community members who were African American, Latino, Armenian, and Chinese, and this multicultural community made an impact on Pastor Genung’s vision to turn the church into a “house of learning for all peoples.” Over time, Pastor Genung saw the need to minister to not only the spiritual needs of the people in the community, but to their social needs as well.

In the early history of the church, the minister served both as the pastor to the church and the executive director of the community center. Until 1964, the church and center worked as a single entity, which allowed both of them to pursue their separate but united goals.

Over its 75-year history, All Peoples has survived numerous changes in demography and culture while continuing to serve thousands of clients. The center is—and has always been—a safe haven, a beacon of hope and help, and a problem solving resource for the community of South Los Angeles.

In the 1960s, All Peoples responded to the civil rights movement by opening its doors to social activists for dialogue and discussion. Cesar Chavez and farm workers were hosted on-site during their campaign to defend immigration rights. During the 1965 Watts Riots, All Peoples distributed food to community members due to local markets being burned to the ground or closed. As the community transitioned from African American to Latino in the 1970s, the center responded to its new neighbors by hiring staff who were bicultural, “for all peoples,” both English and Spanish. In addition, multicultural activities were held at All Peoples to build a sense of community that was inclusive of the changing demographics in South Los Angeles.

All Peoples has become, and continues to be, one of Los Angeles’ most senior and trusted place-based community organizations. It helps diverse, economically challenged residents measurably improve and transform their own lives by providing a comprehensive range of vital services, leadership, and hands-on care.

Through hard work, perseverance, and dedication to the community, Saundra Bryant has been the Executive Director of All Peoples for the past 34 years. Her first experience with All Peoples was as a two-year-old in the center’s day care facility. She continued to participate in the center’s programs throughout her adolescence, and served as a summer employee during college. Her commitment and passion for her community is demonstrated by her lifelong tenure of serving others.

In 2016, All Peoples was designated by the City of Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department to operate as the new FamilySource Center for the Southeast area of Los Angeles. The center’s philosophy has an emphasis on education as the tool for successful community building. Thus, all of its programs have an educational component that integrates entire families and individuals. All Peoples is also committed to providing employment opportunities and leadership development to all community members.

All Peoples offers its neighbors a comprehensive after-school program, parenting and leadership classes, community micro-farming, financial literacy and health education workshops, case management, food distribution, a VITA Center, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). It also offers YouthSource, FamilySource, and WorkSource services that provide training to new employees, and retraining to those whose traditional skills have become obsolete; immigration services, which provide residency establishment, legal services, and education about basic rights and obligations; English as a Second Language classes; domestic violence support groups and counseling; and extended day care.

All Peoples Community Center is proudly celebrating its 75th Anniversary of continuous service to the community, and will hold its annual gala on October 19, 2017.

The 75th Anniversary gala will feature awards for three special honorees. First, actress, model, and recording star Meredith O’Connor will receive the Inspiration Award for her strong public advocacy on bullying and domestic violence issues. Ms. O’Connor is also a Celebrity Youth Ambassador for United Nations Project 50/50.

The Dan B. Genung Visionary Leadership Award will be given to Anne Tremblay, Director of the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office Gang Reduction and Youth Development Program.

The Joe Ide Spirit of Community Award will be given to Ricardo Mendoza, Associate Vice President for Community Outreach and Business Development for Lee Andrews Group, a public relations firm.

I hope my colleagues will join me in sending best wishes and congratulations to All Peoples Community Center on its 75th Anniversary. The center has played a vital role in providing services to families in South Los Angeles over the past 75 years. I wish All Peoples Community Center continued success as it continues to enhance and empower our communities.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS DAY, JR.

HON. KEN CALVERT OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Thomas Day, Jr., who was tragically killed during the massacre at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada on Sunday, October 1, 2017. Tom was born and raised in my hometown of Corona, California. He will be greatly missed.

After graduating from Corona High School, Tom attended Riverside Community College and later went to work for the home building company, Portrait Construction, that was founded by his father. Those who worked with Tom knew him as someone who was easy to talk to and get along with. Tom Sr., Tom Jr. and the entire Day family have been active members of the Corona community for many years and made a number of contributions to many organizations in and around the city.

