House of Representatives
FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2017

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DELBENE 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 PASTOR SCOTT POLING
The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today pleased to welcome Pastor Scott Poling, who graciously delivered our opening prayer in the House this morning.

For more than 20 years, Pastor Scott has faithfully led the congregation at Harvest New Beginnings Church in Oswego, Illinois, where my family and I attend.

His passion for evangelism and outreach is contagious. Those touched by his ministry have seen firsthand his energy and passion for people around the globe.

When he is not running ultra-marathons or playing tennis, he spends time expanding the church’s international ministry, and has equipped African pastors with the leadership skills to carry God’s truth into their congregations.

Pastor Scott, we praise God for how your ministry has affected so many, and our legislative work is blessed by your prayers over us today.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUCSHON) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 3(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 27, 2017, at 6:33 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3364.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,
KAREN L. HAAS.
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

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

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLONEL SYLVANUS THAYER

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of the 200th anniversary of Colonel Sylvanus Thayer entering West Point as the fifth superintendent of the United States Military Academy.

Colonel Thayer served 16 years as superintendent and is remembered as the “Father of the Military Academy.” He is responsible for innovations that evolved the Academy into the world’s premier leader development institution. His character-based leadership education system set new standards that are still expected of all cadets today.

The current superintendent is General Bob Caslen, who carries on Colonel Thayer’s traditions and instills the ideals of duty, honor, and country in our future leaders.

To that end, the West Point Class of 2017 just graduated, and I congratulate the 936 commissioned 2nd lieutenants of the United States Army as they take their place in the long gray line. The class of 2017 has just begun with 1,230 members beginning their West Point experience.

I thank Colonel Thayer and those who follow him for exhibiting courage and developing leaders of character in the defense of our country. With that, I say: Beat Navy.

REINTRODUCING THE SMART ENFORCEMENT ACT

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

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, 26 States and the District of Columbia have legalized some form of marijuana, including my home State of Washington. Yet marijuana possession or use for any purpose is still prohibited under Federal law, leaving my constituents, including cancer patients, at risk of prosecution.

That is why today I am reintroducing the Smart Marijuana and Regulatory Tolerance Enforcement Act, the SMART Enforcement Act. My bill will fix the conflict between State and Federal law by giving States a waiver from the Controlled Substances Act. It also resolves the banking issues currently preventing medical marijuana dispensaries to operate in an unsafe all-cash basis.

These waivers will ensure people in States that have different laws from the Federal Government on marijuana are protected from prosecution, provided they meet certain requirements, because people in these States should not live in fear of unpredictable actions from the Attorney General and the Department of Justice on this issue.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LARRY JEFF ELEY, SR.

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

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Jeff Eley, Sr., a friend and strong advocate for farmers, growers, and landowners in my home district. He passed away suddenly at the age of 71 on July 17.

He was well known in Greene County, Georgia, as a gentle giant and will be remembered for his love for his family and his tireless efforts as president of the Greene County Farm Bureau and his steadfast leadership in the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts.

Farming was Larry’s life. He was a guiding force in the community, who actively worked with State and local leaders to foster and promote a better understanding of agriculture. He was a leading voice for Georgia’s farmers.

Larry’s legacy will better ensure that our children and grandchildren will experience the same opportunities to enjoy the natural resources of Georgia’s 10th Congressional District just as our parents and grandparents.

Mr. Eley is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Nancy, and their four children and their grandchildren. Dee Dee and I both extend our thoughts and prayers to the family during this time of bereavement.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to have known Larry and to witness his passion firsthand. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his unyielding commitment to the State of Georgia and our agriculture community.

GIVING SMALL BUSINESS A BETTER DEAL

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, Donald Trump has now been President for over 188 days, and despite the promises, his Republican-controlled Congress has not passed a single meaningful piece of job creation legislation.

Last night, we watched as Republicans failed in their latest effort to take healthcare from the American people. Mr. Speaker, it is time, at last, to move on.

The American people are looking for real proposals to create jobs, increase wages, and strengthen our economy. They are looking for—and they deserve—a better deal.

As the ranking member of the Small Business Committee, almost every day I hear from entrepreneurs and small businesses who create jobs in our communities, and under Democratic plans, we will give them tools to further succeed.

We will offer small firms tax incentives to bring on and train new employees. We will invest in apprenticeship programs to help meet small businesses’ workforce needs. We will expand internet access to fuel the next generation of innovation and e-commerce.

I ask my Republican colleagues, at long last, give up on this obsession with attacking America’s healthcare. Instead, let us move forward with giving America’s workers and small businesses a better deal.

AUTHORIZING THE E-VERIFY SYSTEM

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

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of permanently authorizing the E-Verify system and requiring U.S. employers to use the system to ensure their employees are eligible to be working in the United States.

I am proud to be a partner with United States Senator GRASSLEY of Iowa in offering legislation to do so, entitled “The Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act.”

E-Verify is a proven system for making sure job opportunities are for American workers. E-Verify is a deterrent against illegal immigration. Expanding it to new workplaces will make sure legal American workers are not shut out of employment.

There are 700,000 American businesses that successfully use the E-Verify system. There is no cost for the employer or employee to use E-Verify, and our legislation will make sure that there are no costs passed onto businesses, their employees, or to customers.

We should be considering practical solutions that remove incentives for illegal migration into the United States. We need E-Verify up and running, and we need all employers to participate to make it effective.

I urge cosponsorship and collaborations from both sides of the aisle to implement this effective policy.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF MELVIN HERBERT EVANS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I speak on behalf of the centennial anniversary of the birth of the Honorable Melvin Herbert Evans.

This celebration of Governor Evans’ 100th birthday is both timely and symbolic. Evans was born in 1917, months...
after the transfer of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the United States, when locals had no citizen rights and no mechanism for which they could have their own elected representation.

A son of the soil, he was educated on St. Croix, graduating from a high school class on St. Thomas, and in 1944 earned his medical degree from Howard College of Medicine. He returned to St. Croix and was eventually Commissioner of Health of the Virgin Islands.

In 1969, Evans was appointed Governor of the Virgin Islands by President Richard Nixon, earning him the distinction of being the territory’s last appointed governor, but more importantly, the territory’s first Black native governor.

In 1971, he became the governor elected by the people of the Virgin Islands after a 1970 law which allowed residents to elect their governor.

In 1978, he was elected to the House of Representatives in the 96th Congress. After leaving Congress, he was an Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago.

Governor Evans personifies the evolution of the political maturity of the Virgin Islands. His life and legacy symbolize the extraordinary achievement of Virgin Islanders—given little but striving and attaining much under the American flag—but also the political growth and progress of our Islands from colonial rule to self-governance.

### PRAISING PRO–ACT

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the work of the Council of Southeast Pennsylvania. The council provides resources and opportunities to reduce the impact of addiction, trauma, and other health-related issues for the five counties in southeastern Pennsylvania through intervention, education, and mobilization.

Established in 1997 by the council, PRO–ACT works to provided advocacy and residence for those suffering from the terrible disease of addiction. Through workshops and peer advocacy meetings for afflicted individuals and families, addiction victims can get back on their feet and learn necessary skills for both recovery and entering the workforce.

I am proud to work with my constituent, Executive Director Beverly Haberle, and her administrative team, Cindy Mikalaukas and Stacey Conaway.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share the words of a man named Jim, who stated that, through PRO–ACT, “A fire was lit inside of me, my spirit rekindled by hope.”

Recovery from addiction is difficult, and it is up to remarkable associations like the council to serve the southeastern Pennsylvania community and make sure that these people can successfully beat this devastating disease.

### HONORING FOOTBALL PIONEER TOM FLORES

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

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a resolution for Tom Flores urging he be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Tom Flores had an outstanding and successful career, both as a quarterback and as a head coach. This resolution pays tribute to his inspiring athletic talents.

Flores became the first Hispanic starting quarterback in professional football history and played on two Super Bowl-winning teams. Also, he was the first Hispanic head coach to win two Super Bowls, a feat he accomplished on two separate teams, and he became the first Hispanic manager in the National Football League. He left with an impressive lifetime record and an 8–3 playoff record.

Tom has been a trailblazer for Hispanics in the NFL and has motivated a generation of new players by showing they can compete and win. Let’s enter this trailblazer into the Hall of Fame.

### CONGRESS SHOULD REMAIN IN WASHINGTON UNTIL A HEALTHCARE BILL IS PASSED

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call upon the House leadership to not adjourn until we have a healthcare bill.

Respective committees need to meet and walk a new product through regular order. We know what will and will not work, given the voting prerogatives of the Members of this body and the Senate.

We understand the needs of our constituents, regardless of their voter registration.

We understand it is our job to navigate the complexities of this issue on behalf of the American people and come up with a product that makes good on promises that have been made to improve our healthcare system. This will take Republicans and Democrats.

Later this morning, I will be proud to once again gather with my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, who are members of the Problem Solvers Caucus, part of no labels, to continue our work seeking a bipartisan solution to what has become, unfortunately, a partisan issue.

I stand ready to make good on these promises and suggest that we remain in Washington until that work is complete.

### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 114, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BONUS TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 480 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 480

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 114, 114th United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered read and all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereof without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 480, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring this rule forward on behalf of the Rules Committee. The rule provides for consideration of S. 114, the Department of Veterans Affairs Bonus Transparency Act.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee. The rule also provides for a motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, we can all agree that our Nation’s veterans are heroes. They deserve our support, gratitude, and recognition, and they deserve to have the promises we as a nation have made to them fulfilled. Unfortunately, far too often, we fall short of keeping those promises.
Everywhere remembers the scandals that shook the Department of Veterans Affairs a few years ago, highlighting critical problems around the country and the need for greater accountability. In the wake of these crises of mismanagement and wrongdoing, Congress created the VA Choice Program in 2014 to provide veterans with better options to seek out timely, appropriate care from providers in their communities rather than wade through the outrageous lines, excessive wait times, and subpar medical care at Veterans Health Administration facilities.

The Choice Program isn’t perfect, and my colleagues and I are working to fix that, but it has been a meaningful start and a path to quicker, more convenient care for our Nation’s veterans. Without congressional action today, we risk losing our heroes without Choice. That is not a risk I am willing to take.

VA Secretary Shulkin has estimated that more than 1 million veterans in the VA and some Choice providers, and that number is expected to increase this year. In fact, today, more than 30 percent of the VA appointments are made with private sector providers that have the capacity to relieve the burden on VA staff and members and the VA clinics. This year alone, more than 18 million appointments with private doctors have been authorized by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

If we fail to take action, these veterans will lose their ability to receive prompt care from Choice providers. We would be flooding the VA medical facilities with more patients, even as we know that many facilities are still overburdened and, in some cases, underperforming.

Let me be clear: This is not a doomsday prediction. This is not a Henny Penny moment or Hal Myra effort to pass an obscure bill. If Congress refuses to act today, the Choice Program will expire on August 15.

Chairman Roe has worked diligently to ensure that this does not happen. In the Senate, my friend and fellow Georgian, Senator Johnny Isakson, serves as chairman of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee. He, too, has worked tirelessly to ensure our veterans continue to receive care by safeguarding the viability of the Choice Program.

I have to say, the two chairmen, Chairman Roe and Chairman Isakson, have been at a favorable level those two men working, and the ranking members working alongside of them, in this process. So we are continuing to look forward to this bill passing, and many more things to come.

When we understand this, Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that Chairman Roe and Chairman Isakson, along with their respective ranking member counterparts, Mr. Walz and Mr. Tester, are committed to fixing the existing system work better for veterans.

I also know that the Choice Program needs reform. However, we can’t improve a program that doesn’t exist. We must first protect what is good in hopes of making it better.

Today’s underlying bill provides additional funds to extend the Choice Program for 6 months and provide a critical $2.1 billion infusion of funds while we move forward with thoughtful, sustainable reforms.

I have proposed ideas to make those reforms, including the Expanding Access to Choice Act, which prevents bureaucratic red tape and allows a functioning Choice program. I authored that bill as a direct response to concerns that were raised by my constituents in northeast Georgia.

I am sure that many Members here today have similar experiences and have heard similar stories from their neighbors, and I am confident many Members want to fix this program. By supporting the rule and the underlying bill today, we are taking a step towards making that happen.

Chairman Roe and the Veterans’ Affairs Committee that, without additional funding, veterans would wait longer to receive the healthcare that they deserve. That statement should elicit one thing from this body, Mr. Speaker.

Yet there are those who would rather shuffle down the road of inaction than stand for our veterans today, Mr. Speaker. There are some who claim Choice represents a move towards privatization, and who have opposed the Choice Program from the beginning.

Let me set the record straight: We are not talking about privatizing the VA today. We are talking about sustaining a program that currently serves hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of veterans across the country. This bill is not about privatization. It is about breathing 6 months’ more life into a program that enables veterans to access care more efficiently and effectively.

This is not the time for partisan maneuvers. Our veterans—thier very lives—are on the line, and we owe it to them to move forward so that they receive the care we have promised them.

Mr. Speaker, I am currently in the Air Force Reserve, and I have completed a tour earlier in Iraq. I have witnessed our Armed Forces’ display of heroism, and I believe their actions deserve recognition. This bill doesn’t repay the debt or gratitude we owe our veterans, but it brings us closer to fulfilling our promises by meeting their needs.

The underlying bill authorizes multiple major medical facility leases, including a lease for a facility in Pike County, Georgia. In addition, Section 114 enhances the recruitment, retention, and training of the VA workforce through a number of measures, including encouraging service members with health-related specialties to seek employment at the Veterans Health Administration and expanding hiring authority in the case of severe shortages of qualified healthcare personnel candidates.

Mr. Speaker, preserving the Choice Program and the access to community care options that it provides is critical. I agree that we can make this program better, but we have to provide a path to that today.

Already, I have heard from veterans in my district who say clinics are raising concerns about the availability of funds for Choice. We must address this issue today, and we must uphold our promises to America’s veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time. Ms. Slaughter. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

For me, this morning, July 28, could be the beginning of a new spirit in the House of Representatives because of what happened last night in the Senate. Since we are talking about healthcare for veterans, I just take a moment to talk about healthcare for all Americans.

Last night, we saw a remarkable thing happen. We have had a poisonous atmosphere all around healthcare in the United States for the past 7 years. We want to do away with the last industrial country on the planet to provide healthcare for the people who count on us for that kind of help and support. We can now give that up.

I hope we can take the majority leader at his word that he sees no further use in trying to beat this bill to death and that we can work together to improve it and get on to other things which we are so in need of.

But I do want to say that I appreciate very much the votes last night. I think Senator McCain showed, once again, that he is America’s hero. And Senators Murkowski and Collins certainly are heroines of mine and I think let us know that women in positions of power can be counted on.

So, yesterday, in the Rules Committee, the majority passed a martial law rule granting themselves fast-track authority so they could get anything through, which I think scared even the Senate.

I read some news reports claiming this was a major victory. It was not a victory for either side fighting viciously over how we want healthcare to be given to our citizens, but it was certainly a victory for our side. People, hundreds of whom stood last night here on the Capitol Grounds outside of the Senate begging to be able to continue their healthcare.

Imagine somebody with cancer, going through all of the pain and agony they have to go through, and wondering every day what in the world we are going to do here. Are they going to be left without healthcare, left without care that they can afford?

So I think, without a doubt, this is a good morning for all of us who are in the Congress of the United States to get together and to do better work. And I know of no agency, frankly, that ages of qualified personnel candidates.
needs more attention than the Veterans Administration. My personal experience with them has been somewhat like Whack-a-Mole: we think we have something settled and then suddenly we don’t. We have to be actively trying to ensure that every veteran in our district, directly to the VA, personally, oftentimes simply to get the most simple kind of treatment done for our veterans.

It is my wholehearted wish, and has been for me, that we all get the Veterans Administration out of the building business, where they are abysmal failures, and let them concentrate on healthcare for veterans, which is their number one issue.

I am very pleased—and let me echo what my colleague, Mr. COLLINS, said—\n
with leadership both in the House and the Senate running the Veterans’ Affairs Committees now. Dr. ROE has been an exemplary friend to all of us and understands exactly what we are doing.

So I think this is important, as Mr. COLLINS has pointed out. Veterans Choice has not been very popular in my district. It is so complicated and so complex that it takes a lot of hand-holding even to use it.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL).

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I am here to support House Resolution 480 that allows for consideration of the Veterans Choice Act.

For a while there, I was confused. I wasn’t sure what we were talking about there. I thought we were here talking about the Veterans Choice Act.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the Veterans Choice Act. Our veterans selflessly answer the call to protect our families, our communities, and all that we have. We can never repay veterans for that sacrifice. But our country, this government, made our veterans a promise to care for them. Mr. Speaker, if we do not act today, we will breach that promise by denying healthcare benefits to those veterans who access it through the Choice Program.

This bill will provide $2 billion for the Choice Program. Without this step, the Choice fund will be depleted by mid-September. Secretary Shulkin has made it clear that community programs are unable to care for veterans who need them if the Choice Program is eliminated.

Sometimes it astonishes me how it is that we wait until the last minute here to address problems like this.

Millions of America’s veterans rely on the Choice Program. That is millions of promises we break if we fail to pass this legislation today. We cannot allow these funds to run out and leave our veterans without access to care.

Contrary to critics, today’s debate is not about whether to privatize the VA. Secretary Shulkin has openly said numerous times that he has no plans to privatize the Veterans Administration. Beyond that, today’s debate is about people. It is about veterans who already use the Choice Program who would lose access to care if we do not pass this legislation. It is about allowing veterans choice.

\b 0930

Let’s not play politics with our veterans. Over the course of the week, the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act has been improved with amendments. It would improve the hiring at the VA by enhancing recruitment, retention, and training of the VA workforce, but to those who continue to have concerns about veterans’ choice, I ask we not let perfect be the enemy of good.

I have learned in life nothing is ever perfect. Lord knows I have learned that in business. I have certainly found that to be true again during my short time here in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking. We must not allow it to run out and default on the promises we made to veterans. We need to act today.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the underlying bill we will be voting on today. I wish I were able to say that more often.

The bill will fund the Department of Veterans Affairs Choice Program for 6 months and authorize a number of leases for major medical facilities throughout the country, and I echo its major importance.

The next rule we will be considering contains martial law authority that will allow the majority to bring up any bill they want with hardly any notice at all if I hope we will not use that. It has been a long week. Let’s end it on a bipartisan note with a strong vote in support of this bill before us to help veterans across America.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just again reiterate the point on the resolution. That is the reason we come to this place, is to move forward.

I think when we look at this, the disaster that is ObamaCare, and the reasons that we are now keeping it, and that the healthcare measure has failed, it brings the question to my mind, for the ones who have been helped, and I have never, from this podium or anywhere else, denied that there were many with preexisting conditions and other issues who found help, but, if we remember the promise, the promise was to cover all uninsured. It came nowhere close. The promise was, you can keep your doctor if you liked him, you can keep your plan if you liked it. The promise was that your premiums would go down, and the premiums have gone up.

So for all the supporters, then come to maybe my district or other districts and address those people who have lost their insurance, address those people whose premiums have gone up, address those people like the young lady in Chicago who did get on the ObamaCare exchanges, had a premium that was subsidized, but when she realized that she couldn’t afford the deductible, she said: I might as well have not had it.

It is one thing to discuss this in grand terms, it is another to see the result in our system. To talk about the nominal positives against the crushing negatives is not a victory.

So I think we move forward. Today, we have a chance to move forward on Choice, today we have a chance to move forward and look ahead, but I at least say, from this Member’s perspective, I don’t forget. I understand what I have heard for 7 years.

It has been said many times that the current bill is actually gaining in popularity. Well, I just simply point you to the only polls that have really mattered over the last 7 years, and those are elections, and every time there was an election and this issue was up, ObamaCare lost. I am not sure how you can continue to support, with any kind of a straight face, that kind of abject failure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered. The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.
Providing for Consideration of H.R. 3180, Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018; Waiving a Requirement of Clause 6(a) of Rule XIII with Respect to Consideration of Certain Resolutions Reported from the Committee on Rules; and Providing for Proceedings During the Period from July 31, 2017, through September 4, 2017

Ms. Cheney. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I will call up House Resolution 481 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 481

Resolved. That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3180) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for intelligence and related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System; and for other purposes.

SEC. 2. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider the bill would be waived.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day during the period from July 31, 2017, through September 4, 2017,

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 4. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of any suspension by section 3 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 5. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1646).

SEC. 6. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7(c)(1) of rule XXII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Wyoming is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. Cheney. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Hastings), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

General leave

Ms. Cheney. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

Ms. Cheney. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 481, which provides a closed rule for consideration of H.R. 3180, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing we do in this body that is more important than actions we take for the defense of our Nation. We now face a more complex array of threats than we have at any time since the end of World War II. North Korea, after test-balling ballistic missiles, has successfully tested an ICBM, and is continuing to move rapidly towards achieving the capability to strike U.S. soil.

A resurgent Russia, imposing its will across Europe, occupies Crimea, and is now using its military to support the Assad regime in Syria. China is increasingly belligerent, continues to expand the size of its military andcréate artificial islands in the South China Sea.

And Iran, Mr. Speaker, continues to work on its ballistic missile program and expand its influence as it supports terror across the Mediterranean and the larger Middle East. Terrorist groups like al-Qaeda and ISIS continue to carry out attacks across the West and threaten the United States.

We have seen a dramatic increase in tensions on the Temple Mount. Mr. Speaker, in just the last few weeks, and we have men and women in uniform deployed around the globe fighting to defend our Nation.

Our intelligence community plays a crucial role in ensuring our decision-makers and our warfighters have the information they need to keep our Nation secure. H.R. 3180 provides the intelligence community with the authorization it needs to continue working to protect and defend the United States, supports critical national security programs, such as those protecting Americans against terrorism, cyber attacks, and hostile foreign nations. The bill maintains critical congressional oversight of the activities of the intelligence community, and the bill makes no changes to any surveillance authorities, including those set to expire, which we would consider in legislation separate from this bill.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, earlier this week, H.R. 3180 was considered under suspension of the rules, which is not at all uncommon for bills, like this one, that receive unanimous bipartisan support in committee.

While the bill received well over 50 percent of the votes of the House, it did not receive the required two-thirds majority to pass under suspension, which is why we are here today debating this rule.

A large portion of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is understandably, as it should be, classified, which requires Members of this body to review the bill in the SCIF.

I want to personally thank members of the Intelligence Committee and the staff for facilitating that process and making it so easy for Members of this House to undertake. A bipartisan notice was sent out, provided to Members, informing us of the availability of the text for review. And the text, Mr. Speaker, was available for 3 days, twice as long as last year’s bill.

My staff simply had to call and inform the committee that I would like to review the bill, and the committee asked when I would be available, and they made sure that a member of the committee staff was also there to answer any questions I had.

The process itself was seamless, was very easy, and was facilitated by the members of the Intelligence Committee staff.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good and important bill. It supports the men and women in our intelligence community and the work they do to keep us safe.

This is not an issue we should politicize or subject to partisan debate.

The intelligence community plays a critical role in the defense of our Nation, and we need to support them. Mr. Speaker, by supporting this bill.

There, I urge support for the rule to allow consideration of H.R. 3180.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, for the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. Cheney) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes for debate, and I rise to debate the rule for H.R. 3180, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

I was somewhat dismayed earlier this week when my friends across the aisle attempted to jam today’s bill through this body by jettisoning regular order and bringing the bill up under suspension.

Luckily, we can add this shortsighted attempt at governing to their long list of legislative failures. And although I may be pleased that their suspension shenanigans failed, my frustration was made clear by when we were informed that the bill would come to the floor under yet another closed rule.

This is all bad enough, and I will come back to it in a moment, but first we need to discuss the blanket martial law provision that my friends on the other side put into this rule.

This move, especially when considered in the context of those mentioned...
I want the American people, Republican and Democrat and Independents alike, to be crystal clear on what is happening here today. By putting a blanket martial law provision into this rule, my friends across the aisle were trying to make it as easy as possible for them to pass a healthcare bill that they had never seen. The bill would have surely ripped healthcare away from millions of Americans and unceremoniously upended one-sixth of our economy. Thankfully, Senators Collins, Murkowski, and McCain, and tens of thousands of regular Americans-turned-activists ensured that this effort failed.

Since day one, the approach of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle on healthcare or, for that matter, any number of other important issues has been horrendous. It has been rushed; it has been secretive; it has been chaotic; and it has been inspired by the desire for a cheap win rather than the desire to make our healthcare system stronger and more widely available to all Americans.

Truly, whether it is healthcare, veterans, or the authorization of funding for something as important as our intelligence community, the approach leaves some of us bewildered, dismayed, and gravely concerned for the well-being of our country.

Indeed, when discussing something as important as the authorization for funding for the intelligence community, we ought to proceed in a manner that allows all Members of this body the opportunity to weigh in with their concerns. This closed process does a disservice not only to those of us who do not sit on the committee of jurisdiction, but also the intelligence community and the American people.

As an example, when I did sit on this committee, I was vice chair of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and I worked diligently to ensure that minorities were given equal opportunity to break into the upper ranks of the intelligence community.

Since leaving that committee, I have continued this important work and introduced an amendment to a previous iteration of the underlying bill that called for the Director of National Intelligence to put forth a plan that would encourage diversity hires throughout the intelligence community. Frustratingly, I am stripped of such an opportunity today because of the Republican leadership’s unyielding devotion to perpetuating a closed process.

Additionally, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. Jackson Lee), my friend, has also offered amendments to the underlying bill that call for an increase in the recruitment and training of minorities as officers and employees of the Central Intelligence Agency. She, like the majority of my colleagues, will not be afforded a similar opportunity this time around.

