

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 52 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST) at noon.

PRAYER

Dr. Jack Trieber, North Valley Baptist Church, Santa Clara, California, offered the following prayer:

Father, I thank You so much, Almighty God, that we can come into Your presence and pray for this great body of people that serve us.

We thank You for our Congressmen today. We pray that You keep them safe, men and women, their children, their mates, their grandchildren. We pray for our country today that it would have this day of safety and security.

Lord, it is my prayer that as our leaders serve today, that You give them wisdom, that You give them patience, that You give them kindness and understanding.

May we remember the words of the Scripture that: "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Remember the Bible says today that: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

We thank You for America. We thank You for the privilege of prayer in this very sacred assembly.

In Jesus' name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CICILLINE 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 DR. JACK TRIEBER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to introduce my friend and constituent, Dr. Jack Trieber, pastor of North Valley Baptist Church in Santa

Clara, California in my district. I thank him for his words of wisdom and comfort, and for joining us to deliver the opening prayer in the House today.

Pastor Trieber has been a source of strength and guidance for my constituents for more than four decades. He is a personal friend and counselor and source of strength to me. He and his wife, Cindie, have been friends since I entered public service, and I appreciate that Pastor Trieber accompanied me to last year's annual National Prayer Breakfast to join leaders from across the country in discussing the importance of faith to the strength of our Nation.

Under the pastor's leadership, North Valley Baptist Church has grown from an assembly of 22 people in 1976, the year I was born, to a current average of 3,000 in attendance each Sunday. He is a true patriot.

He believes in this country, and it is a real honor to have had him open our House with his prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

TAX CUTS ARE WORKING

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

MR. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, it has only been 6 months since the new tax reform law was put into place, but already, we are seeing many positive economic outcomes.

Unemployment is at the lowest rate in 18 years; Hispanic and African American unemployment has reached a record low; over 1 million jobs have been created; and there are now more job openings than job seekers. Wages are increasing, and Americans are seeing more money in their wallets.

On top of that, people are also seeing lower utility bills, keeping more of their hard-earned money. Small businesses are increasingly optimistic about the economy, reporting higher wages for their workers and plans for expansion.

Mr. Speaker, the promising results we have seen in such a short time show that the tax cuts are working. And this is just the beginning. Let's take these results, build on them, and continue to better the lives of the American people.

COVERAGE FOR PREEXISTING CONDITIONS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act improved access to quality healthcare for millions of

Americans. One of the most important protections in this law is that insurance companies can no longer deny people coverage because they have a preexisting condition.

Millions of Americans with arthritis, cancer, diabetes, mental illness, and other preexisting conditions have benefited from this requirement. And that is why it is so disturbing that earlier this month the Trump administration went to court to argue that insurance companies should no longer have to cover people with preexisting conditions.

If they succeed, it will further unravel the Affordable Care Act. It will be harder for individuals and small businesses to buy health insurance. Some experts believe that there will be even more Americans without health coverage than ever before. This is wrong. The President is putting the interests of health insurance companies and health insurance company CEOs ahead of American consumers.

Republicans in Congress should be demanding that this President stop. They should demand that their constituents have access to the best healthcare possible, but, instead, they are silent in the face of a President trying to take away coverage for preexisting medical conditions.

It is wrong. We can do better.

PRAYERS FOR KATIE ARRINGTON

(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, South Carolinians extend sincere thoughts and prayers to State Representative Katie Arrington, who was injured in a tragic auto accident on Friday. We are grateful to learn that Katie will make a full recovery.

On June 12, Katie achieved the Republican nomination for Congress for the historic First District of South Carolina. When successful in November, she will be the first Republican Federal elected official in the history of South Carolina, in the tradition of Ambassador Nikki Haley who was South Carolina's first female Governor in 340 years.

Also, yesterday, Republicans nominated Pamela Evette to be the first female Republican Lieutenant Governor ever, and Lexington Republicans selected Paula Rawl Calhoun for the South Carolina State House.

Katie served as an executive with military defense contracts, ensuring servicemembers will have the tools necessary to succeed. She is on the board of many organizations, including Women In Defense, Charleston Defense Contractors Association, and South Carolina Cyber.

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

Congratulations on yesterday's primary victories by Governor Henry