Tom Jr. had many passions in life. He loved sports and rooting for the Los Angeles Angels and Pittsburgh Steelers. He especially loved playing and coaching baseball. Attending concerts and music festivals with his children when he was senselessly taken from us, along with so many others. Our hearts ache for all of those whose lives were cut short and forever impacted by the evil acts of that evening.

I had the distinct privilege of knowing Tom and the Day family for many years, and there are simply no words that soften the heart-breaking loss of Tom’s kind and caring soul. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his daughters Whitney, Candice and Kelsey, his son Nolan, the extended Day family, as well as his friends and colleagues. Tom may be gone, I know that the joy and happiness he brought to those around him will endure.

HONORING DEPUTY CORONER GOSS

HON. DOUG COLLINS OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lumpkin County’s Deputy Coroner Frank Goss. Recently, the Georgia Coroner’s Association awarded him the title of Deputy Coroner of the Year—a hard-earned honor given to only one nominee each year.

When Deputy Coroner Goss first assumed leadership in the Lumpkin County Coroner’s office, he had a difficult job ahead of him. Fortunately for my friends in Lumpkin County, he wasn’t afraid to rise to the occasion—to put in the extra hours, to make the tough decisions, and to offer support to families as they grieve the loss of a loved one.

Deputy Goss’s empathy for his community, along with his professional experience, made him the obvious choice for Deputy Coroner of the Year.
Mr. Speaker, adversity cultivates strength in leadership—as exemplified by Deputy Goss. I thank him for his service to our friends and neighbors back home, and applaud him for his new title and the continued impact that he will make on northeast Georgia.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARTE AMÉRICAS
HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Arte Américas on the occasion of their 30th anniversary. Arte Américas is the largest Latino Cultural Arts Center in the San Joaquin Valley, located in the heart of my district in downtown Fresno, California. Since its creation 30 years ago, Arte Américas has made a significant impact on the Valley by making the arts accessible to the local community.

Beginning in rented space in downtown Fresno in 1987, Arte Américas has developed into a significant center on Van Ness Avenue, housing the Valley’s Latino arts culture. Arte Américas serves the important role of both preserving Latino culture and introducing it to the Valley. The museum not only showcases arts in Mexico, Latin America, the Southwest, and California, but an array of cultures from throughout the Central Valley. Arte Américas has become a hub of activity for the Latino and arts communities, frequently hosting receptions, meetings and special presentations. They frequently collaborate with local groups furthering their mission “To make Central California a flourishing place for Latino arts.”

Over the years Arte Américas has been fortunate to have the support of a truly dedicated and vibrant staff, board members, and devoted volunteers. Their hard work has been the key to their years of successful events, installations and exhibits. Over the years poets, musicians, playwrights, novelists, sculptors, writers, dancers, and painters both local and from across the world have been featured at Arte Américas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating Arte Américas’ 30th anniversary. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to work together to further the arts in the Central Valley. Once again, congratulations on this special milestone.
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action
The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 8:30 a.m., on Friday, October 13, 2017.