This is troublesome because diversity is a mission imperative for the intelligence community. Not only do we need to see more opportunities to climb the ranks, but we also need to recruit Americans who will be able to blend in, speak foreign languages, and understand the cultures in countries that are now central to our foreign policy interests.

At the end of the day, such diversity is achieved through the hiring process, and, therefore, we need to ensure that we are hiring Arab Americans, Iranian Americans, Pakistani Americans, Chinese Americans, Korean Americans, women, gays, and many other Americans from diverse backgrounds as we confront a myriad of threats and work harder to better understand our adversaries, wherever they may lurk. We do not seek this diversity in the name of political correctness, but, rather, in the name of national security. As I have said before, if the intelligence community is to succeed in its global mission, it must have a global face.

I have no doubt that scores of Members would have agreed to some amendments addressing the issues I have just mentioned as well as many other issues that are of particular concern to them and their constituents. Unfortunately, under this rule, they will not be afforded such an opportunity.

Those who work in the intelligence community serve our country faithfully and bravely, knowing that they will never receive the public recognition they so richly deserve. In fact, they have served and continue to serve knowing that not only will they not receive well-earned accolades, but that they will, upon occasion, have to endure unfounded and offensive statements from this administration. These statements have put the current administration even more down Pennsylvania Avenue.

I quote the following from the administration’s, President’s, Twitter account: “Intelligence agencies should never have allowed this fake news to ‘leak’ into the public. One last shot at me. Are we living in Nazi Germany?”

I find that shameful and absolutely unfounded in making such a statement. Comparing these brave and patriotic Americans to Nazis? You really have to be kidding me.

As a former member of HPSCI, I will not sit idly by while anyone maligns the honorable work these proud Americans do day in and day out to protect our country. But it seems that, with this closed process, they continued support of President Donald John Trump, even as he slowly erodes the foundation of our democracy one tweet at a time, is exactly what my friends and the Republican Congress are doing. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. My colleague from Florida, with whom I have had the privilege of spending many hours in the Rules Committee debating this and a range of other issues, raised a number of points I think that are important to clarify.

I can report that there are several provisions in the classified annex—I won’t go into the details about them—with which my colleague may or may not be familiar that support the whole notion of Centers of Academic Excellence, which are particularly focused on recruiting young people, recruiting minorities and young people across the board for service in the intelligence community.

I report that there are several provisions in the classified annex—I won’t go into the details about them—with which my colleague may or may not be familiar that support the whole notion of Centers of Academic Excellence, which are particularly focused on recruiting young people, recruiting minorities and young people across the board for service in the intelligence community.

Mr. Speaker, in these rule discussions, Mr. Speaker, to have a lot of arguments and criticism of procedure. The Democrats this morning seem to be particularly concerned about our same-day authority. But I would just note, Mr. Speaker, I am certainly concerned that my constituents who are watching this—and, I would say, probably most Americans watching—would understand the importance of the House of Representatives getting its work done in a timely manner. And certainly, when it comes to healthcare, the arguments and the criticism from the other side of the aisle lose a little bit of their credibility when they simultaneously attack the Republicans for moving too slowly and then also for moving too quickly.

What I can tell you is we are debating hugely important issues and hugely important topics. We are absolutely committed to repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act. It is a system that is collapsing. It is a system that has devastated the lives of people across this country. It is a system that has driven premiums and deductibles through the roof. It has absolutely limited people’s choice in terms of insurance plans, in terms of healthcare providers. It is a system that is failing.

We have seen the Democrats’ fundamental approach was a government mandate and their attempt to force people across this Nation to buy health insurance. They thought that, through a government mandate, they would be able to force young people into these insurance pools and, therefore, drive the cost down. That is not what happened. It didn’t work.

We recognize we ought to put in place a system that will be able to provide people the kind of care that they need, access, as well as lowering the cost and increasing availability. So there are a whole range of very important substantive efforts going on.

I think that it is clear that the folks on the other side of the aisle don’t support the direction we are going in, may
not support the policy, but the people across this Nation—certainly, in my home State of Wyoming—spoke very clearly last November that they wanted a change, that they wanted to see the government reduce its role in their lives, and that they wanted to see us begin to rebuild our military, reworking what has been lost over the course of the last 8 years, as well as rebuilding the facilities and the capabilities of our intelligence community, and that is exactly what this bill does. That is exactly what we are here doing this morning.

Mr. Speaker, I think that is why it is so important that my colleagues support this rule, that we provide the authority that the intelligence community needs through this bill to continue to do its important work to keep us safe.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The brazen and reckless manner in which this bill was first brought to the floor is evidence that my friends across the aisle have still not figured out how to govern. The learning curve may be steep that step that we are taking. Quite simply, my friends, it is time for you to start governing responsibly, not with closed rules and martial law, without hearings, and without CBO scores, but through regular order, with an opportunity for all Members and, through them, their constituents to take part in legislating. The White House may be in chaos, but that is no reason for the House to legislate in a similar manner.

For the good of the country, we must return to regular order. We must work to ensure that those serving in the intelligence community are able to do their best work, to do it as safely as possible, and to do it knowing that they will receive the respect they deserve for the vital role they play in helping us address the threats facing our Nation.

I do want to point out, Mr. Speaker, my colleague is accusing the Republicans of being brazen and reckless because of our same-day rulemaking authority. I would only note that in the 111th Congress, when they were in the majority, they enacted this process 26 times; in the 110th Congress, 17 times. It is an important ability for us to have when we know we might need to move quickly on something. As a member of the Rules Committee, I am committed to ensuring we do everything possible to make sure that we are able to bring bills to this floor that carry out the will of the majority and improve the policies that the people of this Nation sent us all here to undertake.

I was really disappointed, Mr. Speaker, earlier this week when this bill was defeated under suspension of the rules. There are many things that are partisan issues in this body, and it is too bad when the minority uses the Intelligence Authorization bill as part of a political stunt to make what should be a bipartisan process and a bipartisan committee on a partisan basis.

The bill, H.R. 3180, received unani-
So the resolution was agreed to. The vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 480, I call up the bill (S. 114) to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding personnel relating to President Trump’s financial connections to Russia, certain illegal financial schemes, and related information, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BONUS TRANSPARENCY ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of TENNESSEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on S. 114, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There is no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 480, I call up the bill (S. 114) to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 480, the amendment in the nature of a substitute in printed House Report 115–262, shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017.”

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

**TABLE I—APPROPRIATION OF AMOUNTS FOR VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM**

**Sec. 101. Appropriation of amounts for Veterans Choice Program**

**TITLE II—PERSONNEL MATTERS**

**Sec. 201. Modification to annual determinations of staffing shortages in Veterans Health Administration.**
(1) by striking “the five occupations” and inserting “at a minimum, the five clinical occupations and the five nonclinical occupations”; and

(2) by striking “throughout the Department” and inserting “with respect to each medical center of the Department.”.

SEC. 202. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

"SUBCHAPTER III—EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

§ 741. Executive Management Fellowship Program

"(a) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—There is in the Department an Executive Management Fellowship Program. The purpose of the program shall be to provide—

"(1) eligible employees of the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Health Administration with training and experience in the private sector; and

"(2) eligible employees of a private-sector entity with training and experience in the Department.

"(b) FELLOWSHIP.—(1) A fellowship provided under this section is a 1-year fellowship during which—

"(A) with respect to a Department participant, the participant receives training and experience at a private-sector entity that is engaged in the administration and delivery of health care or other services similar to the benefits administered by the Secretary; and

"(B) with respect to a private-sector participant, the participant receives training and experience at a private-sector entity that is engaged in the administration and delivery of health care or other services similar to the benefits administered by the Secretary.

"(2) The Secretary shall enter into such agreements with private-sector entities as are necessary to carry out this section.

"(c) SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.—(1) In August of each year, the Secretary shall select—

"(A) not fewer than 18 and not more than 30 eligible employees of the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Health Administration to receive a fellowship under this section; and

"(B) not fewer than 18 and not more than 30 eligible employees of private-sector entities to receive a fellowship under this section.

"(2) To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall select eligible employees under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) from among eligible employees who are veterans in a manner that is reflective of the demographics of the veteran population of the United States and that whenever practicable provides a preference to such employees who live in rural areas.

"(d) ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES.—For the purposes of this section, an eligible employee is—

"(1) with respect to an employee of the Veterans Benefits Administration or the Veterans Health Administration, an employee who—

"(A) is compensated at a rate of basic pay not less than the minimum rate of basic pay payable to a member of the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of title 5 or the minimum rate of basic pay payable pursuant to chapter 74 of this title or the same may be;

"(B) enters into an agreement with the Secretary under subsection (e); and

"(C) submits to the Secretary an application containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may require; and

"(2) with respect to an employee of a private-sector entity, an employee who—

"(A) is employed in a position whose duties and responsibilities are commensurate with an employee of the Department described in paragraph (1);

"(B) enters into an agreement with the Secretary under subsection (e); and

"(C) submits to the Secretary an application containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may require.

"(e) AGREEMENTS.—(1) An agreement between the Secretary and a Department participant shall be in writing, shall be signed by the participant, and shall include the following provisions:

"(A) The Secretary’s agreement to provide the participant with a fellowship under this section;

"(B) The participant’s agreement—

"(i) to accept the fellowship;

"(ii) after completion of the fellowship, to serve as a full-time employee in the Veterans Benefits Administration or the Veterans Health Administration for at least 2 years as specified in the agreement; and

"(iii) that, during the 2-year period beginning on the last day of the fellowship, the participant will not accept employment in the same industry as the industry of the private-sector entity at which the participant accepts the fellowship;

"(C) A provision that any financial obligation of the United States arising out of an agreement entered into under this subchapter, and any obligation of the participant who is a Department participant, is contingent upon funds being appropriated.

"(D) A statement of the damages to which the United States is entitled under this subchapter.

"(F) The participant’s agreement—

"(1) to accept the fellowship;

"(2) to agree to perform in a manner that is a manager accountable for administration and delivery of services, performance, and outcomes; and

"(3) to provide appropriate training and development for the participant.

"The term ‘private-sector participant’ means an employee of a private-sector entity who is participating in the fellowship under this section.

"(f) TREATMENT OF RECIPIENTS.—(1) A Department participant shall be considered an employee of the Department for all purposes, and shall remain eligible for all promotion and incentive programs otherwise available to such employee.

"(2) A private-sector participant shall be considered an employee of the private-sector entity that employs the participant for all purposes, including for purposes of receiving a salary and benefits, and during the fellowship shall be treated as a contractor of the Department.

"(g) REPORTS.—(1) Not later than 60 days after completing a fellowship under this section, a recipient of the fellowship shall submit to the Secretary a report on the fellowship.

"(2) Each such report shall describe the duties of the recipient during the fellowship, and any recommendations of the recipient for the application by the Secretary of industry, process, technologies, and best practices.

"(3) Not later than 7 days after receiving each such report, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives such report without change.

"(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

"(1) the term ‘Department participant’ means an employee of the Veterans Benefits Administration or the Veterans Health Administration who is participating in the fellowship under this section;

"(2) the term ‘private-sector entity’ includes an entity operating under a public-private partnership;

"(3) the term ‘private-sector participant’ means an employee of a private-sector entity who is participating in the fellowship under this section.

"(b) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement the Executive Management Fellowship Program required under section 741 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

"(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"SUBCHAPTER III—EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

§ 741. Executive Management Fellowship Program.

SEC. 203. ACCOUNTABILITY OF LEADERS FOR MANAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 725. Annual performance plan for political appointees.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an annual performance plan for each political appointee of the Department that is similar to the annual performance plan conducted for an employee of the Department who is appointed as a career appointee (as that term is defined in section 312(a) of title 5) within the Senior Executive Service at the Department.

"(b) ELEMENTS OF PLAN.—Each annual performance plan conducted under subsection (a) with respect to a political appointee of the Department shall include an assessment of whether the appointee is meeting the following goals:

"(1) Recruiting, selecting, and retaining well-qualified individuals for employment at the Department.

"(2) Engaging and motivating employees.

"(3) Training and developing employees and preparing those employees for future leadership roles within the Department.

"(4) Holding each employee of the Department that is a manager accountable for addressing issues relating to performance, in particular issues relating to the performance of employees that report to the manager.

"(c) DEFINITION OF POLITICAL APPOINTEE.—In this section, the term ‘political appointee’ means an employee of the Department who holds—

"(1) a position which has been excepted from the competitive service by reason of its confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character; or

"(2) a position in the Senior Executive Service or a noncareer Senior Executive that term is defined in section 312(a) of title 5).

"(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 7 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 723 the following new item:

"725. Annual performance plan for political appointees."
SEC. 204. REEMPLOYMENT OF FORMER EMPLOYEES AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) In General.—Notwithstanding sections 3309 through 3318 of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may noncompetitively appoint a qualified former career or career conditional employee to any position within the competitive service at the Department of Veterans Affairs that is one grade or equivalent higher than the grade or equivalent of the position at the Department most recently occupied by the employee.

(b) Limitation.—The Secretary may not appoint a qualified former employee to a position that is more than one grade (or equivalent) higher than the position at the Department most recently occupied by the employee.

(c) Definition of Qualified Former Employee.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘‘qualified former employee’’ means any individual who—

(1) formerly occupied any career or career conditional position at the Department of Veterans Affairs within 2 years before applying for reemployment at the Department;

(2) voluntarily left such position, or was subject to an adverse action, and demonstrates a satisfactory performance record while occupying such position; and

(3) since leaving such position has maintained qualifications, related to the position, if any, and gained skill, knowledge, or other factors related to the position.

SEC. 205. PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR TECHNICAL EXPERTS AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a promotional track system for employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs that the Secretary determines is consistent with technical expertise required for successful performance of a professional or equivalent position, and is pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary for purposes of carrying out this section. Such system shall—

(1) provide any such employee the opportunity to advance within the Department without being required to transition to a management position; and

(2) for purposes of achieving career advancement—

(A) provide for the establishment of new positions within the Department; and

(B) notwithstanding any other provision of law, provide for increases in pay for any such employee.

SEC. 206. EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) In General.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe regulations to allow for excepted service appointments of students and recent graduates leading to conversion to career or career conditional employee at the Department or to graduate of a qualifying educational institution, as defined by the Department.

(b) Appointment.—The conversion authority described in subsection (a) shall be applicable to individuals in good standing who—

(1) are employed in a qualifying internship or fellowship program by the Department;

(2) are employed in a qualifying internship or fellowship program by an individual employed in a qualifying internship or fellowship program by the Department; and

(3) graduated from a qualifying educational institution, as defined by the Department, and have not reached 30 years of age.

(c) Uniformity.—For the purposes of paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b), hours of work performed by an individual employed in such an internship or fellowship program shall be considered earned by an individual employed in a qualifying internship or fellowship program by the Department.

(d) Certification.—The Secretary shall require that each human resources professional of the Veterans Health Administration, upon the completion of the training described in subsection (a), certifies that the professional received the training and understands the information provided by the training.

(e) Annual Report.—Not less frequently than annually, the Secretary shall submit to the committee on veterans’ affairs of the Senate and the committee on veterans’ affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the training described in subsection (a), including the number of such training and the number of human resources professionals who received such training during the year covered by the report.

SEC. 207. ENCOURAGEMENT OF TRANSITION OF MILITARY PROFESSIONALS INTO EMPLOYMENT WITH VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a program to encourage an individual who has been discharged or released from service in the Armed Forces or is contemplating separating from such service when the individual has been discharged or released from service in the Armed Forces or is contemplating separating from such service, to apply for, and be considered for positions with the Veterans Health Administration when the individual has been discharged or released from service in the Armed Forces or is contemplating separating from such service.

SEC. 208. RECRUITING DATABASE AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) Establishment.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a single database that lists—

(1) each vacant position in the Department of Veterans Affairs that the Secretary determines is critical to the mission of the Department, difficult to fill, or both; and

(2) each vacant position in the Department of Veterans Affairs for a mental health professional.

(b) Qualified Applicant.—If the Secretary determines that an applicant for a vacant position listed in the database established under subsection (a) is qualified for such position but does not select the applicant for such position, the Secretary, at the election of the applicant, may consider the applicant for other similar vacant positions listed in the database for which the applicant is qualified.

(c) Prolonged Vacancies.—If the Secretary does not fill a vacant position listed in the database established under subsection (a) after a period determined appropriate by the Secretary, the Secretary—

(1) may ensure that applicants described in subsection (b) are considered for such position; and

(2) may use the database established under subsection (a) to assist in filling such position.

(d) Report.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the use and efficacy of the database established under subsection (a).

SEC. 209. TRAINING FOR HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONALS AT VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION ON RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

(a) In General.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that human resources professionals of the Veterans Health Administration receive training on how to best recruit and retain employees of the Veterans Health Administration with respect to any recruitment and retention matters that are unique to the Veterans Health Administration pursuant to chapter 74 of title 38, United States Code, or other provisions of law.

(b) Virtual Training.—Training provided under this section shall be provided virtually.

(c) Amount of Training.—The Secretary shall ensure that such human resources professional of the Veterans Health Administration receives the training described in subsection (a).

(1) As soon as practicable after being hired by the Secretary as a human resources professional; and

(2) annually thereafter.

SEC. 210. PLAN TO HIRE DIRECTORS OF MEDICAL CENTERS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) Plan.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop and implement a plan to hire highly qualified directors for each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs that lacks a permanent director as of the date of the plan.

(b) Priority.—The Secretary shall prioritize under the plan developed under subsection (a) the hiring of directors for medical centers that have not had a permanent director for the longest periods.

(c) Matters Included.—The plan developed under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A deadline to hire directors of medical centers of the Department as described in such subsection.

(2) Identification of the possible impediments to such hiring.

(3) Identification of opportunities to promote and train candidates from within the Department to senior executive positions in the Department, including as directors of medical centers.

(d) Submittal of Plan.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report containing a list of each medical center of the Department that lacks a permanent director as of the date of the report.

SEC. 211. EXIT SURVEYS AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) Exit Surveys Required.—

(1) In General.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop and implement an standardized exit survey to be voluntarily completed by career and noncareer employees and executives of the Department of Veterans Affairs who voluntarily separate from the Department.

(2) Consultation.—Such exit survey shall be developed in consultation with an appropriate non-Department Advisory with experience developing such surveys.

(b) Survey Content.—The survey shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Reasons for leaving the Department;

(2) Efforts made by the supervisor of the employee to retain the individual;

(3) The extent of job satisfaction and engagement during the employment of the employee; and

(4) The intent of employee to either remain employed within the Federal Government or...
to leave employment with the Federal Gov-
ernment. (5) Such other matters as the Secretary de-
termines appropriate.
(c) ANONYMOITY OF SURVEY CONTENT.—The Secretary shall ensure that data collected under subsection (a)—
(1) is anonymized, including through the use of a location that allows for privacy;
(2) is not directly visible by another em-
ployee; and
(3) does not require the departing employee to input any personally identifiable data.
(d) SHARING OF SURVEY DATA.—The Sec-
etary shall ensure that the results of the survey required by subsection (a) are—
(1) aggregated at the Veterans Integrated Service Network level; and
(2) shared on an annual basis with direc-
tors and managers of facilities of the Depart-
ment and the Veterans Integrated Service Networks.
(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once each year thereaf-
ere, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
mittee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives a report con-
taining the aggregate results of the exit sur-
vey under subsection (a) covering the year prior to the report.
(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted
under paragraph (1) shall include, for the pe-
riod covered by the report, the following:
(A) An analysis of the most common rea-
sons employees choose to leave the Depart-
ment.
(B) The steps the Secretary is taking to im-
prove retention, particularly for mission-
critical occupations.
(C) The demographic characteristics of em-
ployees who leave the Department.
(D) Any legislative barriers to improving employee retention.
(E) The total number of employees who voluntarily separated from the Department and the number and percentage of whom took the exit survey under subsection (a).

SEC. 212. REQUIREMENT THAT PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RECEIVE COMPETITIVE PAY.
Section 7461(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—
(1) by redesigning subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);
(2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph (B):—
"(B) Physician assistant:"; and
(3) in subparagraph (C), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by striking "and registered nurse" and inserting "registered nurse, and physician assistant ".

SEC. 213. EXPANSION OF DIRECT-HIRING AUTHORITY OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN CASE OF SHORTAGE OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATES.
Section 3304(a)(3)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting "or, with respect to the Department of Veterans Affairs, that there exists a severe shortage of highly qualified candidates) after "severe shortage of candidates". 

SEC. 214. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES ASSESSMENT OF SUCCESSION PLANNING AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.
(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall assess the extent to which key succession planning policies and guidance at the Department of Veterans Affairs, including at the Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Benefits Administration, and the National Cemetery Admin-
istration, are consistent with leading prac-
tices for succession and workforce planning identified by Comptroller General.
(b) ADDITIONAL MATTERS.—In carrying out the assessment required by paragraph (1), the Comptroller General may assess such other matters as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.
(c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the assessment carried out under subsection (a).
(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON STUDY WITH GUIDANCE.—It is the sense of Congress that—
(1) the Comptroller General should conduct a study to examine the extent to which a sampling of installations of the Department of Veterans Affairs are complying with poli-
cies and guidance of the Department, as well as applicable leading practices; and
(2) the scope and timeframe of a study con-
ducted as described in paragraph (1) may be dependent upon the findings of the Com-
ptroller General with respect to the assess-
ment carried out under subsection (a).

TITLE III—MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES
SEC. 301. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
SEC. 213. EXPANSION OF DIRECT-HIRING AUTHORITY OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN CASE OF SHORTAGE OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATES.
The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility leases at the locations specified and in an amount for each lease not to exceed the amount specified for such location (not in-
cluding any estimated cancellation costs):
(1) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Ann Arbor, Michigan, an amount not to exceed $4,237,000.
(2) For a new outpatient mental health clinic, Birmingham, Alabama, an amount not to exceed $6,649,000.
(3) For new research space, Charleston, South Carolina, an amount not to exceed $7,274,000.
(4) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Corpus Christi, Texas, an amount not to exceed $6,556,000.
(5) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Daytona Beach, Florida, an amount not to exceed $12,198,000.
(6) For a replacement Chief Business Office Purchased Care office space, Denver, Colora-
ado, an amount not to exceed $14,784,000.
(7) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Fredericksburg, Virginia, an amount not to exceed $4,015,000.
(8) For a new outpatient clinic, Gaines-
ville, Florida, an amount not to exceed $7,801,000.
(9) For an outpatient mental health clinic, Gainesville, Florida, an amount not to exceed $4,520,000.
(10) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Hampton Roads, Virginia, an amount not to exceed $18,141,000.
(11) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Indianapolis, Indiana, an amount not to exceed $7,876,000.
(12) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Jacksonville, Florida, an amount not to exceed $18,623,000.
(13) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Missoula, Montana, an amount not to exceed $6,942,000.
(14) For a replacement outpatient mental health clinic, Northern Colorado, Colorado, an amount not to exceed $8,904,000.
(15) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Ocala, Florida, an amount not to exceed $5,026,000.
(16) For a new outpatient clinic, Oxnard, California, an amount not to exceed $5,274,000.
(17) For a new outpatient clinic, Pike County, Georgia, an amount not to exceed $5,565,000.
(18) For a new outpatient clinic, Pitts-
burgh, Pennsylvania, an amount not to exceed $6,427,000.
(19) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Portland, Maine, an amount not to exceed $6,306,000.
(20) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Raleigh, North Carolina, an amount not to exceed $21,870,000.
(21) For a replacement outpatient clinic, phase II, Rochester, New York, an amount not to exceed $3,645,000.
(22) For a replacement research space, San Diego, California, an amount not to exceed $4,852,000.
(23) For a new outpatient clinic, Santa Rosa, California, an amount not to exceed $6,922,000.
(24) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Lakeland, Tampa, Florida, an amount not to exceed $10,760,000.
(25) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Terre Haute, Indiana, an amount not to exceed $4,102,000.
(26) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Rapid City, South Dakota, an amount not to exceed $4,522,000.

SEC. 302. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES.
There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2018 and the year in which funds are ap-
propriated for the Medical Facilities account $274,534,000 for the major medical facility leases authorized in section 301.

TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS
SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF PENSION FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS COVERED BY MEDICARE PlANS FOR SERVICES FurnISHED BY NURSING FACIL-
ITIES.
Section 5560(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "September 30, 2027".

SEC. 402. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR COLLECTIVE BIDDING FOR HOUSING LOANS GUARANTEED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.
Section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—
(1) in subparagraph (A)—
(A) in clause (i), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "September 30, 2027"; and
(B) in clause (iv), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "September 30, 2027";
(2) in subparagraph (B)—
(A) in clause (i), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "September 30, 2027"; and
(B) in clause (ii), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "September 30, 2027";
(3) in subparagraph (C)—
(A) in clause (i), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "September 30, 2027"; and
(B) in clause (ii), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "September 30, 2027"; and

(4) in subparagraph (D)—
(A) in clause (i), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "September 30, 2027"; and
(B) in clause (ii), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "September 30, 2027";
Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 114, as amended, the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017. It has been a long week of negotiations, but we are here today with an agreement we—and, more importantly, our veterans—can all be proud to support. I know that I am.

Ranking Member WALZ and I have worked feverishly with our Senate counterparts to find a solution that can pass both Chambers and ensure that veterans will continue to be able to access care in the community.

The VA Choice and Quality Improvement Act of 2017 would expand veteran access to care inside and outside the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare system by, number one, providing $2.1 billion to sustain the Choice Program for the next 6 months, authorizing 28 VA medical facility leases, and improving VA’s work ability to recruit and retain high-quality employees by including many of the provisions of H.R. 1367, as amended, which were sponsored by Dr. BRAD WENSTRUP, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, and unanimously approved by the House in March. I would be remiss if I did not impress upon my colleagues a sense of urgency about this legislation.