Committee Meetings
No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 42 public bills, H.R. 4028–4069; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 118; H. Con. Res. 85; and H. Res. 569–573 were introduced.
Additional Cosponsors: Pages H8029–31
Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:
  H.R. 3669, to improve and streamline security procedures related to general aviation and commercial charter air carrier utilizing risk-based security standards, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–346). Pages H8029
Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Byrne to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H7977
Recess: The House recessed at 11:25 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. Page H7986
Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. Joshua Leu, First Christian Church, Great Bend, Kansas. Page H7986
Recess: The House recessed at 1:48 p.m. and reconvened at 1:55 p.m. Page H8004
Recess: The House recessed at 2:37 p.m. and reconvened at 2:40 p.m. Page H8008
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018—Motion to go to Conference: The House agreed by unanimous consent to disagree to the Senate amendment and request a conference on H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. Pages H8004–08, H8008–09, H8009–10
  Rejected the Langevin motion to instruct conferees by a yea-and-nay vote of 184 yeas to 237 nays, Roll No. 564. Pages H8004–08, H8008–09
  Agreed to the Thornberry motion to close portions of the conference by a yea-and-nay vote of 414 yeas to 8 nays, Roll No. 565. Pages H8009–10
  Later, the Chair appointed the following conferees:
  From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Thornberry, Wilson of South Carolina, LoBiondo, Bishop of Utah, Turner, Rogers of Alabama, Franks of Arizona, Shuster, Conaway, Lamborn, Wittman, Coffman, Hartzler, Austin Scott of Georgia, Cook, Stefanik, Knight, Bacon, Smith of Washington, Brady of Pennsylvania, Davis of California, Langevin, Larsen of Washington, Cooper, Bordallo, Courtney, Tsongas, Garamendi, Speier, Veasey, and Gabbard. Page H8012
  From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Representatives Nunes, Stewart, and Schiff. Page H8012
  From the Committee on the Budget, for consideration of sec. 1262 of the House bill, and sec. 4 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Johnson of Ohio, Bergman, and Yarmuth. Page H8012
  From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of secs. 221, 551, 555, and...
From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of secs. 313, 314, 601, 723, 727, 729, 732, 3118, and 3122 of the House bill, and secs. 601, 701, 725, 732, 1089A, 1625, and 3114 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Foxx, Byrne, and Scott of Virginia.

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of sec. 862 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Barr, Williams, and Maxine Waters of California.

From the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yeas-and-nay vote of 190 yeas to 232 nays, Roll No. 567.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of sec. 701 of the Senate amendment, and consideration of secs. 111, 1181, 1183, 1217, 1264, 11001, 11008, and 14004 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Graves of Missouri, Hunter, and Bustos.

The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass S. 585, to provide for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2266, with an amendment: H. Res. 569, providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2266, with an amendment, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 353 yeas to 59 nays, Roll No. 566.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of secs. 515, 1062, 1063, 1067, 1080, 1695, 2843, and 3510 of the House bill, and secs. 520A, 529, 1035, 1081, 1083, 1217, 1264, and 14013 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Goodlatte, Issa, and Conyers.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 601, 1062, 1265, 2827, 2828, 2831, 2832, 2844, 2863, subtitle F of title XXVIII, and sec. 2863 of the House bill, and secs. 311, 338, 601, 1263, 1264, 2850, and 12801 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Westerman, Cheney, and Grijalva.


From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of sec. 223 of the House bill and secs. 897, 898, 1662–64, and 6002 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Smith of Texas, Lucas, and Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of secs. 801, 860B, 867, 1701–04, 1711–13, 1721–23, 1731–37, and 1741 of the House bill, and secs. 854, 862, 897, 898, 899C, 10801, and 10802 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Chabot, Kelly of Mississippi, and Velázquez.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of secs. 122, 311, 546, 601, 1082, 1617, 1695, 3501, 3502, 3505, and 3507–10 of the House bill, and secs. 331, 601, 1048, 6002, 13501, 13502, 13508, 13513, 13607, and 14013 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Graves of Missouri, Hunter, and Bustos.

From the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, for consideration of secs. 572, 573, 576, 578, 1077, and 2841 of the House bill, and secs. 731, 1084, 1088, 1264, 11001, 11008, and 14004 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Roe of Tennessee, Bilirakis, and Walz.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and agree to the following measure:

Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2266, with an amendment: H. Res. 569, providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2266, with an amendment, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 353 yeas to 59 nays, Roll No. 566.

Pages H7989–97, H8010

Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017: The House passed S. 585, to provide greater whistleblower protections for Federal employees, increased awareness of Federal whistleblower protections, and increased accountability and required discipline for Federal supervisors who retaliate against whistleblowers, by a recorded vote of 420 ayes with none voting “no”, Roll No. 568.

Pages H7998–H8004, H8010–12

Rejected the O’Halleran motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yeas-and-nay vote of 190 yeas to 232 nays, Roll No. 567.

Pages H8003–04, H8010–11
H. Res. 562, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (S. 585) was agreed to yesterday, October 11th.