The Choice Program was created 3 years ago in response to the nationwide VA access crisis that began with 40 veteran patients who died while waiting for VA care in Phoenix, Arizona. Due to much higher than expected veteran demand for Choice care, the program is slated to run out of money by mid-August. It would leave devastating consequences for veterans in its wake.

Starting with an extremely tight 90-day implementation period and countless contract modifications with third-party administrators, I will be the first to admit the Choice Program has been plagued with problems. But I will also tell you that the program has come a long way from where it once was and is responsible for more than 1 million veterans getting the care they need closer to home and in a more timely manner. The Good Lord only knows how many lives have been saved or prolonged. That is a success.

If Choice were to end 3 weeks from now, Mr. Speaker, VA’s most senior leaders, including Secretary Shulkin, have said that a quarter of veteran patients will increase to pre-Choice Phoenix levels. They also said continuity of care would be disrupted for veterans across the country, and some of our most vulnerable veterans may not be able to get care without either a long, possibly debilitating wait time or an excessive travel distance. That is failure.

Passage of this bill today, followed by swift passage by our colleagues in the Senate, would preserve Choice for the next 6 months. That would allow the program to continue serving veterans while we continue the hard work of creating a stronger, more integrated VA healthcare system for the years ahead.

Some stakeholders have expressed frustration that Congress has not been adequately supporting VA’s internal capacity for care and too much attention has been paid since the 2014 access crisis to addressing issues with growing veteran demand for community care programs, Choice included. They argue that providing increased funding for Choice without identical increases in funding for facilities is harmful to veterans. I totally disagree.

I do not believe that argument is fair or constructive, given the historic funding increases that VA has received in recent years and the growth in staffing, programs, and VA’s physical footprint that has resulted from those increases. In fact, VA’s budget—that is the healthcare budget, not total budget. The VA’s healthcare budget has grown more than $35 billion since I came to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we were spending $93.7 billion when I was sworn into this House in 2009. The President’s request this year is $186.5 billion. In the same time, the number of VA full-time employees has increased by almost 63,000. What is more, we just passed a new Appropriations bill which includes a $3.9 billion increase for VA medical care.

Nevertheless, I have listened to the concerns of our stakeholders, which include many veterans service organizations, and I respect their viewpoints and their willingness to be strong advocates for our Nation’s veterans. As a matter of fact, I belong to many of these organizations.

That is why this bill includes provisions to increase VA internal capacity by authorizing 28 medical facility leases, most of which are for community-based outpatient clinics, and by enhancing VA’s ability to maintain a robust, highly skilled workforce in recognition of the many challenges VA has in competing for workers in an extremely competitive hiring market.

To offset a significant portion of the costs of this legislation, we have used offsets that have been used routinely on a bipartisan basis over the last decades and that were included in the legislation which first created the Choice Program 3 years ago.

As I alluded to earlier, this bill was crafted with the result of negotiations between myself; my friend, Ranking Member Sergeant Major WALZ; and Senators ISAKSON and TESTER, the chairman and ranking member, respectively, on the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. I am grateful to them for this work.

I am also grateful to my friends and colleagues in the House leadership for their efforts and willingness to do the sometimes difficult work of finding a solution that is in the best interests of both veterans and taxpayers and to our VSO partners for their input and support throughout the past weeks.

There is still much work ahead. This is only a 6-month patch to the Choice Program. The ranking member and I have a framework agreement for moving forward, but that will require the cooperation and buy-in from all my colleagues in the House and Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.
it is in the best interests of building a coalition and producing a piece of legislation that can pass through this House, the Senate, and be signed by the President. That is a tough order around here right now, and I am proud to stand with someone who has done it. I am proud to pay my little piece of what it takes to do that. I would encourage my colleagues, let’s show a strong sign not just to our veterans, not just to this piece of legislation that, the gentleman was right, is absolutely critical for the care of our veterans; let’s send a sign to our fellow citizens that this democracy still can function, this democracy still can find answers, this democracy can put American citizens first, and we can walk away from this knowing that our job was to come here and do exactly that, and it will be done.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN), who is my good friend. I had the privilege of visiting BRUCE POLIQUIN’s beautiful State last summer.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I would remind you that “Maine is Vacation-land.” If you have not booked your Maine vacation, there is still plenty of time.

I would like to thank Chairman ROE, who is a Vietnam veteran himself and a doctor, in leading us down this path for better healthcare for our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, it was, I believe, our first Commander in Chief, George Washington, who said, and I paraphrase, that we can never expect young men and women in this country to step forward and fight for their country and give us the freedom that we all enjoy unless and until we take care of those who have already sacrificed on the battlefield. That is what this is about.

Mr. Speaker, in our State, we have about 125,000 veterans, and we love our veterans in the State of Maine. More than half of them are in the Second Congressional District that I represent, which is mostly central, down east, western, and northern Maine. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, we know how to shoot straight up in Maine, and we just need to make sure we take care of our veterans who live in rural areas.

One of the great concerns I have—and I know and otherเหม่ the committee have the same concern—is that what about if you are a veteran that lives far away from a medical hospital, a veterans hospital. In the State of Maine, we have one veterans hospital. It is called Togus. It is the First District of the State of Maine. I represent the Second District.

I encourage everyone in this body, Republicans and Democrats, to please take care of our veterans. Please vote for S. 114 to renew the authorization in the emergency fund for the Choice Program.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), my good friend, the vice ranking member of the full Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, who is also from a great vacation State.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for mentioning that so that it doesn’t detract from my time. But please visit California, especially Riverside, California.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 114, which prevents a funding lapse in the VA Choice Program while also recognizing the importance of a strong and sustainable VA. This legislation meets that standard, and I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity on the full Committee of Veterans’ Affairs.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 114, which will continue funding the Choice Program, an important reform to make sure that our veterans have access to quality care.

For too long, our veterans. Mr. Speaker, have been trapped in a system that has failed them. They are in a single-payer system. We put them in a system that the Members of Congress wouldn’t sign up for. For years, we haven’t given them the same choice that we have given Medicaid patients and Medicare patients.

The Choice Program isn’t just commonsense. It is common decency. We have asked these men and women to serve and to sacrifice for our freedom. They deserve the very best care. The only way they are going to get the best care is to have choice when they have geographic challenges or are waiting in line.

We have all read the reports about how our veterans have waited in line, have gotten sicker, and some even died. It is unconscionable and unacceptable. That is why I am so grateful that, in an institution that has a reputation of gridlock and dysfunction, we have a committee with leaders like Chairman ROE and Ranking Member WALZ who will come together and put America first. So I am heartened by this and I applaud their leadership.

I support this continuation of funding and the improved access to care for our heroes. I thank the chairman for the privilege of serving under the leadership of his committee.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY), my good friend, a long-time champion of veterans, and
I am pleased that we reached the bipartisan agreement, and I hope the rest of this place learns from the work the Veterans Affairs’ Committee has done. I hope that tomorrow, when we wake up and open up those newspapers, this is a front-page story, because it demonstrates to the Democrats and Republicans, everybody coming together to work for our veterans, that is the way it should be done.

Three years ago, Congress created the Choice Program. This was an alternative to make sure that our veterans didn’t have to wait to get the health services they needed. This bill will provide additional funding and short-term sustainability for this program called the Choice Program. This bill will also allow the Department of Veterans Affairs to open up more clinics and to hire additional doctors to make sure that our veterans get the service they deserve.

Again, I am glad that we are here today and I urge work to make sure that our veterans get the services they earned. I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Poliquin) who is also on the Maine Tourism Board.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Ranking Member for yielding and allowing me to reinforce my colleague and serve to be. Democrats and Republicans, everybody coming together to work for our veterans, that is the way it should be done.

I do want to extend my thanks to Senator Isakson; Senator Tester; Secretary Shulkin; the DAVs and the VSOs; and the staff on both sides of the aisle who are the ones who are carrying out late-night negotiations.

I think the gentleman from Tennessee, Chairman Roe, did bring up a good point: this is the beginning of tough negotiations that need to be made, tough negotiations.

I hope everyone here understands that the continued good will and bipartisan-ship is going to be needed, because we have an opportunity to transform the VA into that 21st century VA, one that is more responsive to the needs of veterans, one that takes into account the realities of modern-day medicine that involves many outpatient clinics and different ways of delivering service, especially to rural veterans who we represent.

This is a great start. It is one that I think we go from a stop on Monday to what I hope can be a unanimous vote for a good, smart piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge colleagues to support this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to associate my remarks with those of the ranking member.

We have a lot of thanks to go around, but the major thanks go to our veterans who serve this great Nation. I think it would be fair and a boon to us and a pox on this body if we didn’t do what is right for our veterans. And we are.

As Mr. WALZ said, this is just the first step, although a major one, in a transformative process that we have been given the opportunity on this committee to do.

We serve 21 million veterans in this country that have served this Nation honorably. We have a great organization. I think a lot of times it doesn’t get said that the VA does a lot of good work and we should do.

I don’t go home where there is not a day that I don’t run into somebody at the grocery store or somewhere that
tells me of a positive thing that happened to them at the VA. It is not everywhere, though.

I also get stopped and told and have stacks of documents on my desk that tell me the problems with the VA. We hear those loud and clear. I think both of us do.

But I think it is an opportunity for us as a body—not just this committee, but the entire body—to thank our veterans for passing this bill unanimously, send it to the Senate, and then to the President’s desk for his signature.

I, once again, thank Mr. WALZ, his committee and staff, and our committee and staff for working in a bipartisan way to pass this.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support S. 114, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to S. 114 that provides for a 6-month extension of the Choice program, as well as funding for VA recruitment and retention programs.

Extension of the Choice program is good news for veterans in my district. The Northern Marianas is the only jurisdiction in our country that does not have a VA medical clinic and does not have a single, dedicated VA doctor or mental health professional. There is one physician contracted by the VA on a part-time basis. But she is at capacity and cannot take on any more veteran patients.

So, it is the Choice program that allows the veterans I represent to obtain health care, where they live, rather than having to travel hundreds or thousands of miles, to Guam or to Hawai’i, for treatment.

It was to ease that burden that I was one of the Members who identified and spoke up about the problem of access to service for veterans in remote and rural areas of America; and advocacy by Members from underserved areas helped lead to the creation of Choice.

Make no mistake, the Choice program does not solve all of the issues of health care access for the veterans of the Northern Marianas. A VA health clinic with VA staff in the Marianas remains my goal. But S. 114—short of a full-fledged clinic—does provide recruitment and retention authorities that could lead to having more VA staff in my district. That would be step one in fulfilling that goal.

Meanwhile, and until we have a real, full-time, fully staffed and equipped VA clinic in the Northern Marianas, the Choice program will continue to be needed to fill the gap and provide the care that veterans deserve.

My thanks to Chairman Roe and Ranking Member WALZ and to their staff for the time and effort that has gone into ensuring that Choice can continue for veterans in the Marianas—and in rural, remote, and underserved areas throughout America.

I am also grateful to the many veteran service organizations, who have advised on this legislation and who have been steadfast in their commitment to improve the Department of Veterans’ Affairs for those who served our Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 480, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The motion was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. 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 question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules today or the which the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

VETERANS’ ACCESS TO CHILD CARE ACT

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 95) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 95

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Access to Child Care Act”.

SEC. 2. CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS RECEIVING MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND OTHER INTENSIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) In general.—Subchapter III of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

§1730B. Child care assistance for veterans receiving mental health care and other intensive health care services

(1) In general.—The Secretary shall provide child care assistance to an eligible veteran for any period that the veteran—

(A) receives covered health care services at a facility of the Department; and

(B) is in need of covered health care services from the Department.

(2) The term ‘covered health care services’ means—

(A) regular mental health care services; and

(B) intensive mental health care services; or

(3) The term ‘covered health care services’ means—

(A) regular mental health care; and

(B) intensive mental health care services.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF PENSION FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS COVERED BY MEDICAID PLANS FOR SERVICES FURNISHED BY NURSING FACILITIES.

Section 1726(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR COLLECTION OF FEES FOR HOUSING LOANS GUARANTEED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 1726(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (iii), by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2024”; and

(B) in clause (iv), by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2024”;

(2) in subparagraph (B) of clause (i), by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2024”;

(3) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2024”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2024”;

(4) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2024”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2024”.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 95, as amended, the Veterans’ Access to Child Care Act. This bill would make the Department of Veterans Affairs’ successful pilot program to provide childcare assistance to veterans seeking mental or other intensive healthcare services through the VA healthcare system permanent.

I hope to make this in the way.

I want to thank my colleague, Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY, the ranking member of our Subcommittee on Health, for her leadership in sponsoring the Veterans’ Access to Child Care Act.

I am proud to support this bill and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 95, as amended, offered by the Subcommittee on Health Ranking Member JULIA BROWNLEY.

Mr. Speaker, to increase access, we must eliminate barriers, and this amendment in the nature of a substitute does exactly that. The Veterans’ Access to Child Care Act assists those veterans who are also parents to access the healthcare they need by allowing the VA to provide childcare assistance to eligible veterans.

Representative BROWNLEY’s bill is essential to ensuring all veterans have that access, and I appreciate her hard work to make it a reality. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment in the nature of a substitute.

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

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY), the author of this piece of legislation.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota, our ranking member, and the gentleman from Tennessee, our chairman, for their support of this bill and for their tireless advocacy on behalf of our Nation’s veterans.

I rise today in support of H.R. 95, the Veterans’ Access to Child Care Act, which will break down a barrier to care for many veterans with children face. This is especially problematic for women veterans who are often the primary caretakers of young children and a rapidly growing segment of the veteran population.

According to a 2015 VA study, 42 percent of veterans use the VA said it is difficult to find childcare that would allow them to attend medical appointments, and for those who can, that care is often unaffordable.

The average cost of childcare in my home State of California, for instance, is more than $13,000 a year. As the post-9/11 generation continue to start their families, more and more veterans will face the unacceptable choice between caring for their children and getting the healthcare they need.

Without affordable childcare options, veterans can miss their appointments, including critical mental health appointments, that impact their long-term well-being. It is just common sense. Better access to childcare will lead to better access to care, which will ultimately result in better outcomes for our Nation’s veterans.

The VA currently runs a successful childcare pilot program at several locations around the country that benefits female and male veterans of all eras. My legislation will make that program permanent and expand it nationwide, ensuring that no veteran will have to miss a VA health appointment because of a lack of childcare.

I want to thank my colleague, Congressman BRIAN HIGGINS, for his steadfast support of this bill and all of my colleagues on the VA Committee who have backed this proposal every step of the way.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation and help ensure that veterans do not have to choose between caring for their children and getting the healthcare they need and deserve.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, the Chair heard the reasons for this. I thank the gentlewoman for authorizing this needed piece of legislation and urge my colleagues to support its passage.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 95, the ‘Veterans’ Access to Child Care Act,’ which makes permanent the VA’s Child Care Pilot Program and expands it so that all veterans who are primary caretakers have a safe, reliable, and cost-free option for child care when they use VA healthcare.

As the founder and chair of the Congressional Children’s Caucus, I fully understand the importance of having access to affordable and safe child care.

The bill provides child care assistance to an eligible veteran for any period that the veteran receives covered health care services at a VA facility, and is required to travel to and return from such facility for the receipt of such services.

My own city of Houston is home to the second largest veterans’ community in the United States in terms of resident veterans.

The U.S. Census Bureau recorded that Houston is home to approximately 282,000 veterans, which is almost one-fifth of the state’s veteran population.

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in the city of Houston has 111,189 veterans enrolled in the center.

For these veterans in Houston and veterans across the country, H.R. 95 provides access to child care for veterans receiving mental health services and other intensive health care services at VA facilities.

The VA reported that it had provided free childcare to 10,000 children through the pilot program and that veterans were consistently “completely satisfied” with the services received.

H.R. 95 ensures that veterans continue to get the care they have earned and deserve, and that includes ensuring that those seeking treatment at VA medical facilities do not miss appointments because they do not have access to safe and reliable child care.

The lack of convenient and affordable child care has prevented veterans from getting the medical care they need.

The cost of full time infant care across the United States in 2012 ranged from $4,600 to $20,200 a year.

The cost of full time care for a 4 year old ranged from $3,500 to $15,450.

Of those seeking childcare, 89 percent were looking for full time care and only 11 percent were looking for part-time care.

Parents who serve as the primary caretaker of a child should not have to sacrifice their own health to find safe and reliable child care.

We must remove barriers that impede veterans’ access to health care.

Currently, the Child Care Pilot Program offers free child care for qualified veterans using VA healthcare services at a limited number of participating sites around the United States.

Congress has reauthorized this popular pilot program three times in separate bills, but it is time to make this program permanent.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 95, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.
VA SENIOR EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2772) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for requirements relating to the reassignment of Department of Veterans Affairs senior executive employees, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2772

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “VA Senior Executive Accountability Act” or the “SEA Act”.

SEC. 2. SEMIANNUAL REPORTS ON REASSIGNMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SENIOR EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEES.

(a) In General.—Subchapter I of chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to section 723 the following new item:

“§ 723. Reassignment of senior executives

“(a) Approval of Reassignments.—No individual employed in a senior executive position at the Department may be reassigned to another position at the Department unless such reassignment is approved in writing and signed by the Secretary.

“(b) Semianual Reports Required.—Not later than June 30 and December 31 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the reassignment of individuals employed in senior executive positions at the Department to other such positions at the Department during the period covered by the report. Each such report shall describe the purpose of each such reassignment and the costs associated with such reassignment.

“(c) Senior Executive Position Defined.—In this section, the term ‘senior executive position’ has the meaning given such term in section 718(c)(1) of this title.”.

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 718(c) the following new item:

“724. Reassignment of senior executives.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2772, as amended, the VA Senior Executive Accountability Act, or SEA Act. This bill would provide needed transparency to the Department of Veterans Affairs’ reassignment of members of the Senior Executive Service. Specifically, the bill would require the Secretary to personally approve of a reassignment of VA’s approximately 350 SES employees. It would also require VA to report to Congress identifying those employees who are reassigned and the cost associated with such a reassignment.

I thank Representative TAYLOR for his thoughtful legislation. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2772.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2772, the VA Senior Executive Accountability Act. Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense bill that has received bipartisan support as it moved through regular order of our committee.

This bill requires that any reassignment of a senior executive at the VA have the Secretary’s written approval. It also requires an annual report to Congress to help us in our oversight ability. I have dealt with this issue myself in Minnesota and know firsthand how important this is.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. TAYLOR and our vice ranking member, Mr. TAKANO, for developing this legislation. I support and encourage Members to join in its support.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TAYLOR), the author of this bill and a Navy SEAL.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 2772, the VA Senior Executive Accountability Act. This bipartisan bill brings transparency and accountability to senior VA leadership.

Mr. Speaker, my area has the fastest growing veterans population in the Nation. Our OIF, our OEF, and our women’s veterans population is rapidly growing.

Recently, our main VA hospital was rated at a one-star out of a five-star rating. In making a change, the VA simply swapped out the underperforming leadership with another VA hospital.

This, Mr. Speaker, is unacceptable.

My bill would require the VA to issue reports on any reassignment of VA leadership and how much the cost is. Additionally, the Secretary of the VA would have to personally sign off on the reassignment.

Mr. Speaker, veterans need to trust that they are getting the best care possible. They need to trust that they will have transparency. They need to trust that there will be accountability.

I want to thank the chairman, the ranking member, and all those on the committee for their work, their dedication, and their commitment to upholding our sacred responsibility of care for those who upheld their own sacred responsibility to our Nation.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close at this time.

Mr. Speaker, again, commonsense bill, bipartisan, does the right thing, and, as the gentleman so clearly explained, providing that trust to our veterans is absolutely critical. I believe this will do that. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 2772.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2772, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GROW OUR OWN DIRECTIVE: PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3262) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide educational assistance to certain former members of the Armed Forces for education and training as physician assistants of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish pay grades and require competitive pay for physician assistants of the Department, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3262

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Grow Our Own Directive: Physician Assistant Employment and Education Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS TO BE EMPLOYED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) Pilot Program.—

(1) In General.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to be known as the “Grow Our Own Directive” or “G.O.O.D.” pilot program (in this section referred to as the “pilot program”) to provide educational assistance to certain former members of the Armed Forces for education and training as physician assistants of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) Information on Pilot Program.—The Secretary shall provide information on the pilot program to eligible individuals under subsection (b), including information on application requirements and a list of entities with which the Secretary has partnered under subsection (g).

(b) Eligible Individuals.—An individual is eligible to participate in the pilot program if the individual—
(1) has medical or military health experience gained while serving as a member of the Armed Forces;
(2) has received a certificate, associate degree, baccalaureate degree, master’s degree, or postbaccalaureate training in a science related to health care;
(3) is not eligible to participate in education or training under section 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of title 38, United States Code, or chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10, United States Code;
(4) has participated in the delivery of health care services or related medical services, including participation in military training, that may be employed in identification, evaluation, treatment, and prevention of diseases and disorders; and
(5) does not have a degree of doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, or doctor of dentistry.

(c) Duration.—The pilot program shall be carried out during the five-year period beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) Selection.—(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall select not less than 250 eligible individuals under subsection (b) to participate in the pilot program.

(2) PRIORITY FOR SELECTION.—In selecting individuals to participate in the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to the following individuals:

(A) Individuals who participated in the Intermediate Care Technician Pilot Program of the Department that was carried out by the Secretary between January 2011 and February 2015.

(B) Individuals who agree to be employed as a physician assistant for the Veterans Health Administration at a medical facility of the Department located in a community that—

(i) is designated as a medically underserved population under section 330(b)(5)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(5)(A)); and

(ii) is in a State with a per capita population of veterans of more than 9 percent according to the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics and the United States Census Bureau.

(e) Prior to Participation.—(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall provide educational assistance to individuals participating in the pilot program through the use of scholarships, to cover the costs to such individuals of obtaining a master’s degree in physician assistant studies or a similar master’s degree.

(2) USE OF EXISTING PROGRAMS.—In providing educational assistance under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall use the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Professionals Educational Assistance Program under chapter 76 of title 38, United States Code, and such other educational assistance programs of the Department as the Secretary deems appropriate.

(f) Period of Obligated Service.—(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with each individual participating in the pilot program in which such individual agrees to be employed as a physician assistant for the Veterans Health Administration for a period of obligated service specified in this paragraph for the individual—

(A) if the individual is participating in the pilot program through a program described in subparagraph (B) of section 41 of title 38, United States Code, for the period of obligated service, the period specified with respect to such program; or

(B) if the individual is participating in the pilot program through a program described in such subsection, or if such program does not specify a period of obligated service, a period of three years or such other period as the Secretary considers appropriate for purposes of the pilot program.

(2) Liability.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), an individual who participates in the pilot program and fails to satisfy the period of obligated service under subsection (f) shall be liable to the United States, in lieu of such obligated service, for the amount that has been paid or is payable to or on behalf of the individual under the pilot program, reduced by the proportion that the number of days served for completion of the period of obligated service bears to the total number of days in the period of obligated service.

(g) Administration of Pilot Program.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) report to Congress a report on the pilot program; and

(B) submit to Congress a report on the pilot program.

(2) ELENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The extent to which the pilot program is effective in improving the ability of eligible individuals under subsection (b) to become physician assistants;

(B) An examination of whether the pilot program is achieving the goals of—

(i) enabling individuals to build on medical skills gained as members of the Armed Forces by entering into the physician assistant workforce of the Department; and

(ii) helping to meet the shortage of physician assistants employed by the Department.

(C) An identification of such modifications to the pilot program as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Defense determines necessary to meet the goals described in subparagraph (B).

(h) Source of Amounts.—Not less than $8,000,000 of the amount necessary to carry
out the pilot program shall be derived from amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR USING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO HIRE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.

(a) In General.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish standards described in subsection (b) to improve the use by the Department of Veterans Affairs of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Professionals Educational Assistance Program under chapter 76 of title 38, United States Code, and other educational assistance programs of the Department, including the pilot program under section 731 of title 38, United States Code, to educate and hire physician assistants of the Department.

(b) STANDARDS.—The standards described in this subsection are the following:

(1) Holding directors of medical centers of the Department accountable for failure to use the educational assistance programs described in subsection (a) and other incentives—

(A) to advance employees of the Department in their education as physician assistants; and

(B) to improve recruitment and retention of physician assistants.

(2) Ensuring that the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Professionals Educational Assistance Program under subchapter VII of chapter 76 of such title is available for participants in the pilot program under section 2 to fill vacant physician assistant positions at the Department, including—

(A) in all vacancy announcements for physician assistant positions the availability of the Education Debt Reduction Program; and

(B) informing applicants to physician assistant positions of their eligibility for the Education Debt Reduction Program.

(3) Monitoring compliance with the application process for educational assistance programs described in subsection (a) to ensure that such programs are being fully utilized to carry out this section.

(4) Creating programs, including through the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Professionals Educational Assistance Program under subchapter VI of chapter 76 of such title, to encourage employees of the Department to apply to accredited physician assistant programs.

(c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as the Secretary considers appropriate to carry out this section.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR COLLECTION OF FEES FOR HOUSING LOANS GUARANTEED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2024"; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2024";

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2024"; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2024";

(3) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2024"; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2024";

(A) in clause (i), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2024"; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2024";

the VA has over 45,000 provider vacancies to fill and veterans are not waiting too long for care. In the United States, we face a provider shortage in general, especially in our rural communities, where most veterans live. This bill will help address these critical shortages by providing veterans with an incredible opportunity to aid their communities and their fellow veterans.

Ms. Kuster’s hard work on this legislation and on behalf of veterans is admirable, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, for years, the Department of Veterans Affairs has seen many of its medical personnel leave to pursue opportunities outside of the VA health care system, resulting in fewer healthcare providers and, ultimately, less access to care for our veterans. In the First District of Michigan, which I represent, we are largely a rural district, and our veterans have suffered more than most on this.

The GOOD Act utilizes a two-pronged approach to address VA’s continuing struggles in recruiting and retaining their physician assistant workforce. This bill creates a pilot program to provide that pathway for veterans to receive the education necessary to become a PA while, simultaneously, requiring the VA to establish a national strategic plan to recruit and retain a robust and long-term medical staff.

Our veterans have given so much for our country at exceptional costs, and they deserve access to timely and high-quality healthcare from skilled professionals. I am proud to join Ranking Member KUSTER from our Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee in supporting this bipartisan legislation on behalf of our Nation’s veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill, H.R. 3262, the G.O.O.D. Act.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Ms. Kuster), the author of this piece of legislation, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleague, General BERGMAN, in support of our bill, H.R. 3262, the Grow Our Own Directive: Physician Assistant Employment and Education Act of 2017.

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the entire Nation are experiencing a shortage of quality physicians and healthcare providers. For doctors
alone, the Association of American Medical Colleges estimates that, by 2030, the country could face a doctor shortage of over 100,000 physicians. Access to care will only become a harder problem to solve the longer it takes to be addressed.

Nonphysician providers, like physician assistants, are an important part of the solution to this shortage. Physician assistants are highly trained providers that often focus their training on specialties like psychiatry, orthopedics, and internal medicine.

It is fitting that my bill would help get more PAs into the VA to serve veterans. After all, the profession started when a small group of four Navy corpsmen completed the first PA program started at Duke University. That first program was based on the fast-tracked training of doctors during World War II. Veterans and the military have always been a part of the physician assistant profession.

The PA workforce offers unique value to rural and underserved areas. In places like northern New Hampshire, in my district, PAs help resolve shortages for family physicians and primary care physicians, shortages that have existed for decades.

My bill would leverage the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve access to quality care for veterans and rural locations alike. It would create a pilot scholarship program that awards no less than 250 scholarships over 5 years to PAs.

Currently, the VA has approximately 2,000 PAs. My bill would increase the PA workforce at the VA by over 10 percent.

In exchange for these scholarships, PAs would be required to work at the VA, and their placement would be focused on sending providers to rural and underserved areas. We know that if a provider is placed in New Hampshire, they would provide care to local veterans.

This bill would also help get veterans with medical training in the workforce and with good-paying jobs. It is crucial that we help our veterans find excellent career paths that utilize the skills they learned while in the military service, and it is an added bonus that these veterans get to take care of their brothers and sisters in arms.

The final provision in my bill was included in the Choice funding bill we debated in 2014. This provision would provide PAs in the VA with competitive pay based on the community they serve. This provision is crucial because it helps recruit and retain these critical providers. The GAO recently reported that PAs experience the highest loss rate of any critical occupation, higher than doctors and nurse practitioners.

I would like to applaud my colleagues for coming together in a bipartisan way to craft the Choice funding bill. Not only will the bill fund the Choice Program for another 6 months, but it includes a number of important reforms that will improve service for all of our veterans. These provisions include improved authority for hiring in job shortage areas, measures to increase accountability within the VA, and my provision to boost the pay of PAs.

I would like to thank my esteemed colleague on the House Veterans Affairs’ Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Chairman Bergman. His support for this legislation was crucial to its passage today. I thank our chairman, Dr. Roe, and our ranking member.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to immediately pass this bill.

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, as you heard, I urge my colleagues to support this smart piece of legislation. But I would like to close by adding, also, a thank-you to the chairman and to the majority side, once again showing bipartisanship offering two bills introduced by Republicans that are being heard on the floor which can be signed into law. It is greatly appreciated. It shows that the care of veterans always comes first. We on the minority side are appreciative of that courtesy.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may conserve.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly support this bill, and I want to thank both General Bergman and Ms. Kuster. We made a trip to Afghanistan together a couple of years ago. She has a dogged—and I will say “dogged”—commitment to the veterans in her district and to this country, and I want to thank her for bringing this piece of legislation up. I believe it will make a difference, I truly do, when it is implemented.

And I want to thank the ranking member, and his staff and mine, for bringing a lot of pieces of legislation to the House floor in the last couple of weeks. This week, especially, we have had some success here, and that means veterans had success. Certainly, the post-911 GI Bill that was passed this week is an enormous bill and will do good generations after no one ever remembers who was on this floor debating that bill. So I want to thank them and thank my colleagues and wish everyone a safe recess and a healthy recess.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SINKS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. Roe) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3262, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the motion agreed to, the bill, H.R. 3262, as amended, passed.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide educational assistance to certain former members of the Armed Forces for education and training as physician assistants of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM WAR MEMORIAL ACT

Mr. McCLEINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 873) to authorize the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation to establish the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act”.

SECTION 2. NATIONAL GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM MEMORIAL.

(a) AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMENORATIVE WORK.—The Association may establish the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial as a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Federal funds may not be used to pay any expense incurred in the establishment of the memorial under this section.

(2) RESPONSIBILITY OF ASSOCIATION.—The Association shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the memorial.

(d) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—If, on payment of all expenses for the establishment of the memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount required by section 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), or combination of the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Interior for deposit in the account provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ASSOCIATION.—The term “Association” means the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation, a corporation that is—

(A) organized under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania; and

described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code.
(2) DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND ITS ENVIRONS.—The term “District of Columbia and its environs” has the meaning given that term in section 8902(a) of title 40, United States Code.

(3) GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.—The term “Global War on Terrorism” means any contingency operation conducted by the Armed Forces of the United States after September 11, 2001, or other terrorist attack.

(4) MEMORIAL.—The term “memorial” means the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial authorized to be established under section 2.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) each will control 20 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 873, the Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act, authored by Congressman MIKE GALLAGHER of Wisconsin, would authorize the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation to begin the lengthy Commemorative Works Act process to establish a Global War on Terrorism Memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia. The memorial will recognize and honor the men and women who have served on Active Duty in the United States Armed Forces since the attack on our country on September 11, 2001.

The global war on terrorism is the longest war fought by the United States, and there is still no end in sight. We can and should debate the policies that have prolonged this war and denied our troops the full might and resources of our Nation. But one thing is far above and beyond any debate, and that is the heroism, selflessness, devotion, and patriotism of the men and women of our Nation who stepped forward from the safety, security, and comfort of hearth and home and into harm’s way when our Nation called.

The Commemorative Works Act requires that a war be ended for at least 10 years before planning can commence on a national memorial. There is good reason for this requirement: it gives history the insight to place the war in an historic context and to begin to fully appreciate its full significance to our country and future generations.

But the war on terrorism has been fought in a decidedly different way than our past wars. We are now approaching the 16th anniversary of the attack on New York and Washington. The veterans who sacrificed so much to keep that war away from our shores deserve some tangible and lasting tribute to their patriotism and altruism while they, their families, and their fellow countrymen can know it. The Gold Star families of our fallen heroes for whom the war will never end deserve some assurance that their sons and daughters will never be forgotten by a grateful Nation.

We should remember that many of our Nation’s heroes from World War II never lived to see the completion of the World War II Memorial which was completed 59 years after the end of that conflict.

For these reasons, this measure suspends the 10-year period in current law. It doesn’t repeal it. It merely sets it aside for the unique circumstances of the current war on terrorism.

I am confident that the Memorial Commission will respect and appreciate the fact that many may have yet to serve in this war, and history has not yet had its say on its significance to our Nation and, indeed, to the future of Western civilization. I am sure the design they recommend will respect these facts and provide significant latitude for the completion of the memorial after this bane of Islamic terrorism has been extinguished from our planet and the long-suffering people of the Middle East have been liberated from it by the brave fighting men and women of the United States Armed Forces that this memorial will honor and thank.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record a July 28, 2017, letter from the Congressional Budget Office providing a cost estimate for this bill.


Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
115th Congress,
Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Chairman: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 873, the Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Janani Shankaran.

Sincerely,
MARK P. HADLEY,
(For Keith Hall, Director),
Enclosure.

H.R. 873—GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM WAR MEMORIAL ACT

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 26, 2017

H.R. 873 would authorize the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation, a non-profit organization, to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia and its environs to commemorate members of the armed forces who served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Because H.R. 873 would prohibit the use of federal funds to establish the memorial, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would result in significant costs to the federal government.

Enacting H.R. 873 would affect direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. The memorial project would be subject to the requirements of the Commemorative Works Act. Under that act, any entity that receives a permit to construct a memorial must donate to the National Park Foundation (a nonprofit organization) an amount equal to 10 percent of the memorial’s construction cost. That amount, as well as any project funds remaining after construction of the memorial, would be available in future years for maintenance of the memorial.

Based on the experience of similar commemorative projects, CBO expects that any amounts collected by the federal government for maintenance would be received for several years and would be offset by an expenditure soon thereafter. On net, CBO estimates that such effects would be insignificant.

Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 873 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 873 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Janani Shankaran. The estimate was approved by Theresa A. Gullo, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in favor of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Act. This act will initiate the process for constructing a memorial to the brave men and women of the Armed Forces who have fought and, too often, died for this country in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

As a veteran of the Iraq war, I am extremely proud to be on the floor today as we memorialize the bravest and best of Americans; the ones who volunteered to put themselves in harm’s way and did not come back.

I want to commend my fellow Marines, Mr. MOULTON and Mr. GALLAGHER, for sponsoring this act. As you know, Mr. Speaker, it takes a lot for an enlisted marine like me to speak very highly of any officer, let alone Marine Corps officers, but there are always exceptions.

Mr. Speaker, as we consider this legislation, I hope every Member of this body will take a quiet moment today to think about the courageous men and women we have lost over the past 16 years. When I cast my vote today, I know I will be thinking about my close friends, including Corporal Andre Williams and Lance Corporal Christopher Lyons, who died 12 years ago today in Nykol, Iraq.

This memorial will honor thousands of our countrymen who have been killed and wounded in Iraq and around the world. It will memorialize the service of those who have survived the battle only to fall victim to the mental and emotional demons of post-traumatic stress.

For these reasons, I urge everyone to vote in favor of this act.
For as long as this memorial stands, it will continue the proud tradition of America honoring its sons and daughters who have given their last full measure of devotion.

I look forward to commencing design and to the day when the memorial passes from an idea on a piece of paper to a landmark on the National Mall.

I thank Congressman MOULTON and Congressman GALLAGHER for their remarks.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER), the author of this measure, one of the many thousands of Americans who stepped forward to answer their country’s call.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair for his leadership on this issue, for working with us, and I ask that we send our thanks to every member of the Natural Resources Committee for its effort in getting this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank the gentleman from Arizona for his words and for my honor to call him my fellow marine. As an officer, I did my best just not to get in the way of my enlisted marines, who were doing the real work. Maybe we can bring some of that same ethos here to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this bill that honors our post-9/11 veterans and secures their rightful place in our Nation’s Capital.

Earlier this summer, I had the honor of welcoming a group of American heroes who journeyed from northeast Wisconsin to Washington, D.C., aboard the Old Glory Honor Flight. That is one of the truly incredible things we get to do as Members of Congress.

Just as our generation after generation of Americans who served and continue to serve in the ongoing war on terrorism have memorials, let’s honor our comrades, their courage in those conflicts was one of the most remarkable experiences of my life.

Just as these veterans visited their respective memorials, so, too, should the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve in the ongoing war on terrorism. Let’s continue to honor their courage, their sacrifice, their commitment. But as the chairman laid out, current law does not allow for the creation for a memorial for the war on terror.

The 1986 Commemorative Works Act requires that monuments in honor of a “...limited military engagement or a unit of an armed force may not be authorized... until at least 10 years after the officially designated end of such war or conflict.”

But as we know, this is a conflict unlike many others that have preceded it. This war will have no clear end date, no V Day or V-J Day. Threats continue to rise, so the longest ongoing conflict in our Nation’s history continues. After 15 years, after over 6,800 American lives lost, there is still no end in sight.

So this memorial is for the men and women who have all fought, those who come to fight, those who are still joining the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a second to recognize the dedicated members of the War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation, many of whom are with us here today, especially Andrew Brennan, George Chevone, Chad Longell, and Matt Gannon. They have been tireless in their commitment to getting this done. Today we are taking an important step forward, but we still need to get it across the finish line, so I want to recognize their efforts.

I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, like most, I struggle with how to truly honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, but also as a call to action for us, the living.

I believe that those who will pay tribute to through this memorial didn’t risk everything just so we would sit back and praise them for keeping us safe. I see the fallen don’t want our praise. They want our participation in this incredible experiment in self-government.

If we are going to continue passing the torch of democracy from one generation to the next, then we need to build this memorial so that future generations never forget the cost of liberty.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to support this legislation to memorialize the service of the brave men and women who have fought in the global war on terrorism.

Mr. GALLEGLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON).

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from Wisconsin and Arizona. It is an honor to stand here as fellow marines in support of this bill today.

Today is a big day. It is a milestone in a journey that we started over a year ago. We are taking a major legislative step in the direction of creating a memorial honoring those who have served on Active Duty during the global war on terror.

For many, like my colleagues, this bill is personal. None of us will forget where we were on September 11, 2001, and we all continue to live with the aftermath of that tragic day in American history.

It is important to note that the tragic events of 9/11 and the war on terror to follow did not leave us isolated and afraid as a nation. Rather, in true American fashion, they inspired an entire generation to come together and serve.

So many young men and women selflessly answered the call to serve their country in the wake of that tragedy, and I would like to share just one story with you about someone from my district who would be on this memorial.

Captain Jennifer Harris lived in the town of Swampscott. She was a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, and, sadly, became the first Massachusetts woman killed in the Iraq war.

Jennifer was the epitome of leadership and sacrifice. On flying missions, she had the call sign “The Dove.” She would often be called to evacuate our wounded soldiers and marines from the battlefield.

Captain Harris’ final mission was to transport blood supplies. She willingly volunteered for it even though she was just days away from returning home. In fact, she was initially told:

No. You are too close to leaving. Don’t go.

But she said:

I want to fly one more time.

Her superiors reluctantly agreed. Captain Harris died on February 7, along with six other crew members after insurgents shot down her helicopter.

In her twenties, with a bright future ahead of her, Captain Harris was on her third tour of duty in Iraq.

I can’t help but think today of my grandfather, a World War II veteran. He never got to see the WWII Memorial in his lifetime. He was never afforded the opportunity to have some place to pay respects and honor their sacrifice. I see this as the same, so that future generations never forget the cost of liberty.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the strongest support possible for this bill to begin the process of establishing a memorial to honor the servicemembers of our longest war.

5,796 days ago, on a crystal blue September morning, we came face to face with an evil as old as time. Within days, our military was engaged, and within weeks, we sustained our first
On that hallowed ground, I made it a point to seek out someone I served with, a gentleman by the name of Brendan Looney. I served with Mr. Looney in Korea. He was an intelligence officer back then. Both of us had a lot to contribute. And on this day, I went forward, but Brendan Looney wanted to do more than just that: he wanted to become a SEAL, and he did. He served in Iraq and he served in Afghanistan. It was in 2010 when the Blackhawk he was riding in went down and crashed, killing everybody onboard.

Now, Brendan is interred in area 60 at Arlington National Cemetery right along with his brethren, with his brother in arms, Travis Manion. I looked at Travis Manion’s tombstone, and on that tombstone is a quote that I would like to share. On that tombstone, it says:

If not me, then who?

And right next to Mr. Manion’s tombstone was another 19-year-old who was interred there, a veteran of the global war on terrorism. And on his tombstone was a quote that I would like to share. It said:

I just want to do my part.

Mr. Speaker, it is this attitude that was inscribed on those tombstones which is the attitude of this generation of veterans who served in the global war on terrorism, my generation, our generation, men and women who didn’t step back; instead, they stepped forward. They didn’t just step forward; they ran forward, they ran to the fight. Now, also at Arlington National Cemetery was another quote that I would like to share, and it was from John F. Kennedy. The quote that they had up there by his tomb was from one of his speeches, in which he stated:

In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility.

I welcome it.

The men and women who served in the global war on terrorism did not shrink from that responsibility. They did not run away. They ran forward.

So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is important to have this memorial because the families, the friends, the men and women of this country should not just honor those who served and paid the ultimate sacrifice. That is why I stand here, Mr. Speaker, in full support of the memorial here on the National Mall to not just honor, but to celebrate the service and the sacrifice of the veterans of the global war on terrorism.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may have to the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. GALLAGHER, who has brought this legislation before us today.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to quickly add my thanks to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON), who started this effort in the last Congress with another colleague of ours, and I was fortunate enough to join that team when I arrived here. Without his dedication from the start, we would not be at this moment today.

I would also thank him for his example of leadership in the Marine Corps and in Congress, which has inspired a generation of marines like myself. And while we don’t agree on everything, we always look for ways to work together. It is my belief in just listening to these speeches, particularly from the veterans who serve in Congress, that there is so much that we can work together on; and there are forces that are trying to divide us, but there is still so much that we can agree upon.

So while this may seem like a small step, I would submit that this is big. And I hope this is the beginning of more work that we can do on behalf of the country, and that is what it should be about at the end of the day.

So I just thank all of my colleagues. I thank the chairman for his help. I hope we could be more together, a divided time, we came together to do something good on behalf of past generations of veterans and on behalf of the next generation.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may have.

Again, I thank Congressman GALLAGHER, Congressman MOULTON, and all of the veterans who have sponsored this bill in remembrance of our brothers and sisters from the global war on terrorism.

I would like to speak a couple more minutes just because I rarely have the opportunity to speak about the guys that I served with. It was a group called Lima 325 out of Ohio. It was one of the best groups of men who I probably have ever met. We were nice young men from New Mexico that were suddenly added to these country boys and city boys from Ohio and sent to the middle of nowhere. And from there, we saw a lot of combat. We lost a lot of friends.

In section 60, many of us veterans have this tradition where we go and we put our quarters on the headstones of the men we served with. And I, unfortunately, have to put down a lot of quarters.

But one of the things that I will always remember is that this unit, Lima 325, was truly brought from all walks of life in America. You had African Americans, you had country boys from Ohio, you had Navajo from the Navajo Nation and other parts of our Tribal Nations, you had Latinos.

I even taught the Ohio boys how to cook since they don’t really have good taste. We introduced them to the idea of green chili, which I have heard has now taken off in Ohio, Ohio. And we lived together for 7 months, going from house to house. And even today, though many of us cannot see each other, we still live with each other in our spirits and in our souls.
July 28, 2017

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These types of memorials matter. For many of us, this generation is not the generation that served together on a base. Many of us actually served from different parts of the world. We dropped our jobs and what we were doing, our school sometimes, to join in, leave our families, leave the comfort and safety of the United States to go and defend what we believed was important to this country and to honor our commitment.

Sometimes it is these types of memorials that are the only thing that actually bring us together. I recently was lucky enough to have my 10-year reunion with the guys from Lima Company, and that is the first time I had seen many men that I had lived with for so long. It was a very inspiring as well as moving, and really consoling thing for me.

I believe that having a memorial of this nature would be extremely important for many men and women to be able to come, to be able to come and maybe not necessarily physically meet with their partners, with their comrades, but to at least be able to spiritually have a place to meet with their comrades, with the people that they served with in arms.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to vote “yes,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

With this vote, we will begin proceeding on this memorial and begin a process of planning a great work to honor the bravery, sacrifice, and patriotism to those who have defended Western civilization from the medieval barbarism that has reappeared in our time.

But even more importantly, we begin work on a tangible promise for future generations, a promise animated by the heroic deeds of these veterans, the promise of a coming age of liberty and heroic deeds of these veterans, the promise of a coming age of liberty and.

H.R. 3180

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE, TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

1. Short title; table of contents.
2. Definitions.

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 102. Classified Schedule of Authorizations.
Sec. 103. Personnel ceiling adjustments.
Sec. 104. Intelligence Community Management Account.

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—GENERAL INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MATTERS

Sec. 301. Restriction on conduct of intelligence activities.
Sec. 302. Increase in employee compensation and benefits authorized by law.
Sec. 303. Congressional oversight of intelligence community contractors.
Sec. 304. Enhanced personnel security programs.

TITLE IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Sec. 401. Authority for protection of current and former employees of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.
Sec. 402. Designation of the program manager—information sharing environment.
Sec. 403. Technical correction to the executive schedule.

Subtitle B—Other Elements

Sec. 411. Requirements relating to appointment of General Counsel of National Security Agency.
Sec. 412. Transfer or elimination of certain components and functions of the Defense Intelligence Agency.
Sec. 413. Technical amendments related to the Department of Energy.

TITLE V—MATTERS RELATING TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Sec. 501. Assessment of significant Russian influence campaigns directed at foreign elections and referenda.
Sec. 502. Foreign counterintelligence and cyber-security threats to Federal election campaigns.
Sec. 503. Assessment of threat finance relating to the Russian Federation.

TITLE VI—REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 601. Period of overseas assignments for certain foreign service officers.
Sec. 602. Semiannual reports on investigations of unauthorized public disclosures of classified information.
Sec. 603. Intelligence community reports on security clearances.
Sec. 604. Report on role of National Intelligence with respect to certain foreign investments.
Sec. 605. Report on role of Director of National Intelligence with respect to certain foreign investments.
Sec. 606. Report on Cyber Exchange Program.
Sec. 607. Review of intelligence community participation in vulnerabilities equities processes.
Sec. 608. Review of Intelligence Community whistleblower matters.
Sec. 609. Sense of Congress on notifications of certain disclosures of classified information.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term “intelligence community” means—

(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

(C) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given that term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4));

(2) DISTRIBUTION BY THE PRESIDENT.—Subject to paragraph (3), the President shall prepare and transmit the Schedule of Authorizations to Congress each year.

(3) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not less than 30 days before submitting the Schedule of Authorizations to Congress, the President shall notify Congress of the contents of the Schedule of Authorizations.

(4) REVIEW AND DISCUSSION.—Congressional action on the Schedule of Authorizations shall be subject to the rules of the Congress.

(5) INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—The term “intelligence activities” means—

(A) any activity carried out by an element of the intelligence community for the purpose of acquiring or producing information;

(B) any activity carried out by an element of the intelligence community for the purpose of collecting or processing intelligence information;

(C) any activity carried out by an element of the intelligence community for the purpose of analyzing or disseminating intelligence information;

(D) any other activity carried out by an element of the intelligence community in connection with the conduct of intelligence activities;

(E) any other activity carried out by an element of the intelligence community in connection with the conduct of intelligence activities.

(6) CLASSIFICATION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the Secretaries of the military departments or the Director of National Intelligence to classify any information.

(7) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not less than 30 days before submitting the Schedule of Authorizations to Congress, the President shall notify Congress of the contents of the Schedule of Authorizations.

(8) REVIEW AND DISCUSSION.—Congressional action on the Schedule of Authorizations shall be subject to the rules of the Congress.

(9) INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—The term “intelligence activities” means—

(A) any activity carried out by an element of the intelligence community for the purpose of acquiring or producing information;

(B) any activity carried out by an element of the intelligence community for the purpose of collecting or processing intelligence information;

(C) any activity carried out by an element of the intelligence community for the purpose of analyzing or disseminating intelligence information;

(D) any other activity carried out by an element of the intelligence community in connection with the conduct of intelligence activities;

(E) any other activity carried out by an element of the intelligence community in connection with the conduct of intelligence activities.
TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. There is authorized to be appropriated for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability Fund for fiscal year 2018 the sum of $514,000,000.

SEC. 202. COMPUTATION OF ANNUITIES FOR ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ACCOUNT. (a) COMPUTATION OF ANNUITIES.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 221 of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement Act (50 U.S.C. 2031) is amended—(A) in subsection (a)(3)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ‘‘, as determined by using the annuity that would be payable for full-time service in that position,’’; (B) in subsection (b)(2)(C)(i), by striking ‘‘12-month’’ and inserting ‘‘2-year’’; (C) in subsection (f)(2), by striking ‘‘one year’’ and inserting ‘‘two years’’; (D) in subsection (g)(2), by striking ‘‘one year’’ each place such term appears and inserting ‘‘two years’’; (E) by redesignating subsections (b), (i), (k), and (l) as subsections (i), (k), (l), and (m), respectively; and (F) by inserting after subsection (g) the following: ‘‘(h) CONDITIONAL ELECTION OF INSURABLE INTEREST SURVIVOR ANNUITY BY PARTICIPANTS MARRIED AT THE TIME OF RETIREMENT.—(1) AUTHORITY TO MAKE DESIGNATION.—Subject to the rights of former spouses under subsection (b) and section 222, at the time of retirement a married participant found by the Director to be in good health may elect to receive an annuity reduced in accordance with subsection (i)(1)(B) and designate in writing an individual having an insurable interest in the participant to receive an annuity under the system after the participant’s death, notwithstanding any such election to provide an insurable interest survivor annuity to the participant’s spouse shall only be effective if the participant’s spouse waives the spousal right to a survivor annuity under this Act. The amount of the annuity shall be equal to 55 percent of the participant’s reduced annuity. (2) REDUCTION IN PARTICIPANT’S ANNUITY.—The annuity payable to the participant making such election shall be reduced by 10 percent of an annuity computed under subsection (a) and by an additional 5 percent for each full 5 years the designated individual is younger than the participant. The total reduction under this subparagraph may not exceed 40 percent. (3) COMMENCEMENT OF SURVIVOR ANNUITY.—The annuity payable to the designated individual shall begin on the day after the retired participant dies and terminate on the last day of the month before the designated individual dies. (4) RECOMPUTATION OF PARTICIPANT’S ANNUITY ON DEATH OF DESIGNATED INDIVIDUAL.—An annuity which is reduced under this subsection shall, effective the first day of the month following the death of the designated individual, be recomputed and paid as if the annuity had not been reduced. (e) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this Act shall not be effective for annuities beginning before October 1, 1990.''