Strengthening State and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act of 2017: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1616, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the National Computer Forensics Institute.

Providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2266: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 85, providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2266.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. Monday, October 16.

Senate Referral: S. 1595 was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Financial Services.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H8008–09, H8009–10, H8010, H8010–11, and H8011–12. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Committee Meetings

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY MISSIONS AND MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Department of Energy Missions and Management Priorities”. Testimony was heard from Rick Perry, Secretary, Department of Energy.

21ST CENTURY TRADE BARRIERS: PROTECTIONIST CROSS BORDER DATA FLOW POLICIES IMPACT ON U.S. JOBS


THE FUTURE OF HOUSING IN AMERICA: OVERSIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Future of Housing in America: Oversight of the Department of Housing and Urban Development”. Testimony was heard from Dr. Ben Carson, M.D., Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES


MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 535, the “Taiwan Travel Act”; and H.R. 1698, the “Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act”. H.R. 1698 was ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 535 was ordered reported, without amendment.
ASSESSING FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNICATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications held a hearing entitled “Assessing First Responder Communications”. Testimony was heard from Rear Admiral Ronald Hewitt, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.), Director, Office of Emergency Communications, Department of Homeland Security; Mark Goldstein, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office; and a public witness.

EMPTY THREAT OR SERIOUS DANGER: ASSESSING NORTH KOREA’S RISK TO THE HOMELAND

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency held a hearing entitled “Empty Threat or Serious Danger: Assessing North Korea’s Risk to the Homeland”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4010, the “Congressional Subpoena Compliance and Enforcement Act of 2017”; H.R. 2228, the “Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017”; and H.R. 3996, to amend title 28, United States Code, to permit other courts to transfer certain cases to United States Tax Court. H.R. 4010 was ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 2228 and H.R. 3996 were ordered reported, without amendment.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held a hearing on H.R. 3144, to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes; and H.R. 3916, the “FISH Act”. Testimony was heard from Representatives McMorris Rodgers and Calvert; Alan Mikkelsen, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation; and public witnesses.

HEARING ON THE 2020 CENSUS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Hearing on the 2020 Census”. Testimony was heard from Wilbur L. Ross, Jr., Secretary, Department of Commerce; Robert Goldenkoff, Director of Strategic Issues, Census Issues, Government Accountability Office; David A. Powner, Director of Information Technology Management Issues, Government Accountability Office; Carol N. Rice, Assistant Inspector General, Office of the Economic and Statistical Program Assessment, Department of Commerce; and a public witness.

FOSTERING WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Health and Technology held a hearing entitled “Fostering Women’s Entrepreneurial Success”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED: SBA OIG’S REVIEW OF THE MICROLOAN PROGRAM

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations; and Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access held a joint hearing entitled “Oversight Improvements Needed: SBA OIG’s Review of the Microloan Program”. Testimony was heard from Hannibal “Mike” Ware, Acting Inspector General, Small Business Administration; and William Manager, Associate Administrator, Office of Capital Access, Small Business Administration.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1066, the “VA Management Alignment Act of 2017”; H.R. 3122, the “Veterans Care Financial Protection Act of 2017”; H.R. 3561, to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit appraisers approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make appraisals for purposes of chapter 37 of such title based on inspections performed by third parties; H.R. 3562, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes; H.R. 3656, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a consistent eligibility date for provision of Department of Veterans Affairs memorial headstones and markers for eligible spouses and dependent children of veterans whose remains are unavailable; and H.R. 3657, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to sell Pershing
Hall. Testimony was heard from Representative Coffman; Dave Wise, Director, Physical Infrastructure Team, Government Accountability Office; Regan L. Crump, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Policy and Planning, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

**Joint Meetings**

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

**Senate**

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

**House**

*Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on legislation to achieve domestic energy independence by empowering States to manage the development and production of oil and gas on available Federal land, and for other purposes, 9 a.m., 1334 Longworth.*
Next Meeting of the Senate
8:30 a.m., Friday, October 13

Senate Chamber
Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the House of Representatives
10 a.m., Monday, October 16

House Chamber
Program for Monday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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