SEC. 203. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CONTRACTORS. (a) OVERSIGHT BY CONGRESS.—(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 506J the following new section: ‘‘SEC. 506K. OVERSIGHT OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CONTRACTORS. ‘‘Notwithstanding the terms of any contract awarded by the head of an element of the intelligence community, the head may not— (1) prohibit a contractor of such element from contacting or meeting with either of the congressional intelligence committees (including a member or an employee thereof) to discuss matters relating to a contract; (2) take any adverse action against a contractor of such element, including by suspending or terminating a contract or eliminating a contract, based on the contractor contacting or meeting with either of the congressional intelligence committees (including a member or an employee thereof) to discuss matters relating to a contract; or (3) require the approval of the head before a contractor of such element contacts or meets with either of the congressional intelligence committees (including a member or an employee thereof) to discuss matters relating to a contract. ‘‘(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 506J the following new item: ‘‘Sec. 506K. Oversight of intelligence community contractors.’’
(b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(1) shall apply with respect to a contract awarded by the head of an element of the intelligence community on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 304. ENHANCED PERSONNEL SECURITY PROGRAMS. Section 1001(d) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

 Title IV—Matters Relating to Intelligence and Security

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “AUDIT” and inserting “REVIEW”;
(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “audit” and inserting “review”;
(3) in paragraph (2), by striking “audit” and inserting “review”.

TITLe IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Subtitle A—Office of the Director of National Intelligence

SEC. 401. AUTHORITY FOR PROTECTION OF CURRENT AND FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Section 5(a)(4) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3506(a)(4)) is amended—

Title IV—Matters Relating to Intelligence and Security

Title 42—Occupational Safety and Health Act

SEC. 402. DESIGNATION OF THE PROGRAM MANAGER INFORMATION SHARING ENVIRONMENT.

(a) INFORMATION SHARING ENVIRONMENT.—Section 1016(f) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 485(b)) is amended by—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “President” and inserting “Director of National Intelligence”;
(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “President” and inserting “Director of National Intelligence”.

(b) PROGRAM MANAGER.—Section 1016(f) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 485(b)) is amended by striking “The individual designated as the program manager shall serve as program manager until removed from service or replaced by the President (at the President’s sole discretion), and in lieu of the designation of the official designated as the program manager shall be appointed by the Director of National Intelligence.”

SEC. 403. TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE.

Section 5313 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security.”

Subtitle B—Other Elements

SEC. 411. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of the National Security Agency Act of 1959 (Public Law 86–36; 50 U.S.C. 3602) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c)(1) There is a General Counsel of the National Security Agency.

“(c)(2) The General Counsel of the National Security Agency shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (c)(2) of section 2 of the National Security Agency Act of 1959 (Public Law 86–36; 50 U.S.C. 3602) shall apply with respect to any person who is appointed to serve as General Counsel of the National Security Agency on or after January 21, 2021.

SEC. 412. TRANSFER OR ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN COMPONENTS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

(a) INFORMATION REVIEW TASK FORCE.—

(1) TRANSFER REQUIRED.—Effective on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, there is transferred from the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff all functions performed by the Information Review Task Force and all assigned responsibilities performed by the Information Review Task Force. Upon such transfer, such Task Force shall be designated as the Director of the Joint Staff’s control activity.

(2) TRANSITION PLAN.—

(A) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall jointly brief the congressional intelligence committees and the congressional defense committees a formal plan for the transfer required under paragraph (1).

(B) SUBMITTAL OF FINAL PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Director for Intelligence of the Joint Staff shall jointly submit to the congressional intelligence committees and the congressional defense committees a formal plan for the transfer required under paragraph (1).

(C) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency may not obligate or expend any funds authorized to be appropriated for the Counter-Threat Finance analysis function of the Defense Intelligence Agency after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. Any such funds that are unobligated or unexpended as of such date shall be transferred to the Director for Intelligence of the Joint Staff.

(b) COUNTER-THREAT FINANCE.

(1) ELIMINATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Director of National Intelligence shall eliminate the Counter-Threat Finance analysis function of the Defense Intelligence Agency, as determined by the Director. The Counter-Threat Finance analysis function of the Defense Intelligence Agency shall be transferred to other elements of the Defense Intelligence Agency, as determined by the Director.

(2) TRANSITION PLAN.—

(A) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Director of National Intelligence shall brief the congressional intelligence committees and the congressional defense committees a formal plan for the elimination of the Counter-Threat Finance analysis function under paragraph (1).

(B) SUBMITTAL OF FINAL PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees and the congressional defense committees a formal plan to eliminate such function under paragraph (1).

(c) NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE UNIVERSITY.

(1) TRANSFER REQUIRED.—Effective on October 1, 2019, there is transferred from the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency to the Director of National Intelligence all functions and all assigned responsibilities performed by the National Intelligence University.

(2) TRANSITION PLAN.—

(A) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—Not later than October 1, 2018, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency shall brief the congressional intelligence committees and the congressional defense committees a formal plan for the transfer required under paragraph (1).

(B) SUBMITTAL OF FINAL PLAN.—Not later than April 1, 2019, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees and the congressional defense committees a formal plan for the transfer required under paragraph (1).
(f) CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE FOR REPROGRAMMING.—Not later than 30 days before transferring and reprogramming funds to an account, the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of any such transfer and reprogramming.

(g) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—In this subsection, (1) the term ‘assigned responsibility’ means the specific responsibilities, functions, and authorities assigned by the Secretary of Defense to an organization serving as the functional commander, executive agent, or responsibility that is transferred or reprogrammed

(h) DEADLINE FOR POLICY UPDATES.—Not later than October 1, 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees and the congressional defense committees a report

(i) TREATMENT OF TRANSFERRED FUNCTIONS.—No transferred functions or assigned responsibility under this section may be limited by the Secretary of Defense, except as follows:

(j) REPORTS ON OTHER ELEMENTS OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.—(1) NATIONAL CENTER FOR CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT.—(A) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that

(k) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘congressional defense committees’ means—

(l) ASSESSMENT OF THREAT FINANCE RELATED TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.—SEC. 503. ASSESSMENT OF THREAT FINANCE RELATED TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

TITLES V—MATTERS RELATING TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

SEC. 501. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANT RUSSIAN INFLUENCE CAMPAIGNS DIRECTED AT FOREIGN ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA.

SEC. 502. FOREIGN COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND CYBERSECURITY THREATS TO FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.

CLEANUP LANGUAGE TO BE INCLUDED.

A summary of this significant Russian influence campaigns, including, at a minimum, the specific means by which such campaigns were conducted, any evidence of such conduct, and any re...
of National Intelligence, acting through the Na-

tional Intelligence Manager for Threat Finance,

shall submit to the congressional intelligence

commitees a report containing an assess-

tment of the financing of threat activity by the Russian

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to the congressional intelligence committees a report that in-

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health or in the interest of na-

ational Intelligence Manager for Threat Finance, shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report containing an assessment of the financing of threat activity by the Russian Federation.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) A summary of leading examples from the 3-

year period prior to the date of the report of any threat

financing activity conducted by, for the benefit of or at the behest of officials of the Government of Russia, persons subject to sanctions under any provision of law imposing san-

cctions with respect to Russia, or Russian nationals subject to sanctions under any other provi-

dion of law.

(2) An assessment with respect to any trends or patterns in threat financing activities relating to Russia, including common methods of con-

ducting such activities.

(3) A summary of engagement and coordina-

tion with international partners on threat fi-

nance relating to Russia, especially in Europe, in-

cluding examples of such engagement and co-

ordination.

(4) An identification of any resource and col-

lection gaps.

(c) FORM.—The report submitted under sub-

section (a) may be submitted in classified form.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term "threat finance" means—

(1) the financing of cyber operations, global influence campaigns, intelligence service ac-

tivities, propaganda, terrorism, or transnational crime and drug organizations;

(2) the methods and entities used to spend, store, move, raise, or conceal money or value on behalf of these activities;

(3) sanctions evasion; or

(4) other forms of threat financing domesti-

cally or internationally, as defined by the President.

TITLE VI—REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 601. PERIOD OF OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENTS

FOR CERTAIN FOREIGN SERVICE OF-

ICERS.

(a) LENGTH OF PERIOD OF ASSIGNMENT.—Sub-

section (a) of section 502 of the Foreign Service

Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3982) is amended by add-

ing at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) The requirements under paragraph (1), and in accordance with section 503, and, if applicable, section 503, the Secretary shall as-

sure that a member of the Service may serve at a post for a period of not more than six consecu-

tive years."

(b) FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPLOY-

MENT REQUIREMENTS.—Section 702 of the Foreign Service

Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4022) is amended by—

(1) redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the follow-

ing new subsection:

"(c) FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPLOY-

MENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, with the con-

sent of other relevant officials, shall require all members of the Service who re-

cieve foreign language training in Arabic, Farsi,

Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese), Turkish, Ko-

rean, and Japanese by the institution or other-

wise in accordance with subsection (b) to serve

three successive tours in positions in which the

acquired language is both relevant and deter-

mined to be a benefit to the Department.

(2) OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), at least one of the three suc-

cessive tours referred to in such paragraph shall be an overseas deployment.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary of State may waive the application of paragraph (1) for med-

ical or family hardship or in the interest of na-

Tional Security.

(4) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The Sec-

retary of State shall notify the Committees on

Appropriations and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and Committees on

Appropriations and Foreign Relations of the Senate at the end of each fiscal year of any

benefit of, or at the behest of officials of the

Government of Russia, persons subject to san-

cctions under any provision of law imposing san-

cctions with respect to Russia, or Russian nationals subject to sanctions under any other provi-

dion of law.

(2) An assessment with respect to any trends or patterns in threat financing activities relating to Russia, including common methods of con-

ducting such activities.

(3) A summary of engagement and coordina-

tion with international partners on threat fi-

nance relating to Russia, especially in Europe, in-

cluding examples of such engagement and co-

ordination.

(4) An identification of any resource and col-

lection gaps.

(c) FORM.—The report submitted under sub-

section (a) may be submitted in classified form.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—On a semiannual basis, each covered official shall submit to the congress-

ional intelligence committees a report that in-

with respect to the preceding 6-month period—

"(1) the number of investigations opened by the covered official regarding an unauthorized public disclosure of classified information;

"(2) the number of investigations completed by the covered official regarding an unauthorized public disclosure of classified information; and

"(3) of the number of such completed inves-

tigations identified under paragraph (2), the number referred to the Attorney General for criminal inves-

tigation.

"(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) the term 'covered official' means—

"(A) the heads of each element of the intel-

ligence community; and

"(B) the inspectors general with oversight re-

sponsibility for an element of the intelligence community.

"(2) The term 'investigation' means any in-

quiry, whether formal or informal, into the ex-

istence of an unauthorized public disclosure of

classified information.

"(3) The term 'unauthorized public disclosure of classified information' means the unautho-

rized disclosure of classified information to a journalist or media organization.

"(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-

tents in the first section of the National Security

Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the

section (c); and'' and inserting a period; and

"(C) by striking subparagraph (C);

"(D) the inspectors general with oversight re-

sponsibility for an element of the intelligence community.

"(2) The term 'investigation' means any in-

quiry, whether formal or informal, into the ex-

istence of an unauthorized public disclosure of

classified information.

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rized disclosure of classified information to a journalist or media organization.
SEC. 605. REPORT ON ROLE OF DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN FOREIGN INVESTMENTS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the heads of the elements of the intelligence community determined appropriate by the Director, shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on the role of the Director in reviewing analytic materials in connection with the evaluation by the Federal Government of national security risks associated with potential foreign investments into the United States.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under subsection (a) shall—

(1) describe the current process for the provision of the analytic materials described in subsection (a);

(2) identify the most significant benefits and drawbacks of such process with respect to the role of the Director, including any benefits or drawbacks relating to the time allotted to the Director to prepare such materials, and

(3) include recommendations to improve such process.

SEC. 606. REPORT ON CYBER EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on the potential establishment of a fully voluntary exchange program between elements of the intelligence community and private technology companies under which—

(1) an employee of an element of the intelligence community with demonstrated expertise and work experience in cybersecurity or related disciplines may be temporarily detailed to a private technology company that has elected to receive the detailer; and

(2) an employee of a private technology company with demonstrated expertise and work experience in cybersecurity or related disciplines may elect to be temporarily detailed to an element of the intelligence community that has elected to receive the detailee.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) the feasibility of establishing the exchange program described in such subsection;

(2) identification of any challenges in establishing the exchange program;

(3) the potential benefits to the intelligence community that would result from the exchange program.

SEC. 607. REVIEW OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN VULNERABILITIES EQUITIES PROCESS.

(a) REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community shall review, with respect to the 3-year period preceding the date of the review, the roles and responsibilities of the elements of the intelligence community in the process of the Federal Government for determining whether, when, how, and to whom information about a vulnerability that is not publicly known will be shared or released to a non-Federal entity or the public.

(b) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on the results of the review under subsection (a).

SEC. 608. REVIEW OF WHISTLEBLOWER MATTERS.

(a) REVIEW OF WHISTLEBLOWER MATTERS.—The Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, in consultation with the inspectors general for the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the National Reconnaissance Office, shall conduct a review of the authorities, policies, investigatory standards, and other practices and procedures relating to intelligence community whistleblower matters, with respect to such process.

(b) OBJECTIVE OF REVIEW.—The objective of the review required under subsection (a) is to identify any discrepancies, inconsistencies, or other issues, which frustrate the timely and effective reporting of intelligence community whistleblower matters to appropriate inspectors general and to the congressional intelligence committees, and to recommend additional investigatory and resolution of such matters.

(c) CONDUCT OF REVIEW.—The Inspector General of the Intelligence Community shall conduct any such review, in consultation with the congressional intelligence committees, and transmit any such additional recommendations to the committees.

SEC. 609. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON NOTIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN DISCLOSURES OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that section 502 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3092) requires elements of the intelligence community to keep the congressional intelligence committees ‘‘fully and currently informed’’ about all ‘‘intelligence activities’’ of the United States, and to ‘‘furnish to the congressional intelligence committees any information or materials concerning intelligence activities... which is requested by either of the congressional intelligence committees in order to carry out its authorized responsibilities.’’

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the authorities described in subsection (a), together with other intelligence community authorities, obligate an element of the intelligence community to submit to the congressional intelligence committees written notification, by not later than 7 days after becoming aware, that an individual in the executive branch has disclosed classified information to an official of an adversary foreign government using methods other than established intelligence channels; and

(2) each such notification should include—

(A) the date and place of the disclosure of classified information covered by the notification;

(B) a description of such classified information;

(C) identification of the individual who made such disclosure and the individual to whom such disclosure was made; and

(D) a summary of the circumstances of such disclosure.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ‘‘adversary foreign government’’ means the government of any of the following foreign countries:

(A) North Korea.

(B) Iran.

(C) China.

(D) Russia.

(E) Cuba.

(2) The term ‘‘covered classified information’’ means classified information that was—

(A) collected by an element of the intelligence community; or

(B) provided by the intelligence service or military of a foreign country to an element of the intelligence community.

(3) The term ‘‘established intelligence channels’’ means methods to exchange intelligence to established intelligence channels, as established pursuant to law by the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Director of the National Security Agency, or other head of an element of the intelligence community.

(4) The term ‘‘individual in the executive branch’’ means any officer or employee of the executive branch, including individuals—

(A) occupying a position specified in article II of the Constitution;

(B) appointed to a position by an individual described in subparagraph (A); or

(C) serving in the civil service or the senior executive service (or similar service for senior executives of particular departments or agencies).

The SPEAKER pro tempore, The gentleman from California (Mr. Nunes) and the gentleman from California (Mr. Schiff) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. Nunes).

MR. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to review and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill, H.R. 3180.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a good, bipartisan bill that we have worked all year putting together in a bipartisan manner. I thank all of my colleagues not only on the Intelligence Committee, but also those colleagues who came down to preview the bill. Hopefully they got all the information from our important staff to provide all the answers that they may need so that they understand the classified nature of the bill and the importance of this bill to our Nation’s intelligence community and our warfighters.

I want to highlight just a few things in the bill, because we did debate this bill on Monday, so I will go through this quickly.

This legislation provides the intelligence community authorization needed to protect and defend the United States. It supports critical national security programs, such as those protecting Americans against terrorism, cyber attacks, and hostile foreign nations.

The total funding authorized in the bill is slightly below the President’s budget request, and is consistent with the House Budget Committee-passed fiscal year 2018 budget resolution.

H.R. 3180 enables the intelligence community to carry out its vital work protecting Americans in the most complex threat environment since 9/11.

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

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

The Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 is a solid, bipartisan bill, one that garnered unanimous approval in the committee by voice vote.

I thank my committee colleagues and the entire HPSCI staff for their collaborative efforts in drafting the measure that we consider here today.

In the 114th Congress, this committee worked in a similar bipartisan fashion to pass into law four key pieces of national security legislation. I am proud of our past legislative accomplishments, which testify to the virtues of substantive deliberation and reasoned compromise without needing to compromise the security of the American people or our brave servicemembers.

Reflecting on the past year, on Russia’s assault on Western democracies, and on other challenges as well, from everything to include North Korea’s unrelenting pursuit of a strategic nuclear capability, we owe the American people a deliberate process.

I wish the bill had come to the floor with a rule that allowed Members to offer amendments. That opportunity is commensurate with the importance of both the intelligence bill and the need for vigorous oversight of the IC by the whole Congress.

Nonetheless, the manifest shortcomings in the process cannot take precedence over the imperative of discharging our duty and authorizing the operations of the intelligence community. On its merits, I urge all Members to vote “yes” on H.R. 3180 today.

The Intelligence Committee oversees some of the most sensitive and highly classified aspects of U.S. intelligence operations and programs. The annual Intelligence Authorization Act is the primary means by which we can guarantee a robust interplay between our Nation’s national security imperatives and the civil liberties and privacy rights enshrined in the Constitution.

H.R. 3180 does just that by funding, equipping, and giving policy direction to the intelligence community and military intelligence elements of the Defense Department. It sustains support for key national security priorities and programs, and represents a slight decrease from the President’s budget request.

This bill features a number of provisions championed by my Democratic colleagues, some of which redouble the IC’s focus on the scope and nature of the threat, both overt and covert, that Russia poses to our interests and American political institutions.

H.R. 3180 also mandates public reporting about counterintelligence and cyber threats against future U.S. elections; bolsters oversight of our policy guiding counterterrorism action outside of declared areas of hostilities; and seeks more information about the executive branch’s process for determining when and to whom to reveal information about vulnerabilities in computers and networks.

At the same time, and unlike IAAs of years past, this bill omits problematic language regarding Guantanamo detention and the role of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

I am also concerned of some elements in this legislation, but the bill’s merits outweigh any misgivings I may have, and I was proud to cosponsor the bill along with the chairman. Through it, our committee and the Congress as a whole serves as a guardrail against any excesses, transgressions or abuses. That has always been a solemn obligation, but at this uncertain and unprecedented moment in our national life, it carries even more responsibility for all of us.

So, again, I urge my colleagues today to vote with me to advance the Intelligence Authorization Act and see that it is enacted into law.

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

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. Himes), one of our subcommittee ranking members.

Mr. Himes. Mr. Speaker, I thank both the chairman and ranking member for the strong bill that has been offered up today and for the bipartisan manner in which it was developed and enacted and, hopefully, will be passed.

I rise in strong support of this bill, but would note for my colleagues that this authorization bill is an odd one.

As we speak, and it, your honor, go deep into the basement of this Capitol and review it behind heavy metal doors.

The bill is full of acronyms and code words and classified information. As such, it can be hard to understand, and things that are hard to understand sometimes cause anxiety and fear. Let me take a moment to describe what this bill does.

This bill has the strong bipartisan support of my fellow committee members, liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans alike, because it provides the lifeblood to a truly remarkable group of people who work behind the scenes, and in the dark to keep us safe and to keep us free.

The unheralded and unacknowledged warriors of the intelligence community never stop in the work that they do and that we need to do. We need to watch that, who are standing up for the rest of us. For one, the United States, North Korea is feverishly working to develop the ability to deliver a nuclear bomb to American shores. Our intelligence community is watching, evaluating, and planning against this mortal threat.

As we speak, Mr. Speaker, Russia lurks, seeking advantage, promoting instability, and working to erode international norms and instability. We should make no mistake about Russia as an adversary, because there is a lot of noise about this. Russia is a country that invades neighboring sovereign countries, it murders political opponents, it bombs Syrian hospitals, and, yes, it conducted an unprecedented attack on the very core of our Democratic system: our free and fair elections.

As we speak, Mr. Speaker, Russia is an adversary, but because there is a lot of noise about this, Russia is a country that invades neighboring sovereign countries, it murders political opponents, it bombs Syrian hospitals, and, yes, it conducted an unprecedented attack on the very core of our Democratic system: our free and fair elections.

This bill funds the warriors who are watching that, who are standing up against that, in order to keep our system what we all like it to be.

Mr. Speaker, because these activities are carried out secretly in the dark of night and usually unacknowledged, there is always the possibility for abuse. These activities, by their nature, run up against the lines of those values that make us Americans. This is an important issue. It is one that is worthy of debate. The members of this committee spend their days in good argument about what the limits of those
activities should be, and we will have additional arguments around things like the reauthorization of the section 702 surveillance programs. These are terrific arguments that we have in a constructively. These are not arguments that are present in this bill. Just like on section 215, we will have a robust discussion of the section 702 international authorities. These are authorities that raise questions and that should be subject to the debate of this Chamber.

But this bill, this bill today, is about the lifeblood of a remarkable group of people who don't always get it right any more than we do, but who are patriots, who respect the Constitution, and who need our support in the work that they do to keep us safe and keep us free.

I would like to, again, thank the majority, the chairman, the ranking member, and especially the staff who worked diligently to make this bill that is unanimously unrelated, and suggest to my colleagues in this Chamber that we don't see a lot of bills like this one, but this one is worthy of their support.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman, Mr. HIMES, for his kind comments, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I join our colleague in saluting the committee for bringing this bipartisan legislation to the floor—so many issues that the committee has to deal with. I know that full well as a previous ranking member.

I know that we all agree that every chance we get we want to salute the patriotic men and women of the intelligence community for their ceaseless heroism and unblinking vigilance to keep the American people safe. I thank them for all they do for force protection and conflict prevention. The quiet professionals of the U.S. intelligence community work every day, again, to keep this country safe and our leaders informed. Respect for their work is essential. I thank Ranking Member SCHIFF and members of the committee—Mr. SCHIFF, for his leadership, and commend all the members of the committee for their dedication to those same goals.

I am sorry that this bill is coming up under a closed rule so that Members cannot offer amendments. One such amendment might be about an independent commission. It is the judgment of the intelligence community, as expressed in the January 2017 Intelligence Community Assessment, that Russian President Vladimir Putinorchestrated a sophisticated and highly effective campaign to sow discord in our political process and help one Presidential candidate and hurt the other.

For this reason, we continue to ask for an outside, independent commission to look forward on how to prevent Russia and others from meddling in our election system again. The Swalwell-Cummings legislation to establish that commission has 290 bipartisan cosponsors.

I also want to salute our Homeland Security Committee ranking member, BENNIE THOMPSON, for his leadership to strengthen the preparedness of the election infrastructure of the United States to identify and withstand a foreign attack.

Our election systems are part of the critical infrastructure of our country, some of the most critical infrastructure of our democracy itself. We must protect it.

The United States must reject foreign interference in our elections, no matter which party it helps or which party it hurts. Our oath of office is to protect and defend the Constitution and democracy. I think we can agree, working with the intelligence community to better ensure the integrity of our elections is vital to that goal.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this bipartisan legislation and salute the gentleman and my committee. I especially want to acknowledge the tremendous leadership of our ranking member, Mr. SCHIFF from California.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I want to express my agreement with Leader PELOSI's comments on the continuing need for the appointment of an independent commission. An independent commission would have the dedicated focus, the distance from any potential political interference, and the resources to prepare a report of the caliber that we saw of the 9/11 Commission.

I think that would be a very sound and important component to what we are doing in Congress and what Special Counsel Mueller is doing.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK), my wonderful colleague on the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the 2018 Intelligence Authorization Act, but first I would like to tender a point of personal privilege.

Happy birthday, Madam Speaker.

This Intelligence Authorization Act has very strong bipartisan language. I just want to highlight two areas where the IAA furthers what I believe to be high priorities for our national security.

First, section 605, which I had the honor to author, sets in motion how to change the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, we also call it CFIUS, to better protect our keystones technologies.

This IAA provision dovetails with some broader work that we are doing in the Financial Services Committee, in fact, across the aisle with Congressman PITTENGER and myself and others.

It would modernize the process to better protect and prevent strategic foreign adversaries like China or Russia from taking advantage of our open markets in a way that undermines our national security.

America's technological edge is, in fact, a cornerstone of our national security, but our strategic adversaries know that, too. They are increasingly seeking to obtain these critical technologies and resources through commercial transactions, i.e., they are trying to buy them. CFIUS is our safeguard against this risk, but it needs modernization, more resources, and authority and support from the intelligence community.

Russian meddling in the 2017 election showed us what happens when an adversary tries to exploit our political openness. Now they are trying to exploit our economic openness. Our intelligence community is vital in protecting against both of those threats.

Let me also underscore this point: The fiscal year 2018 IAA takes steps to safeguard our Nation's edge, our advantage in space, which is, I am sorry to say, increasingly threatened by adversary nations. To mitigate that risk, this IAA should support some truly cutting-edge space technologies and invest in and oversees programs to ensure the resiliency of overhead architecture. At the same time, it keeps up with the Intelligence Committee's long-running efforts to stimulate innovation.

In particular, the committee report accompanying today's legislation asks the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency to examine new approaches to public and private sector collaboration, with the goal of fostering the faster, smarter development of automation, artificial intelligence, and similar technologies.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support this legislation. I hope all my colleagues will join both wishing the Speaker a happy birthday and in voting "yes" on this bill.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I wasn't aware it is your birthday, but happy birthday, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, happy birthday.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO), who will now sing Happy Birthday for you.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I will spare you that.

Madam Speaker, I voice my support for H.R. 3180, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. I believe that the men and women of America's intelligence community, the best in the world, protect our country every day. They serve beyond the front lines of conflict to collect and analyze intelligence on our adversaries.

In addition to being highly effective, America's intelligence community adapts as the threats our country faces shift on a daily basis. Their effectiveness is amplified when they are in close
cooperation and coordination with policymakers.

I want to thank my fellow members on the committee, especially Ranking Member SCHIFF and Chairman NUNES, for working with me to add language into this bill requiring the intelligence community to brief Congress on our intelligence capabilities in the South China Sea.

Over $5 trillion in ship-borne commerce flows through the region each year, including the vast majority of sea-borne energy imports by close U.S. partners such as Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

The security of the United States and those of these partners is closely linked to the ability of the United States to guarantee the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

Our ongoing territorial disputes in the South China Sea threaten the principles of a rules-based order and the security of the United States and our allies.

The language in the IAA allows Congress to more effectively understand the needs of the intelligence community. It allows for a two-way conversation so that Congress can act to provide the intelligence community the tools and authorities it needs to inform policymakers.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY).


Good intelligence safeguards our Nation from adversaries. It is used to support our Armed Forces, our diplomats, and our homeland security professionals.

The men and women of the U.S. intelligence community make enormous sacrifices on behalf of our country. While others seek the limelight, they shun publicity and self-promotion. They are silent warriors and quiet heroes.

I want to highlight section 609 of this legislation. It is a version of a bill that I authored called the Prevention and Oversight of Intelligence Sharing with Enemies Act, or the POISE Act. I introduced the POISE Act in May after the President disclosed highly sensitive information to senior Russian officials during a White House meeting. This information had been entrusted to the U.S. by key allies.

Under Federal law, the executive branch is required to inform the congressional intelligence committees of U.S. intelligence activities. The POISE Act would specify that the executive branch must notify the committees when a member of the executive branch, including the President, intentionally or inadvertently discloses top-secret information to adversary foreign governments.

It is dangerous for a U.S. official to share classified information with an adversary, especially outside of established intelligence channels. The adversary could use the information to harm the United States or its allies. Moreover, our partners might decide to stop sharing intelligence with us if they lose confidence in our capacity to keep it confidential.

The congressional notification requirement in the POISE Act would help deter inappropriate disclosures of classified information to adversaries. Once formally notified of the disclosure, Congress would be in a position to take any appropriate oversight action.

I am so pleased that the core of the POISE Act is contained in section 609. I want to thank Chairman NUNES and Ranking Member SCHIFF for including the provision in the bill, and I urge the bill's swift passage.

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL).

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, happy birthday to you.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the ranking member and our chair.

I think this IAA represents the best of what we do together in the committee, and I am really just thrilled on behalf of the men and women who serve this country in our military and in our intelligence services that they have an authorization, act, that respects what they do, that enables what they do and understands that we have trying days ahead.

Press reports right now are showing that North Korea may have just launched another ballistic missile, and so people who we represent at home are counting on us to do everything we can to protect this great country. It has been a privilege to work with Mr. SCHIFF and the chairman on this bill.

Of particular interest for me is that this bill also has our intelligence agencies report back to Congress just what efforts the Russians are taking not just in America, but across the globe to interfere and meddle in other countries' elections. We have seen an escalating pattern of this over the past few decades, certainly culminating in our recent 2016 elections.

It is very important that the Congress knows and that the American people and our allies know what continued efforts will look like. So I appreciate the majority's willingness to work with us.

We have seen, I think, in just the past few days, a bicameral effort to come together and say that we are not going to tolerate Russia's aggression in the world. The sanctions that were recently imposed in this House and across the way in the Senate, I think, showed the world that we are serious, that this is our democracy, and it is still a democracy that is worth protecting. I think part of the IAA reflects that spirit as well.

So, again, I thank the chairman for his work. I thank the staff on the majority side and the Members on the majority side, as well as the ranking member and our own staff, for working so hard to put this forward to protect and defend this great country.

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

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

This year's Intelligence Authorization Act was a bipartisan effort, and I am pleased to vote 'yes' on this year's IAA. With this legislation, we reaffirm that all of our government's activities, including those that are, by necessity, classified, must be maximally effective and bound by law. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this year's IAA.

I do want to take this opportunity, also, to commend our committee's outgoing fellow from the Los Alamos National Lab, Phil Tubbs. For 2 years, Phil has worked as our entire HPSCI staff, imparting his scientific expertise about nuclear weapons and the other significant national security work that our national labs undertake.

I want to thank you for your service to the committee and wish you every success in the future.

Finally, I want to extend a closing word to all of the men and women of the intelligence community. The work that you do, the mission is to speak truth to power, to give policymakers objective, rigorously vetted and diligently produced intelligence, and you do that in magnificent fashion. Thank you for your commitment and resolve in the face of a challenging global threat landscape. With this legislation, we believe that we provide you with the adequate tools, authorities, and funding, while making sure that our congressional oversight remains robust.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I want to thank both the majority and minority members of our committee for working in a bipartisan manner this year to complete this bill, which I believe is a really good product and will support the men and women doing very difficult work to protect the American people.

I do want to thank the staff not only from the minority side, but also from the majority side, specifically: Shannon Stuart, Nick Carlante, Scott Glabe, Bill Flanagan, Allen Souza, Lisa Major, Jacqueline Tame, Mark Stewart, Chelsey Campbell, Andrew House, Marissa Stagg, Angela Smith, Kash Patel, Doug Prealey, Steve Keith, George Pappas, and Jack Langer for helping craft this bill with the majority; as well as the committee-shared staff of Brandon Smith, Kim Kerr, and Taylor Glabe.

I would also like to take another moment, as Mr. SCHIFF just did, our ranking member, and thank our fellow who
will be leaving us this year, who has been here a couple of years, Mr. Phil Tubergen, who will be going back and ending his congressional fellowship. We thank him for all of his work.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to pass this bill and send an overwhelming message to the men and women who protect this country that this Congress stands ready to support them.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and vigilant defender of our national security, I rise in support of H.R. 3180, the “Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018,” which will provide the Intelligence Community (IC) with the necessary resources and authorities to ensure they remain capable of protecting and defending the United States.

Our intelligence community is facing unprecedented threats from our adversaries around the world as this Administration struggles with the basics of leading this great nation. This Administration left the nation with a stable and growing economy; several important international coalition wins that include the Iranian Nuclear Arms Deal; the Russia Sanctions; and the Paris Climate Agreement.

The work of our intelligence community is a key asset in our efforts to thwart our adversaries when they seek to do Americans or our interests harm.

Following the Election, President-elect Trump was critical of the intelligence community.

In December 2016, he attacked the CIA over its assessment that Russian hacks on American infrastructure, has been of great concern to me and the American public as more and more reports of Russian hacking efforts have come to light.

In addition, the provision requiring reports on security clearance processing timelines should shed light on the highly dubious and incomprehensible security clearances of Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner.

Donald Trump’s blatant and irresponsible nepotism towards his daughter and son-in-law has made us all vulnerable to Russian and other foreign influence at the highest levels of our federal government. H.R. 3180 will give the American people what they crave and deserve: clarity and transparency to pierce through the haze of cover-ups and distractions surrounding the Trump Administration.

This bill also takes significant, much-needed steps to improve benefits for members of the IC, such as increasing employee compensation and authorizing $514 million in appropriations for the CIA’s Retirement and Disability System.

Congress must do its part to adequately compensate the patriotic Americans who serve our nation through their work in the IC, especially employees with disabilities, who make up 9 percent of the intelligence workforce.

At the same time, we must continue to ensure that Congress can exercise oversight and maintain transparency for the 17 agencies that comprise the IC.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H6557

July 28, 2017

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BONUS TRANSPARENCY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (S. 114) to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submitted an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 0, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 438]

YEAS—414

Mmes. SCHAKOWSKY, VELAZQUEZ, and CLARKE of New York changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. ADAMS, Messrs. CROWLEY and KING changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.
So the bill was passed.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to authorize appropriations and to appropriate amounts for the Veterans Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve hiring authorities of the Department, to authorize major medical facility leases, and for other purposes.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, today I was absent in order to accompany the President of the United States on a visit to my district in Long Island, New York. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on H.R. 481—Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3180) Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 2018. I would have also voted “yea” on H.R. 3180—Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. I would have also voted “yea” on S. 114—Department of Veterans Affairs Bonus Transparency Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, Friday, July 28, 2017, I was not present for rollcall votes Nos. 436, 437, and 438. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 437 and “yea” on rollcall No. 438.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORITY ACT, FISCAL YEAR 2017, IMPROVEMENTS ACT

Mr. ROYCE of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be authorized to make technical changes and other improvements to the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Speaker pro tempore. Is there any objection?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

SEC. 3. PEACEKEEPING TRAINING.

Section 301 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “enhance the discovery” and inserting “investigate allegations”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “adequately inform consular officials about such offenses by carrying out swift and effective disciplinary action against the personnel” and inserting “appropriately hold accountable personnel”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “, including compensation to victims, as appropriate” after “responses to such offenses”;

(2) in subsection (g), by striking “any individual who commits an act and inserting “personnel who are found to have committed acts”; and

(3) in subsection (h), by striking “note-worthy”.

SEC. 4. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.

Section 310 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “the descriptions referred to in subsection (a) shall include the following elements” and inserting “In addition to the descriptions referred to in subsection (a), each such candidate shall be rated under the following”: and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “such 1” and inserting “such agenda.”

SEC. 5. POLICY REGARDING THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.

Section 311(a)(2) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(E) which has been designated as a Tier 3 country in the annual report of the Department of State in Persons Report under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107); or

“(F) which is identified as having failed to prevent or address violations of human rights in the annual Department of State Human Rights Report under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Trade Act of 1974.”

SEC. 6. COMPARATIVE REPORT ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS.

Section 315 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended—

(1) by inserting “and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”;

(2) by adding paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) a comparison of the costs of current United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the costs incurred by the United States, such comparisons and the estimated cost of such operations if implemented unilaterally by the United States;”;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1), as amended by paragraph (2) of this section, the following new paragraph:

“(2) an assessment of the operational, structural, and doctrinal differences between the military and civilian infrastructures of the United States and United Nations and other assumptions that impact cost estimates; and”;

SEC. 7. LATERAL ENTRY INTO THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

Section 404(a) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended by striking “outstanding”.

SEC. 8. COMBATING INTOLERANCE.

The section heading of section 419 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended by striking “anti-Semitism” and inserting “intolerance”.

SEC. 9. TECHNICAL CORRECTION REGARDING COMPLETION OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION REPORT.

Section 609(f)(1) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended by striking “section 362” and inserting “section 609(c)”.

SEC. 10. BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

Section 709(b)(2) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended by striking “any significant restructuring.”.

SEC. 11. RANSOMS TO FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 709(a) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended by inserting “, to the extent practicable,” before “transmit”;

SEC. 12. RESTORATION OF TIBET REPORT.

Section 613 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-228, 22 U.S.C. 640 note), as amended by section 715(b)(1) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “In General” and inserting the following: “Policy—”;

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017, Improvements Act”.

SEC. 2. OVERSIGHT BY COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) OMNIBUS DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AND ANTITERRORISM ACT OF 1986.—Section 104(a) of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986, as added by section 101 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323), is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “The descriptions referred to in subsection (a) shall include the following elements” and inserting “In addition to the descriptions referred to in subsection (a), each such candidate shall be rated under the following”: and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “such 1” and inserting “such agenda.”
“(1) IN GENERAL.—”; (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as paragraph (2) and moving such paragraph, as so redesignated, two ems to the right; and (3) adding at the end the following new subsection: “(b) PERIODIC REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017, Improvements Act, and annually thereafter until December 31, 2021, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on— “(1) the steps taken by the President and the Secretary in accordance with subsection (a)(1); and “(2) the status of any discussions between the People’s Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives.”

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. ROYCE of California. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment. The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017, Improvements Act”.

SEC. 2. REPORTS.
(a) DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AND ANTITERRORISM ACT OF 1986.—Section 104(a) of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986, as added by section 405(c) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323), is amended by inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION COSTS.—Section 112(a) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”.

(c) REPORTS ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PEACEKEEPER ABUSES.—Section 301(a) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by inserting “and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”.

(d) WORKFORCE RIGHTSIZING REPORT.—Section 405(c) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–332) is amended by inserting “and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”.

(e) OTHER APPROPRIATIONS REPORT.—Subsection (b)(2) of section 4 of the Diplomatic Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 254c), as added by section 501 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323), is amended by striking “the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations” and inserting “the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations”.

(f) WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION REPORT.—Section 402(c) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended— (1) by inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations” after “Committee on Foreign Affairs”; and (2) by inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations” after “Committee on Foreign Relations”;

SECTION 3. PEACEKEEPING TRAINING.
Section 301 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended— (1) in subsection (a), by striking “enhance the discovery” and inserting “investigate allegations”; (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “adequately respond to complaints about such offenses by carrying out swift and effective disciplinary action against the personnel” and inserting “appropriately hold accountable personnel”; and (3) in paragraph (3), by inserting “compensation to victims, as appropriate” after “response”;

SEC. 4. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL.
Section 310 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended— (1) in subsection (a), by striking “such l” and inserting “such agenda”;

SEC. 5. POLICY REGARDING THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.
Section 313 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended— (1) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or” at the end; and (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end; and (3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs: “(E) which has been designated as a Tier 3 country in the annual country report on human rights practices or the annual report on human rights practices under the Trafficking in Persons Report or the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107); or “(F) which is identified as having failed to prevent or address gross violations of human rights by the President in the annual report of the Department of State pursuant to section 404(a) of the Diplomatic Relations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115–31) shall also

SEC. 6. COMPARATIVE REPORT ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS.
Section 313 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended— (1) by inserting “and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”; (2) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows: “(1) a comparison of the costs of current United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the costs incurred by the United States for such operations, and the estimated cost of such operations if implemented unilaterally by the United States.”;

SEC. 7. LATERAL ENTRY INTO THE FOREIGN SERVICE.
Section 404(a) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by striking “outstanding”;

SEC. 8. COMBATING INTOLERANCE.
Section 405(b)(2) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by striking “ANTI-SEMITISM” and inserting “INTOLERANCE”;

SEC. 9. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS REGARDING COMPLETION OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION REPORT.
Section 604 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended— (1) in subsection (j)(1), by striking “section 362” and inserting “section 602(c)”; and (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows: “(b) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commission shall serve without pay or benefits other than reimbursement for official expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.”;

SEC. 10. TECHNICAL CORRECTION REGARDING POWERS OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION.
Section 604 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection: “(F) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.—The Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of money, property, or services, real or personal, for the purpose of carrying on any duty, power, or authority of the Commission.”;

SEC. 11. BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS.
Section 708(b)(2) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by striking “any significant restructuring”;

SEC. 12. RAMSOMS TO FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.
Section 709(a) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by inserting “, to the extent practicable,” before “transmit”. Section 613 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228, 22 U.S.C. 6901 note), as amended by section 604(b)(1) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323), is further amended— (1) in subsection (a), by striking “IN GENERAL”, and inserting the following: “POLICY— “(1) IN GENERAL.—”; (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as paragraph (2) and moving such paragraph, as so redesignated, two ems to the right; and (3) by adding at the end the following new subsection: “(b) PERIODIC REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017, Improvements Act, and annually thereafter until December 31, 2021, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on— “(i) the steps taken by the President and the Secretary in accordance with subsection (a) to implement the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002; and “(ii) the status of any discussions between the People’s Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives or a successor selected by a method of the 14th Dalai Lama’s choosing or the representatives of such successor.”;

SEC. 14. DEPARTMENT OF STATE REORGANIZATIONS.
The report required under subsection (l) of section 703 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115–31) shall also.
be provided to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations in the Senate concurrent with the submission of such report to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate pursuant to such subsection.

Mr. ROYCE of California (during the reading, Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California? There was no objection. The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION TO THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. KATKO, from the Committee on Homeland Security, submitted an adverse privileged report (Rept. No. 115–270) on the resolution (H. Res. 447) directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to Department of Homeland Security policies and activities relating to businesses owned or controlled by President Donald J. Trump, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. SHUSTER, from the Committee on Transportation, submitted an adverse privileged report (Rept. No. 115–269) on the resolution (H. Res. 437) of inquiry requesting the President to provide certain documents in the President's possession, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Mariel Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING VICTIMS OF HUMAN SMUGGLING

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my condolences to the loved ones and families of the 10 victims who died in the tragic human smuggling incident that took place in my hometown of San Antonio, Texas, over the weekend. Many before them have sought to come to our country by land and sea, and have perished. These were not Americans, but they are children of God. This was, above all else, politics aside, a human tragedy.

Please join me in a moment of silence to remember the victims and the countless others like them who have lost their lives in pursuit of the American Dream.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana). Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Thursday, July 27, 2017—H.R. 3298, to authorize the Capitol Police Board to make payments from the United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund to employees of the United States Capitol Police who have sustained serious line-of-duty injuries, and for other purposes.

WASHINGTON STATE BOY SCOUTS JAMBOREE TROOP 3218

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize two groups of young men, the Boy Scouts Jamboree Troop 3218 and the Grand Columbia Council, both from Washington State, as they recently attended the 2017 National Scout Jamboree. In the 107 years since its founding, the Boy Scouts of America have instilled the values of hard work, responsibility, resourcefulness, and citizenship into the hearts and minds of thousands of young American men. The National Scout Jamboree brings together first class scouts from all 50 States to participate in a variety of Scouting traditions and to celebrate their organization.

The Boy Scouts of America have made a marked difference in our Nation, in Washington State, and in my Fourth Congressional District through the schools and values they teach our young people. I have no doubt that these young men will continue to be leaders in their families, careers, and communities.

Please join me in thanking these troops for their commitment to American values, service, and leadership.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Senate Republicans’ majority failed to pass their ACA repeal. This is a win for the people across America who wrote letters, made phone calls, and organized communities against this disastrous bill.

Mr. Speaker, millions of people rely on insurance expansion made possible under the ACA. Our job is not to harm the people we serve but to make their lives better.

Under every single Republican healthcare bill, millions of people would lose health coverage. There are many steps we can take together. Let us strengthen the risk pools, promote competition among insurers, and require States to expand their Medicaid programs.

These steps will help lower premiums, increase choice, and allow 50,000 individuals in my district and millions of low-income Americans across the country to get insurance.

As your constituent and friend of the partisanship, I urge my friends on the other side of the aisle to work with us and each other instead of against each other so everyday Americans do not grow even more cynical of our governing institutions.

While the failure of TrumpCare is welcome news, now is the time to hold public hearings, bipartisan meetings, and work toward goals that reduce premiums, deductibles, and healthcare costs for American people.

I look forward to working with my Republican colleagues to build on the ACA and improve the law.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUGAR GROVE CORN BOIL

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Sugar Grove Corn Boil, a volunteer-run annual summer festival bringing residents together to raise funds for local organizations doing good work in the community. This year, the corn boil is focused on helping families and organizations addressing autism.

In 1967, the first ever corn boil brought Sugar Grove community members together for several hours in order to raise enough funds for the town’s first ever street lamp. As a result of the festival’s initial success, the community continued the tradition year after year.

The Sugar Grove Corn Boil has grown from a one-day event to a four-day event that brings around 35,000 attendees annually. Even though the old steam engines that used to boil the corn are no longer in use, the tradition of corn in the community ensures the grain remains a staple of the festival.

While the festival has grown in size and prominence, the mission has always stayed the same: to bring friends, family, and neighbors together to raise money for local organizations and for town improvement.

In addition, the corn boil celebrates Sugar Grove’s Citizen of the Year to remind the community of the difference one person can make. Every dime donated to the Sugar Grove Corn Boil is given back to the community, whether it is local groups, food banks, churches, or to meet village needs.
I am pleased to share that this year’s festival is dedicated to the effort to address autism.
I commend the vital role the Sugar Grove Corn Boil organization and the members play in my community. I ask that all my colleagues join in acknowledging their great contribution to the individuals and families of the 14th Congressional District.

GINNY BOUVIER, A POWERFUL VOICE FOR PEACE

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to sing the praises of Virginia Bouvier, who is a senior adviser for peace processes at the U.S. Institute of Peace and the director of its Colombia program.

I have known Ginny for over 30 years. She is a powerful voice for peace and a strong, loving, generous spirit. I have seen her create the conditions, open up the spaces so that peace may take hold even during violent conflict.

Around the world, but especially in Colombia, she has brought together people from different points of view, different walks of life, the powerful and the marginalized. She has worked alongside them to find common ground and common purpose in building peace.

In all honesty, Mr. Speaker, Ginny is the very model of a life lived fully with intelligence, love, compassion, tolerance, and common purpose in building peace.

HEALTHCARE REFORM

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, the Senate’s inability to pass healthcare reform legislation does not change the fact that the Affordable Care Act is failing. Many Americans may not have one insurance provider on the exchange this fall.

Forty percent of counties in the country now only have one option on the exchange. The ACA Medicaid expansion treats nonelderly, nondisabled individuals living above the poverty line more favorably than the elderly and disabled that this crucial program exists to protect.

Seven years ago, President Obama and congressional Democrats ran thoroughly on an ill-conceived, but unsustainable healthcare law that was grounded in make-believe and statements that were just not true. The Supreme Court twisted an unconstitutional individual mandate penalty into a dubiously constitutional tax, not only making a Constitution, but facilitating an evasion of responsibility for representatives who imposed an unpopular tax on the American people.

The legacy ObamaCare has been and will continue to be—lost plans, lost doctors, and, as Chelsea Clinton reminded us last year, crushing costs. Single payer is not to the option. Not one Senator voted for single payer yesterday.

The solution to our healthcare problem is more freedom, more choice, less Washington control. We must continue our efforts to save the American people from this failing law, and continue our healthcare reform efforts.

SOUTH ASIAN HEART HEALTH AWARENESS AND RESEARCH ACT

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

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, today, with Congressman JOE WILSON of South Carolina, I am introducing bipartisan legislation to raise awareness regarding the alarming rate at which the South Asian community is developing heart disease and to invest in ways to reverse the trend.

Coming from countries including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, South Asians are the sixth largest and fastest growing ethnic group in the Nation.

Despite a traditional diet that is high in lentils, vegetables, grains, and spices, heart disease is on the rise in these communities. A Stanford study has found that South Asians have a four times greater risk of developing heart disease than the general population and have a much greater risk of having a heart attack before the age of 50. Coupled with the prevalence of diabetes in the South Asian community, something needs to be done. That is why we are introducing the South Asian Heart Health Awareness and Research Act.

Specifically, our bill will create grants at the CDC, NIH, and USDA to fund health research and promotion among South Asian populations. We hope, through doing this, that we can help save lives, develop tools, and support valuable research that can broadly benefit the American public.

PASSING EXTENSION OF THE VETERANS CHOICE ACT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House was able to pass the extension of the Veterans Choice Act funding for an additional 6 months to allow veterans to have choices, the ability to not wait in long lines, long lists, and have local proximity to treatment and care that they need.

We need to do much more on this in the future but with today’s action, at least we can sustain that program for an additional amount of time and serve our veterans who served us so well.

The Veterans Choice Act is a good outlet, a good opportunity for them to receive the care they need timely and in proximity to where they live.

Mr. Speaker, let’s make sure the Senate gets this through and our veterans are served well.

WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD A HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, late last night, Senate Republicans failed in their latest attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act, but today is not a day for celebration. It is a day for solutions.

Over the past 7 years, the Affordable Care Act has expanded access to healthcare for millions of Americans; but the law’s imperfections, combined with politically motivated opposition, have created a system that falls short of the goals we all share.

In many communities across the country, there is not enough competition in the individual marketplaces; there is not enough support for middle class families and small businesses, and there is not nearly enough being done to curb the prescription drug prices that are swallowing family budgets.

The good news is that we know how to solve these challenges. Now is the time for us to work together, Democrats and Republicans, to build a healthcare system that is worthy of this great Nation.

HONORING RABBI AVYROM HOFFMAN

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in sharing this story of Rabbi Avyrom Hoffman, a truly remarkable man whose presence has illuminated our community for decades.

Rabbi Hoffman has called Washington Heights his home for more than 35 years, fathering nine children with his wonderful wife, Miriam. He has served our community teaching precollege students at a yeshiva and by providing spiritual guidance to those in great need.

I am honored to have such an exceptional individual in my district. I was recently informed that Rabbi Hoffman has donated his kidney to a 62-year-old woman diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease. His boundless acts of philanthropy serve as a testament to his tremendous character and remind us of the power of human kindness.

He serves as a role model to all of us, and I am proud to have recognized a man of such compassion and virtue on this floor.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, the collapse of TrumpCare in the Senate shows that we need a new way. The process from the very beginning was fatally flawed. The plan was really behind closed doors. There were no homeless, no doctors, no nurses, nobody could testify in front of Congress and let people know about the current healthcare system.

I am not ObamaCare. I am willing to work with Republicans, with the President, with Democrats to update and improve ObamaCare. Any law can be made better, but to repeal ObamaCare without a plan is a really stupid way to go about it, and to repeal it with an even worse plan known as TrumpCare was an even more stupid way to go about it.

The version that the House passed was going to cause 23 million people to lose their health insurance, increase premiums in 2018 and 2020, and then lose their health insurance, increase costs. No wonder the Senate killed that version.

Now we are in a position where the Republicans, instead of trying four, five, six, seven, eight different versions of TrumpCare, they should do the one thing they haven't yet tried, which is bipartisanship.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlemen from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), who will make some comments as well.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, first of all, my experience with the Affordable Care Act actually comes from the State legislature, where, in a bipartisan manner, the Republican governor joined with the minority Democrats and a handful of Republicans in the Senate State House to pass Medicaid expansion.

Why did we do that?

If you looked at what was happening in Arizona, it was some of the Trump areas, as I like to call them, these rural districts where the rural hospitals, which are not only the medically necessary infrastructure of the area but also the economic drivers in the area, they were about to shut down.

There was so much uncompensated cost, because people were using the emergency room as their primary care doctor, that these hospitals were starting to have to charge more and insurance companies were starting to refuse to pay more for their premiums, that they needed to respond to that.

In the end, what we started hearing from the hospitals is that we are going to have to shut down the emergency room, and if you have an emergency, we are going to have to heli-}

copter you either to Tucson or Phoenix.

Now, for many of you guys who are not Southerners like us in the Southwest, we have a lot of territory and a lot of land. For you to just drive to Phoenix for emergency care would pretty much alone the expense of helicoptering into Phoenix was even more so than that.

Because we had the goal of actually increasing and improving our healthcare outcomes, we worked with Governor Brewer, with Republicans and Democrats to pass one of the most comprehensive Medicaid expansion bills in the country that has actually turned around, lowered costs, created better healthcare outcomes, and has now insured more than 400,000 poor Arizonans that did not have it before, including people in the disability community, as well as children.

To counteract what we saw today, if it wasn't really for the bravery of Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator COLLINS, and Senator MCCAIN, as well as all of the Senate Democrats, what we would have seen would have been a bill that would not only have just rolled back the millions of people who are now covered with health insurance, but it would also have been detrimental to the people who currently only have private health insurance.

Premiums were going to go up for everybody. The estimated amount of people just on the so-called skinny bill that were going to lose health insurance would be 20 million people, and on the House bill it was going to be 23 million people, in addition to the essential gutting of Medicaid, all for giving a tax cut to the top 1 percent.

Now, this is bad policy, but it is worse policy when you don't have an end-all. We don't think it is perfect. We certainly think that there is a great bipartisan approach we can take to make it better. And what I mean by "better" is more coverage, lower premiums, and better healthcare outcomes.

When I use those words, those were almost exactly, word for word, what Donald Trump said he wanted to see happen when he was going to replace the Affordable Care Act.

Lastly, before I move back to Ted, if you are so proud of this bill, if you are the Senate Republicans and you are so proud of this bill, if you are Donald Trump and you are so proud of this bill, when I heard my colleagues, why didn't you have consistent townhalls? Why didn't you go out there and explain to people what you were planning to do and why this is better for America?

Instead, they tried to hide it. They tried to move it as fast as possible, and then tried to schedule a vote in the middle of the night. If you have to vote for something in the middle of the night, you are not very confident and you are not very proud of that bill.

So what is the solution now? Nobody in the Democratic Caucus thinks the Affordable Care Act, as people call it—is the be-all and end-all. We don't think it is perfect. We certainly think that there is a great bipartisan approach we can take to make it better. And what I mean by "better" is more coverage, lower premiums, and better healthcare outcomes.

I say that also as someone who is on an ObamaCare plan. I am not exempt from it, and neither is Mr. LIEU. We are in it just as much as everyone else is, and we want to see it fixed.

Mr. LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, Representative GALLEGO and I believe it is a failed policy in the United States military. Before we could do that, we had to take an oath to the Constitution. That is the same oath that Members of Congress take, and it is also an oath that members of the executive branch take.

Under the Constitution, Congress passes the laws. ObamaCare is the law of the land. Under the Constitution, the President has a duty to enforce those laws.

Today, the President tweeted that he wants ObamaCare to implode. Not only is that mean, mean, mean, it is also a dereliction of duty. The job of the President is to help Americans, not hurt millions of Americans out of state.

Let me give you an example of what it was like before ObamaCare.

I was at a restaurant and a waitress came up to me. She knew I was a legislator. I was in the State legislature at the time, and she wanted help. Her daughter had just turned 18, and, in California, where I am from, you cannot get government health insurance if you don't have any minor children. So
she lost her government health insurance.

She was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. She tried to get private insurance. None of them would cover her. And I realized that she is now going to die, so because she could not get health insurance coverage.

She could not go into an emergency room and get treatment because her breast cancer had not progressed to that point. But one day she is going to get there, so she will go to an emergency room; she will get treated for a few days; and then she will die. And I thought, in a country as great as America, that should never be happening.

Now that the Affordable Care Act is the law of the land, you cannot be discriminated against because of your pre-existing conditions. There are some incredibly amazing elements of this law. That is why the Republicans could not repeal it. Because the American people, after having looked at it for 7 years, the majority said, you know, this is a pretty good deal. Is it the best deal? No. We could definitely make it better.

Mr. Speaker, Representative GALLEGO and I are offering to the Republican Congress a solution that is only go to raise premiums, and it will be the Affordable Care Act. Not only is that crimmated against because of your pre-existing conditions. There are some in-
credible amazing elements of this law. That is why the Republicans could not repeal it. Because the American people, after having looked at it for 7 years, the majority said, you know, this is a pretty good deal. Is it the best deal? No. We could definitely make it better.

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Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO).

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, if you want to hear some ideas—and I think it is important that instead of just us knocking what was introduced, we could also give some ideas—certainly, for me, and I think I am also speaking for Ted Lieu, we would prefer to have Medicare for all. They have a sta-
ble insurance, a system that we know works, a system that actually brings down costs. But if we can’t do that, there are many things we can do in the meantime.

Why not drop the age of Medicare eligi-
bility to 55? If you do that, you are going to also decrease premiums for people who are not on Medicare, people who are just buying private health in-
surance. You could be on Medicare at 55 and still be working.

What about for those counties that don’t have private insurers on the sub-
sidized market? They should be able to buy into the Federal health insurance plans of all of the workers who live in those districts, or buy into the plans that Ted and I have. Why can’t we let them do that?

Why not cover every U.S. citizen up until the age of 18 under Medicare to relieve the parents of that burden?

We can also start looking at community health centers, reinforcing those to make sure that we are taking the poorest of the poor who actually cost the most when it comes to healthcare costs and, instead of forcing them into a hospital or into a primary care situa-
tion, they could get consistent care without putting a burden on the over-
all medical system.

There are tons of ideas that we could be looking at. But the one thing that will, again, fulfill President Trump’s goal of lower costs, lower premiums, and better healthcare outcomes. So this doesn’t have to be a static situa-
tion. This doesn’t have to be an either/or.

President Trump is making it sound like, because we did not pass his idea of reform, we must collapse the whole system. That is unnecessary, that is ir-
responsible, and that is not how adult people that legislate act.

You can fix this. We can fix this so more people can have healthcare coverage, more people can have that secu-
ritiy that they are going to always have health insurance so they can go and start a business and know they are going to be covered. Know that they can send their kid to college and they are still going to have health insurance, know that they can retire knowing that they have been healthy the whole time and they are going to have good, dignified retirement be-
cause we had made sure that we estab-
lshed a good healthcare system from the time they were born until the time they retire.

This is possible. This is possible.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the Affordable Care Act and work on a bipartisan basis to improve it, you will close with this. If you were one of those Members of Congress, if you are going to work diligently in a bipartisan man-
ner to fix the Affordable Care Act and cover more people.

Mr. Speaker, for those Members of Congress and those Senators who want to work with us, the first step is to en-
courage and stop the President from trying to destroy the Affordable Care Act and to work diligently in a bipartisan man-
ner to fix the Affordable Care Act and cover more people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Mem-
bers are reminded to refrain from en-
gaging in personalities toward the President.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO LIBANON—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 115–59)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid be-
fore the House the following message from the President of the United States: which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:
Section 202(d) of the National Emer-
gencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a na-
tional emergency unless, within 90 days of the anniversary date of its decla-
ration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect be-
eyond the anniversary date. In accord-
ance with this provision, the President transmits to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the na-
tional emergency with respect to Lib-
anon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, is to con-
tinue in effect beyond August 1, 2017.

Certain ongoing activities, such as continuing arms transfers to Hizbollah that include increasingly sophisticated weapons systems, undermine Lebanese sovereignty, contribute to political and economic instability in the region, and continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have
determined that it is necessary to con-
tinue the national emergency declared
in Executive Order 13441 with respect
to Lebanon.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

MEGAN RONDINI

The Speaker pro tempore. Under the
Speaker's announced policy of January
25, 2017, a gentleman from Texas (Mr. Poe)
was recognized for 60 minutes as the desig-
nee of the majority leader.

Mr. Poe of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want
to talk today about a person, a per-
son that I never got to meet, but this
is her story, and this is her story from
her point of view and the informa-
tion that I have received from people
who knew her, including her parents,
her aunt, and some of her friends. And,
like I said, I don't know the real facts of
this case. I am just giving you my
opinion here today to tell you about
Meg Rondini's story, because she
can't tell her case, Mr. Speaker.

I am co-chair of the Victims' Rights
Caucus, along with the gentleman from
California (Mr. Costa), my friend. I was
a volunteer in Court in Houston, Texas,
for 8 years. I tried felony cases. And
then I was a criminal court judge for
22 years, seeing all kinds of viola-
tions of the law. I mention that be-
cause that is the background from
which I speak.

Over that time, I knew a lot of vic-
tims of crime. Too many victims of
crime worked their way through the
courthouse. I am going to talk about
another one today: Megan Rondini.

She was 19 or 20 when she was a stu-
dent at the University of Alabama, and
on July 1, 2015, Megan and some of her
friends, sorority friends, went to a
nearby bar, as we would term it in the
old days, where a lot of students in
Tuscaloosa, Alabama, went for meeting
other folks and hanging out.

She came in contact with an indi-
vidual whose name was Terry Jackson
Bunn, Jr. His nickname was Sweet T.

Sweet T—being from the South, you
can understand somebody being called
that, Mr. Speaker.

He was a patron of this establish-
ment. He was older. He was in his early
thirties. Megan was approximately 20.

He invited her to go over to his
house, to look at his house, because he
and his family live in a big mansion in
Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She agreed to go.

He went with another individual that
he knew, and they went over to his
house.

They go upstairs, and here is where
she was drugged or under the influ-
ence of drugs. She starts to talk.

She gets up. She tries to get out of
this upstairs. Her car is dead bolt on
doors, apparently. She couldn't
get out. She couldn't figure out how to
get out, so she climbs out the second-
story window in the middle of the
night and jumps from the second-story
window to a trash can on the ground.

She doesn't have her keys. She didn't
know where they are. So his car is
parked there, a Mercedes, sleek Mer-
cedes, which he picked her up in ear-
lier. She gets in the car, looks for her
keys.

She doesn't have any money, so she
takes money out of the vehicle to call
a cab, to pay for the cab so she could
get away, and the cab later shows up.

During this time, she is texting her
friends, and she says that these texts
come from her. The text messages didn't
make a whole lot of sense because of
the condition that she is in.

She eventually gets to the hospital,
where she does a sexual assault kit, to
get first or the second interview, wanted to
get medical attention, but they
don't take any blood and they didn't
perform that examination, but they
didn't take any blood and they didn't
take any urine and they didn't test
Megan for whether she was under the
influence of drugs. They did the sexual
assault kit.

As I know, it hasn't been tested yet.
They don't know where it is. Maybe
the sheriff's department has it, maybe
they don't, but that sexual assault kit,
like I said, was never tested.

So after she is there, or while she is
there, the police, the sheriff's depart-
ment show up and they question her
privately. I agree that the homicide
detectives heard her story, and they
didn't take any notes about it.

They just listened to her story.

What transpired there maybe was not
a lot of information given to the police,
except she told her story. She told the
police she didn't consent, that she may
be under the influence of drugs, drug-
induced rape, and they left.

The next morning, Megan, staying up
all this time, the police, either at the
first or the second interview, wanted to
know why she didn't physically resist,
why she didn't fight back this older
man. And she was under the influence
of drugs.

Under most laws in most States, she
couldn't physically fight back, and
that is the lack of consent. She didn't
give consent. And it is still sexual as-
sault, but apparently not so to the
sheriff's department in Tuscaloosa,
Alabama. She didn't fight back.

Now, I am older than you are, Mr.
Speaker, but I remember the days of
those old, archaic rape laws where, in
many States, the victim had to fight
almost until death. The statutory limi-
tations on sexual assault or rape was 1
year. That is when the Bunn family had
a year to have that case indicted. And
there are some other things about the
old law that we both know, but I will
get to that, hopefully, later.

But it was obvious to her, either at
the first interview and at least the sec-
ond interview, the sheriff's depart-
ment did not believe her. When she told
them who the alleged perpetrator was, Sweet
T Bunn, they seemed to back off the
prosecution.

T Bunn comes from a family in
Tuscaloosa, Alabama, well-known,
prominent citizens. The Bunn folks run
a construction company, probably built
every road in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Ev-
everybody knew who they were. And they
backed off, according to her, of the in-
vestigation, still not taking, appar-
ently, any real notes.

On the second interview later that
morning with the police, the police
started accusing her of committing a
crime. She told the police she was the
victim, but becomes the accused, the
defendant, about the money that she
took from Bunn's car so she could get
a cab to flee the perpetrator.

The police interviewed T J Bunn. He
first denied she was ever at his man-
sion, and then later he changed his
story, as accused individuals tend to
do, and then said it was consent, that
she consented to everything and that
this is not a criminal case. And the po-
lice further backed off, and then later
said to Megan: We think we are going
to prosecute you for theft of that
money, to get away from the offender
unless you drop the charges, the accusations against
Sweet T.

Mr. Speaker, we need, as a commu-
nity, to understand and put ourselves
in the place of this girl who is alone.
And I believe, all through that night,
she made the best decisions she could
to get help, and everywhere she turned,
people turned her down.

Now, I don't know what most victims
would do in this case, but she didn't
know what to do. She called her mom
in Austin, Texas. Mom quickly gets in
her car and starts driving to Alabama,
as mother do, wanting to know how
she should handle this particular situa-
tion: she is becoming the accused. And
that is the trump card that the police
put on her: You back off the prosecu-
tion, and we won't prosecute you for
theft of that money and maybe other
crimes that you committed.

So Megan left, not knowing what to
do.
So the sheriff’s department doesn’t believe her, doesn’t want to believe her, and takes the alleged perpetrator and makes him the victim and makes her the accused individual. So the sheriff’s department has the rape kit—never tested. The sheriff’s department is accusing the victim of committing a crime.

So she seeks relief from the University of Alabama. She goes there and she talks to a lady who was a counselor for students at the University of Alabama, a female, and tells her the whole story again: No consent; I was sexually assaulted.

After the story is told to the counselor, the counselor apparently says: I can’t help you. I know the Bunn family. I have a relative that works for Bunn Construction. I cannot help you, and I am backing off and recusing myself of this case—the counselor.

What does Megan do? Well, the university gives her another counselor, who I wouldn’t say is a real counselor. It is a graduate assistant. And the graduate assistant talks to Megan and says, I can’t talk to you until you take medical help for your anxiety.

Well, no kidding she has anxiety because of what has happened to her over these several hours.

And that was the last we heard of the University of Alabama physical therapist. She backs off because she has anxiety.

The district attorney, eventually, about 3 weeks later, said: We are not prosecuting this case. No case, no sexual assault, the sheriff’s department believes it is consent, and they are not prosecuting the case.

Later, it turns out, Mr. Speaker, and I don’t know if this influenced these people’s decisions or not, but we learn that the defendant’s family, the construction company, gave financial contributions to the sheriff’s department, to the district attorney’s office campaign, and to the University of Alabama apparently without telling the donors.

I don’t know if that influenced all of this or not, but you can take it for what you want. But anyway, they backed off the case.

Megan, because it is the summer break, leaves and goes back home to Texas. She wants to get away from the University of Alabama because she had seen the defendant on campus. He is not a student there. She had told the people on the campus: I am very worried about me because of this person on campus. They wanted her doing very well. She saw a counselor at SMU and wanted help with depression when she is filling out her medical history form that goes to the university at SMU in Dallas, Texas.

She said she had mental issues. She said that she had bad thoughts about living. And then later, on February 26, 2016, with that form laying next to her, Megan committed suicide. She took her life.

Why? My opinion, because she never got any help. She couldn’t get help from the hospital because of the urine test; no drug test, no blood test; the rape kit never analyzed by the police department, sheriff’s department; the sheriff’s department didn’t believe her? Like I said, in my opinion, they didn’t want to believe her.

The university didn’t help her. They gave her a graduate assistant to try to help her with her mental case, told her to get on medication.

Mr. Speaker, Megan did everything that she should have done under those situations. It is easy for society, in such cases like this, to say to victims of crime, especially rape cases: You should have done this; you shouldn’t have done that.

And there is a lot of second-guessing going on in this case by a lot of people. But, as a prosecutor, former judge, I think she did the best she could to get help, and she got no help.

When people are desperate, when they feel like nobody cares, that nobody is going to help them, in a sexual assault case, where—to me, that is one of the worst crimes that can be committed against a person—they are desperate, and she didn’t think life was worth living because of this case.

Over the years, I have learned a lot from sexual assault victims, and one thing that they all want is validation. They want validation from us—community, society, government—that that act they said happened to them did happen. That is what they want. Sometimes they want that more than prosecution, retribution. They want the perpetrator to go to prison, but they want to know that this is a crime, that the testing was done, that they backed off the case.

And so what are we going to do about this? What has happened in the interim?

Well, at the hospital, because of the failures—no drug testing, no urine testing, the loss of the sexual assault kit, rape kit, or not being analyzed—myself, CAROLYN MALONEY, Democrat from New York, and also, TERRI SEWELL, who represents this area in Alabama, have filed the Megan Rondini Act on her behalf.

Now, what does that do? So this legislation will require hospitals in our country, wherever they are, to have a SAFE at that hospital. What is a SAFE? It is a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner. Some hospitals do, some don’t. But this is that your hospital will have one at your hospital 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or be able to take a sexual assault victim to one place close by that has this type of examiner.

It is a special recognition for people in the sexual assault business, whether they are a nurse or whether they are a doctor, and we filed that legislation. Maybe that would have helped in this case where the sexual assault examiner would have finished the examination, made sure that the testing was done, or had some examiner near this hospital.

And we filed this. It is called the Megan Rondini Act. That is one of the pieces of legislation we filed.

I want to talk about the law enforcement agency. Now, you know as much about law enforcement as anybody in Congress, but let me tell you the way I see this.

They never tested the sexual assault kit, the rape kit, the urine sample. They never tested any of it. They want validation. Why didn’t she resist? Why didn’t she fight back?

When a person is drug-induced in a sexual assault, they can’t fight back. They certainly can’t consent, but that is what they were asking her, even though that didn’t apply in this case. She couldn’t fight back. She didn’t fight back because of what happened to her when she was drugged or under the influence of something.

They accused her of being a criminal. Rather than examining her case and finishing her case, they went on to take the defendant’s position, say they believed him, even though he gave contradictory stories later in this investigation.

We have a piece of legislation that has already been filed to deal with sexual assault kits, and I have introduced legislation today to reauthorize SAFER. SAFER is a piece of legislation that Congress needs to reauthorize to have rape kits throughout the country examined. There are thousands of sexual assault cases sitting on the shelves, sitting in warehouses; some have been destroyed they are so old, where law enforcement, government, has not analyzed these sexual assault rape kits.

There are a lot of excuses made—there is not money, all of those things. They need to be examined in all criminal cases. SAFER provides funding to do that so that the backlog of evidence gets tested and so that it convict the guilty and clears the innocent. That is the second piece of legislation that we have filed.
The district attorney’s office, after Megan committed suicide, after they had refused to do anything about the case, almost a year later, they took the case to a grand jury, and it was not indicted. It was no-billed.

Now, I have presented cases to the grand jury. I am sure you have testified before grand juries. Unfortunately, some district attorneys, I am not saying all, or even most—the grand jury does the will of the district attorney. If the district attorney encourages an indictment, it is indicted. If they encourage and recommend a no-bill, not indicted, grand juries will do that.

Some prosecutors don’t offer advice. They let the grand jury make that decision because that is their decision. I don’t know if that happened in this case or not. But they did decide to present the case to a grand jury, and it was not indicted. She was not indicted, or the defendant was not indicted.

Of course, anything could happen to her. She has already taken her own life.

The university made some mistakes, in my opinion. The school victim advocate abandoned her at the hospital where she was.

On campus, the counselor, even though hearing the case, full story, at the end—this is interesting—at the end, decided to recuse herself because she knew the Bunn family. She knew the Bunn family when this interview started. Why didn’t she recuse herself before the victim tells the story again to another person, to another stranger? Interesting turn of events.

Graduate assistant, in my opinion, didn’t have any qualifications to order that she get medical treatment before she comes back to talk to the folks at the hospital.

We have filed a resolution, it is a sense of Congress resolution. Mr. Speaker, calling on all universities to employ a full-time victim advocate on campus who deals with sexual assault victims, have that expertise. And it is an expertise. A victim advocate needs to be specified to be a sexual assault victim advocate, because, you can talk about a victim advocate, that could be somebody talking about a theft case or something, but you need a sexual assault victim advocate on campus, no matter what university this happens to be.

It is a sense of Congress. It is a resolution that has been filed today.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 34 minutes remaining.

Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. Speaker, let me—this is Megan Rondini. This is the way she looked when she was a student. We have heard a lot about her, as we should.

But now I want to talk about the family of the alleged perpetrator, Sweet T, and the Bunn family. Well-known business in the community. Good for them. Business is doing well.

They give money to the university. As I mentioned, apparently they give money to the campaigns of the sheriff and the district attorney, and they make other contributions throughout the Tuscaloosa region. Apparently, everybody knows them.

They are concerned about this case that this is a full-page ad taken out of one of the Tuscaloosa, Alabama, newspapers this week defending their honor, as we would say in the South. And it goes into quite a bit of detail.

What it does not mention is the victim of this crime. It almost justifies the defendant’s, the accused’s, position. All through this ad, they talk about a lot of things. I want to read you just part of it. Here’s just one paragraph talking about their three generations of civic involvement in Tuscaloosa, Alabama:

We support education. We support law enforcement. We support our hospital and civic. We are generous, and now we are condemned as if it is a conspiracy.

The Bunn family, for more than 70 years, have given their time, energy, and resources to make our community a better place to live. Now, according to some journalists, every act of charity and good citizenship was nothing more than a large standing conspiracy. If no deed unpunished then why should anyone invest in our community to take the risk of being a good citizen?

They are defending their honor. They are defending Sweet T. And all through this ad, taken out this week, they never mention sympathy or compassion or sadness for the death of the victim in this crime. This seems very strange to me. Regardless of guilt or innocence, we know that a person took their life because of what happened. I find that very strange.

They seem to protest too much—full-page ad in a local newspaper.

The parents of Megan, Mike and Cindy Rondini, they are just folks who live in Austin, Texas. Robin, the aunt, Lisa was a student at the University of Houston, working a second job. She leaves school one evening at about 9 o’clock, she is driving north on one of our interstates—or freeways, as we call them. She has car trouble. She pulls off the freeway, goes to a service station she thought was open. She was a young lady, apparently decided to leave kids. Her husband, being the kind of guy he was, apparently decided to leave her and took the two kids and went somewhere else.

It wasn’t long after that I got a call from Lisa’s mom telling me that she had taken her own life and left a note saying: “I am tired of running from Luke in my nightmares.”

Another victim years ago, and I give her example only to show what we need to understand that this is one of the worst things that can happen to a person. One other case. I prosecuted a case where a guy was charged with sexually assaulting an elderly woman. She came to the courthouse to testify. Sadie, I will use her first name. She was dressed in a dark gray suit, long skirt, double-breasted coat. She had on a dark gray hat and a little veil over her face.

She took the witness stand. I asked her: What happened when this perpetrator that you have identified came into your house? She said: He committed an act worse than death.

I asked: What do you mean? What did he do? Did he assault you? What did he do?

She said: He committed an act worse than death.

I asked: What do you mean? What did he do?

She said: He committed an act worse than death.

Finally, she testified to the legal requirement of penetration.

To some sexual assault victims, rape is a fate worse than death. To Megan,
she got the death penalty for being a sexual assault victim. She couldn’t quite handle it. Why? Because no one was there to make sure that she did handle it.

Mr. Speaker, sexual assault predators—what they are. You can call it rape, you can call it sexual assault, you can call it a fate worse than death—sometimes steal the soul of the victim. That is the way the victims feel. Everything that was important to them is gone because of the perpetrator.

I think the best evidence, unfortunately, that Megan, in my opinion, was telling the truth throughout all of this was that she took her life. That is what makes this case so sad.

Sexual assault or rape, Mr. Speaker, is never the fault of the victim. Never. Never. And some folks want to look at this and say: Megan, you should have done this, you should have done that, you shouldn’t have gone with him, you shouldn’t have been drunk, you shouldn’t have allowed him to get you intoxicated on drugs, whatever.

I think most of them do the best they can in trying to get justice.

She went to the hospital and was denied help by the hospital, in her opinion, denied help. In fact, they accused her of being the perpetrator. They didn’t investigate, they didn’t talk to witnesses. She goes to a university that gets Federal funds trying to get help and was denied. Denied. Denied.

She leaves, she goes back to Texas, tries to enroll in another university, and before all that is completed, she takes her life. I hope we can understand not just this case and not just Megan, but we can understand the plight and the awful things that happen to some of our young women in our country.

The same Constitution that protects defendants of crime, protects victims of crime. They are entitled to equal protection under the law. I am talking about victims of crime. If we understand that principle, we will understand justice. We will understand what we are all about; that we are in the people business. In this House of Representatives on this late Friday afternoon, we need to understand that.

Justice means different things to different folks. But justice must be balance. You have the rights of the accused and the rights of the victim so that we do the right thing for the right reason in every case.

Mr. Speaker, you know this in doing investigations in your capacity before, and I want to reiterate this. Sometimes victims just never get over it. They just never do. We should be there with them. I am talking about the community should be there with them and at least hear them out and make a rational and just decision, regardless of who you are, who you are poor, rich, family, somebody in the community, big contributor, whatever; and no matter who the victim is, same background: poor, rich, famous. That should go away in determining justice. Otherwise, we don’t have justice for all. We only have justice for a few.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time, I appreciate the patience of the House of Representatives when I wanted to talk today about Megan Rondini. This case bothers me as a father of four kids, three of them girls; twelve grandchidren, eight of them girls. It bothers me as a Member of the House of Representatives and as a former person who worked at the courthouse for over 30 years. I hope it bothers the House of Representatives so we move forward with trying to get help for folks like this, that we pass legislation that requires a safe officer at hospitals, that we pass legislation as a House resolution that it is a sense of Congress that all universities have on campus a sexual assault victim’s advocate or coordinator, as the law says.

I thank MOLLY MALONEY from New York and TERRI SEWELL from Alabama, who represents this area, for cosponsoring this bill.

I ask the leadership to move this legislation forward. But let’s not forget about Megan and Megan’s case, and the thing that happened to her that just can’t happen anymore. Justice can be served, it shall be served, because justice is what we do, Mr. Speaker.

And that is just the way it is. Mr. Speaker, I would ask how much time is left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 17 minutes remaining.

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

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF EMIL OGDEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Flores) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. Flores. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman for Texas sharing the story about Megan with this Chamber, and I look forward to supporting him in his efforts to try to keep these things from happening again in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Emil Ogden of College Station, Texas, who passed away on July 25, 2017.

Emil Ogden was born on September 15, 1927, in Blackwell, Oklahoma. He was raised by his loving mother, Mary Ogden, in Bowling Green, Missouri. Growing up during the worst of the Great Depression, Emil experienced poverty firsthand and lived in a one-room house. To provide for her son, Emil’s mother worked as a maid at his grandfather’s hotel for $2 a week. To help the family, Emil worked any odd job he could find.

During this time, an act of kindness from a member of the local Rotary Club would change his life. Emil was enamored with baseball and would often visit the local hardware store owned by Rotary Club member Ed Dunlap. Ed noticed that Emil loved baseball but could not afford the equipment. He sent a bat, a glove, and a ball to Emil, and the Rotary members showed Emil put his life on a better course.

Emil valued their support, once stating: “I could have been very rebellious as a child. Things like poverty can make you grow up with some resentment. But all of a sudden, I had a whole town of surrogate fathers, and they cared about me. It motivated me to be a better example as a young man. The leaders of the community who we respected were all members of the Rotary, and I didn’t want to disappoint them after they had taken an interest in me.”

In 1945, Emil joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and was assigned to the 563rd Army Air Forces Base Unit, better known as the Brass Hat Squadron. The Brass Hat Squadron was a group of esteemed Army pilots whose job it was to fly high-profile persons around the world to significant events.

In 1945, Emil flew dignitaries to events such as the Nuremberg war trials, the atomic bomb tests on Bikini Atoll, and the national independence celebration in the Philippines. Due to his service in the military, Emil had visited more than 30 countries before his 20th birthday.

In 1947, Emil married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, Clementine Lindeman.

Clementine was the center of Emil’s life for over 69 years. Her support and encouragement always kept Emil grounded. Their love and commitment to each other, their Catholic faith, and the values upon which they built their lives, endured until his death. Together they had six children, whom they both loved dearly. At the time of his passing, their legacy included 22 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

After his service in World War II, Emil went on to play professional baseball in the minor leagues, playing for both the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Baltimore Orioles’ organizations. His career lasted from 1949 to 1953. His baseball career took place in west Texas, first for the Midland Indians and then for the Odessa Oilers. During his playing days, Emil met several baseball legends, including Jackie Robinson.

Emil’s baseball career came to an end when Clementine gave him an ultimatum: either stay married or keep playing baseball. Emil was a wise man, and he chose to focus on marriage.
Emil began college at Texas A&M University as part of the class of 1953. In the 1960s, he finished a degree in philosophy while he was in his sixties. Upon finishing his degree later in life, Emil said: "Too many of us grow older and die stuck back and say, 'Well, I've lived my life. There's nothing I can do. I'll try to live on my past experiences and past knowledge and hope that I survive with some dignity.' I think that person has already partially died." Emil's love for learning and his intellectual curiosity would continue through the end of his life.

In 1953, Emil returned to Abilene, Texas, to begin his career in the oil industry. While starting his career, he worked odd jobs to help make ends meet for his growing family. One of those odd jobs was playing the trumpet in local dance bands on the weekends.

In 1973, his independent oil and gas operations hit it big when the properties he was leasing dramatically increased in value, creating the nucleus of Emil's business success. The oil and gas business eventually brought Emil back to College Station in 1979, where he would be instrumental in developing the successful Bryan Woodbine Oil Field.

Passionate about educating youth, Emil helped found the Ogden-Chaparral Entertainment Company, where he produced an educational children's television show called "ImagineLane" in the 1960s, the first show ever aired on KAMU-TV in the Brazos Valley and was eventually shown on stations all across the United States.

Even with all of his business accomplishments, Emil will best be remembered for his philanthropic efforts in the Brazos Valley. His upbringing in poverty and struggles during early life are something Emil never forgot, and it made him empathize with those in need.

He served on the board of directors for the local Boys & Girls Club, in multiple positions for the Knights of Columbus, as chairman of the Arrow Moon District of the Boy Scouts of America, and he was also a member of the Bryan Rotary Club.

A lifelong conservationist, Emil also gave to many conservative causes, including donating the seed money to the 40 Days for Life campaign, which began at College Station and advocated for pro-life causes around the world today. He also sponsored three Habitat for Humanity homes, saying that it was "my way of giving thanks."

Mr. Speaker, Emil Ogden worked tirelessly for the Brazos Valley. He is loved in Bryan-College Station and certainly left an enduring impression on our community. He will be forever remembered as a great philanthropist, humanitarian, businessman, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, pro-life champion, and friend.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Ogden family. We also lift up the family and friends of Emil Ogden in our prayers.

I have requested that the United States flag be flown over the Nation's Capitol today to honor the life and legacy of Emil Ogden.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for our military men and women who protect us from external threats, and for our first responders who protect us from threats here at home.

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES LOUIS MAXWELL, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 30 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the life of the late James Louis Maxwell, Jr., a gentleman from a small eastern North Carolina county, whose innovative mind and entrepreneurial spirit helped grow his grandfather's local milling company into a thriving international agribusiness.

Louis Maxwell is certainly one of our community's most remarkable figures, and he was a proud American. He loved his country.

The most important thing Louis ever spent more than 60 years married to the love of his life, Mary Ann Jeffreys, until she passed in 2014. Together, they had four children, eight grandchildren, and now a great-grandchild. Louis was very proud of his family, as they were of him.

He cherished his role as a husband, father, and grandfather.

In his lifetime, Louis Maxwell enriched countless lives in ways too many to express. He will truly be missed. He was a friend.

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

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2017, TO TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2017

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. on Tuesday next.

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

There was no objection.

IMPORTANT ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOMHERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOMHERT. Mr. Speaker, it has been a deeply troubling last 12 hours—
During my summer in the former Soviet Union, back when I was in college as an exchange student over there, I didn’t just have tours, I saw the way people were treated in the socialized medicine of the Soviet Union. I have heard even some of my dear friends and family in the House say: We know socialized medicine always fails. Actually, that is something I don’t know. What I know and what I believe is socialism never actually works. Now, socialism will always fail. It always has. Even going back to the New Testament church when the Apostle Paul tried this beautiful, wonderful concept: bringing all into the common storehouse, sharing and sharing alike. Eventually, he realized that is going to work in Heaven just beautifully, but it sure doesn’t work on Earth. So here is a new rule: if you don’t work, you don’t eat. Why? Because you have created this beautiful, incredible world where people are human, they are imperfect. Everyone has done wrong at some point and fallen short of the glory of God—every one of us. Nobody is perfect. So you can’t have a perfect system that does anything but become a totalitarian government. It has to become totalitarian in order to force people to bring into the common storehouse. When you do that, you eliminate the incentives that have provided the religion of history to be as least effective. If you have no incentives, it is ineffective. People don’t work the hardest.

Mr. Speaker, I have mentioned before—because there was a great example during that summer in the Soviet Union at a collective farm 30 miles or so outside of Kiev—there were thousands and thousands of acres, but I could not tell the difference between the cultivated areas and the noncultivated areas. I’ve worked on farms and ranches. This was in the middle of July. We are at about the same latitude as east Texas. You want to get out there as close to sunup as you can because it gets so hot by midafternoon you want to be finishing up by midafternoon. Here it was the middle of the morning, and most of the farmers were out there in the middle of the village area there in the shade. Back in Mount Pleasant growing up, some of the older gentlemen had a split and whittle club. That reminded me of that, the old guys just sitting around talking—young and old.

So I tried to use my best Russian and asked: When do you work out in the field? Obviously, these guys hadn’t worked up a sweat all morning. I was trying to be pleasant. When do you work out in the field? They all laughed. So I thought maybe he did say it right. But one of them responded in Russian: I make the same number of rubles if I am out there in the sun or I am here in the shade, so I am here in the shade.
It hardly did much of anything to ObamaCare, even a little bit.

It is the first time I am aware of in the history of the United States Congress where one body contacted the other body—the Senate, in this case, contacted the House—and said: Please, we think we can pass our bill in the Senate, but you have got to promise us you won't pass it in the House. We will go to conference. Please promise us you won't pass it in the House. We have a chance to pass it in the Senate.

What kind of governance is that? I think it is a good thing to take a break from being here in session where we talk to ourselves too much. I think that is a problem here on both ends of the House.

I am proud of some of the things we have done here in the House. We have made some progress. We need to make a lot more. We need to pass the tax reform. I want to keep our promises and have tax cuts. I feel pretty comfortable with the Senate.

...
By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. DEGETTE, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HIGGIS of New York, Mr. Lewis of Georgia, Mr. PASSEHL, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PALLOONE, Mr. BEN RAY LULIAN of New Mexico, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. SEWILL of Alabama, Mr. HUMPHREY of Minnesota, Mr. DEGREGORIO of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BUSSE, Mr. MCKEENY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KING of Missouri, Ms. MACSUI, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 3525. A bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROTHFUS (for himself and Mr. PETITSON):

H.R. 3526. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow the use of the Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Fund to finance United States border security measures, for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland (for himself, Mr. SARAKAKIS, and Mr. RUPPERSVURG):

H.R. 3527. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to return certain property and interests in property to the Government of the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself, Mr. MILLIUS):

H.R. 3528. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require e-prescribing for coverage under part D of the Medicare program of prescription drugs that are controlled substances; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 3529. A bill to amend the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children to cover certain vitamins and minerals; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. COMER (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. CURB, Mr. CHUNG of Colorado, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PETRINSON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. GARBARD, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. SCHUMERE, Mr. PHILMUTTERS, and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 3530. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude industrial hemp from the definition of marijuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GALLEGLO, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 3531. A bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act for purposes of making claims under such Act based on exposure to atmospheric nuclear testing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. EVANS (for himself and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 3532. A bill to require the President to convert private businesses and investments in order to yield interest under Federal law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. CURIELLO of Florida):

H.R. 3533. A bill to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a coastal climate change adaptation preparedness and response program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 3534. A bill to make the Controlled Substances Act inapplicable with respect to marihuana in States that have legalized marijuana and have in effect a statewide regulatory system to control marihuana for lawful purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 3535. A bill to restore Federal recognition to the Ruffy Rancheria of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 3536. A bill to require persons who undertake illegal research and development of drugs to enter into reasonable pricing agreements with the Secretary of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 3537. A bill to reform our government, reduce the grip of special interest, and return our democracy to the American people by increasing transparency and oversight of our elections and government, reforming public financing for Presidential elections and providing for Federal matching of Congressional elections, and requiring States to conduct Congressional redistricting through independent commissions, and for other purposes; to the Committees on Appropriations, Administration, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, Financial Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARTON:

H.R. 3538. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to create additional requirements for original and new creditors of mortgage loans in the absence of a mortgage loan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 3539. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to establish a procedure for the removal of a booking photograph from a consumer’s file, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself and Mr. PALLOONE):

H.R. 3540. A bill to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to replace the current requirement for a biennial energy policy plan with an energy plan review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 3541. A bill to reauthorize the SAFER Act of 2013, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. MOUTON, Ms. ROSETHIGHTEN, and Mr. DRUTCH):

H.R. 3542. A bill to prohibit actions against Hamas for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights by reason of the use of civilians as human shields, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself and Mr. TIPTON):

H.R. 3543. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to develop a categorical exclusion for covered vegetative management activities carried out to establish or improve habitat for greater sage-grouse and mule deer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CASTOR of Georgia, Mr. RENACCI, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 3544. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to protect the confidentiality of substance use disorder patient records; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. POSHY, Mr. FLORES, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BURCH, Ms. JACKSON of South Carolina, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. COOK, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. BRAT, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. FREMDSONN, Mr. DUNN, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. CRANSTON):

H.R. 3545. A bill to prohibit universal service support of commercial mobile service and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ISBA (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. NOEM, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. FLORES):

H.R. 3546. A bill to authorize the Secretary of State to establish a permanent residence in Jerusalem, Israel, for the United States Ambassador to Israel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCCaul (for himself, Mr. THORNBERY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. CONAWAY of Texas, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. KATRO, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. RUPPERSVURG of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SANDERS of Vermont, Mr. RUSH of Illinois, Mr. WILKSON of Texas, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. BARN, Mr. BARTON, Mr. FLORES, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. QUINN, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BEROMAN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. POLOQUIN, Mr. FREMONT, Mr. GOODLATTTE, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. LOUDERMILK):
H.R. 3548. A bill to make certain improvements to the security of the international borders of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee so concerned.

By Mr. PAULSEN:
H.R. 3549. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit with respect to a child eligible to be claimed as a taxpayer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:
H.R. 3550. To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to clarify that ASL students are English learners; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. MCCaul, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. HUH, and Mr. GARFIELD of Pennsylvania):
H.R. 3551. To amend the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006 to reauthorize the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism Program, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. CLEAVER (for himself and Mr. YORKER):
H.R. 3552. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require that teachers, principals, counselors, and other school leaders receive youth suicide awareness and prevention training; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MARINO (for himself and Mr. PELLMUTTER):
H.R. 3553. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to increase the amount of compensation paid to chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees for services rendered; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. MOUTLON, and Mr. MERHAN):
H.R. 3554. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for automatic recertification of income for income-driven repayment plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee so concerned.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK (for himself, Mr. MEXIA, Mr. DISSALIS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JORDAN, and Mr. ZEILIN):
H.R. 3555. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide that the definition of an "exchange" does not apply to a line of business the purpose of which is not to effect or report a transaction on an exchange; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROYCE of California (for himself and Ms. MOORE):
H.R. 3556. A bill to require Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to engage in credit risk transfer transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee so concerned.

By Mr. WALKER (for himself, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):
H.R. 3557. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the number of health care professionals employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs for improving the Veterans Affair's Education Debt Reduction Program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. BROOKS of Idaho (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CON Ver, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. PAYNE):
H.R. 3558. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to support the access of marginalized youth to sexual health services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. AGUILAR:
H.R. 3560. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to give borrowers an opportunity to correct a violation of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee so concerned.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. WALDEN, Miss GONZALEZ-COLON of Puerto Rico, and Mr. DUNN):
H.R. 3561. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit appraisers approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make appraisals for the purpose of such title based on inspections performed by third parties; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. O'ROURKE, Miss GONZALEZ-COLON of Puerto Rico, and Mr. DUNN):
H.R. 3562. A bill 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BARRAGAN (for herself, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. GÓMEZ):
H.R. 3563. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to recognize the service of veterans of the armed forces by providing a more navigable and accommodating pathway for veterans honorably discharged from the United States military to naturalize and seek citizenship and other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. CONVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. TONNEK, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TED LEU of California, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. LOFUGEN, Ms. CICILLINE, Ms. SHEAPORTER, Ms. RICE of New York, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. MCGOVERN):
H.R. 3564. A bill to amend the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to authorize the Director of the National Intelligence to carry out a program to develop a national database for individuals, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee so concerned.

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):
H.R. 3565. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for at least a $50 fee for the application of a contingent repayment program for Federal student loans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BLACK (for herself, Mr. ALBIO-SINCA, Mr. BARRAGAN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CLARKE of Massachusetts, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KATKO, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MOUTLON, Mr. NEAL, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAUSEY, Ms. SHAPIRO, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. DESAULNIER):
H.R. 3566. A bill to require manufacturers to disclose to consumers the presence of event data recorders, or "black boxes", on new automobiles, motorcycles, and other vehicles, and to require manufacturers to provide the consumer with the option to enable and disable such devices on future automobiles, motorcycles, and other vehicles; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CAPUANO (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. KATKO, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MOUTLON, Mr. NEAL, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAUSEY, Ms. SHAPIRO, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. DESAULNIER):
H.R. 3567. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide death benefits for campus police officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BARRIN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. YORIO, and Mr. FLORES):
H.R. 3570. A bill to amend part A of title II of the Clean Air Act to exclude trailers and other vehicles that rely on a connection to a self-propelled vehicle from the definition of a motor vehicle; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:
H.R. 3571. A bill to amend title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to require a plaintiff to provide a defendant with an opportunity to correct a violation of such title voluntarily before the plaintiff may commence a civil action, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Ms. BASS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. ELLISON):
H.R. 3572. A bill to carry out an income contingent repayment program for Federal Student Loan Programs for undergraduate students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. CONVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. TONNEK, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TED LEU of California, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. LOFUGEN, Ms. CICILLINE, Ms. SHEAPORTER, Ms. RICE of New York, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. MCGOVERN):
H.R. 3573. A bill to achieve domestic energy independence by empowering States to control the exploration, development, and production of oil and gas on all available Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. EVANS, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):
H.R. 3619. A bill to authorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States to use 3 percent of its profits for administrative expenses; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RUIZ: (for himself, Mr. ZARBAJAL and Mr. KHUEN)

H.R. 3620. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RUSSELL:

H.R. 3621. A bill to require subscribers to service through the Lifeline program of the Federal Communications Commission to reapply for such services on an annual basis; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Ms. HANABURU, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. DINIZELLE, Mr. BEYER, Mr. NOULTON, Mr. MOORE, Mr. KIHERU, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 3622. A bill to direct the Election Assistance Commission to establish the E-Security mission to provide information and training to public and private individuals who work on political campaigns with training in the best practices for election cybersecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Ms. HANABURU, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. DINIZELLE):

H.R. 3623. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to secure and heighten the integrity of elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Mr. GHEALYA, Mr. CALTWEBURG, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. NORTON, Mr. HECk, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 3624. A bill to authorize voluntary grazing permit retirement on Federal lands managed by the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior where livestock grazing is impractical, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 3625. A bill to require Senate confirmation of Inspector General of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition 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 jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 3626. A bill to amend the Bank Service Company Act to provide improvements with respect to the operations of banking agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida: (for herself, Mr. REINSCHMETZ, Mr. BASS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BURKE, Mr. DELOeff, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 3627. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to provide for the establishment of Youth Corps programs and the procedures for the youth corps; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 3628. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for employees who participate in quasipublic programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 3629. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to ensure that employees are not misclassified as non-employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 3630. A bill to provide a student loan borrowers' rights to basic consumer protections, reasonable and flexible repayment options, access to credit counseling, and effective loan cancellation in exchange for public service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 3631. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and title 5, United States Code, to allow employees to take, as an additional leave entitlement, leave to participate in or attend their children's and grandchildren's educational and extracurricular activities and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ELLISON (for himself and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 3632. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit fully refundable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. McEACHIN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. BARRAGAN, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.J. Res. 118. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to prohibit the States from abrogating the right of citizens to affordable, quality health care; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself and Mr. CONYERS):

H. Con. Res. 75. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the current Federal income tax deduction for interest paid on debt secured by a first or second home should not be further restricted; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. EVANS):

H. Res. 485. A resolution commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H. Res. 486. A resolution calling on the Government of Iraq to compensate the former residents of Camp Ashraf for their assets seized by groups affiliated with the Government of Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H. Res. 487. A resolution urging all Universities to designate and maintain a sexual assault coordinator or advocate who can be accessed by student victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking on campus and in the surrounding community; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H. Res. 488. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Attorney General to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House Representatives relating to the removal of former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Ms. PILOSI, Mr. MCCARTHY, Mr. HOYER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BUCKERS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. NELSON, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. LEVIN):

H. Res. 489. A resolution honoring Edward G. Grossman for his distinguished public service as the Senior U.S. Representative to the House of Representatives; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. DI LAURO (for herself, Mr. OWENS, and Ms. LEWIS):

H. Res. 490. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of “National Diaper Need Awareness Week” to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. GROTMAN, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H. Res. 491. A resolution a resolution affirming and recognizing the Khmer, Laotian, Hmong, and the other ethnic groups commonly referred to as Montagnards of Cambodia and Laos who supported and defended the United States Armed Forces and freedom in Southeast Asia; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. BASS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. BUTTERNBERG, Mr. CARSON of Georgia, Mr. BEYER of California, Mr. CLAY, Mr. KLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. EVANS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BISHOP of California, Mr. MOORE, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H. J. Res. 119. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide for the establishment of a public corporation to acquire, maintain, develop, and sell Federal land or other Federal property in the public interest; to the Committee on Natural Resources.
Defence and general Welfare of the United States of the United States Constitution.”

By Mr. COMER:
H.R. 3530.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

By Mr. GOSAR:
H.R. 3531.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (Spending Clause): The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense. . . ‘’The United States has incurred legal liability for which it has waived its sovereign immunity for illnesses and deaths associated with its Nuclear Weapons testing programs during the 1950s and 1960s. This bill is grounded in scientific principles, represents an intent to apologize and offer compassionate compensation to an expanded list of individuals who were not included in the 1990 Act but who, nonetheless, deserve restitution.”

By Mr. EVANS:
H.R. 3532.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution which states that Congress has the power ‘’to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers . . . ‘’

By Mr. CARBAJAL:
H.R. 3533.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power To . . . provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States of America

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Ms. ESHEH, Mr. JACKSON LEE, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLON of Puerto Rico, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. EVANS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. KATUXI, Mr. COHEN, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. SHARICE DAVIS-JONES) of Georgia): “PCOS Awareness Month”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:
H.R. 3529.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and the Necessary and Proper Clause): ‘’The Congress shall have the 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 any Department or Officer thereof.’’

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. ZALEZ of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JACOBSON, Ms. MURDOCH, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas) of Texas): “PCOS Awareness Month”.

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:
H.R. 3528.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 13 of Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution which states that Congress has the power ‘’to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers . . . ‘’

By Mr. RUSH:
H.R. 3530.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power To . . . provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States of America

Amendment V: ‘’No person . . . shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation . . . ‘’

Amendment XIV, Section 1: ‘’No state shall . . . deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law . . . ‘’

By Mr. RUSH:
H.R. 3534.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 13 of Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. MARLENEE:
H.R. 3534.

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 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. POE of Texas:
H.R. 3541.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution which states that Congress has the 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.’’

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:
H.R. 3542.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution of the United States of America

By Mr. STEWART:
H.R. 3543.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LYNCH:
H.R. 3544.

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. MURPHY of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 3545.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:
H.R. 3546.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ISSA:
H.R. 3547.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 13 of Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States of America, ‘’To make all
By Mr. McCaul: H.R. 3548.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8, clause 1; and Article I, section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. Paulsen: H.R. 3549.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. Larsen of Washington: H.R. 3550.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 1 - all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Ms. McSally: H.R. 3551.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1; and Article I, section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. Cleaver: H.R. 3552.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 1.

By Mr. Marino: H.R. 3553.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause “To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States.”

Article III, Section 1, Clause 1 in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause “The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behavior, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.”

By Ms. Bonamici: H.R. 3554.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. Loudermilk: H.R. 3555.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. Royce of California: H.R. 3556.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States);

By Mr. Walden: H.R. 3557.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States);

By Mrs. Brooks of Indiana: H.R. 3558.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. Adams: H.R. 3559.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

The Congress shall have the 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; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. Aguilar: H.R. 3560.
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. Arrington: H.R. 3561.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. Barragan: H.R. 3563.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 1 and 8.

By Mr. Beter: H.R. 3564.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mrs. Black: H.R. 3565.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
(a) Article I, section 1, to exercise all legislative powers vested in Congress as granted by the Constitution;
(b) Article I, section 8, clause 18, which gives Congress the authority “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.”

(c) Article IV, section 3, clause 2, stating that, “The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States;” and
(d) Article I, section 8, clause 17, providing that, “The Congress shall have Power To... exercise exclusive Legislative in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States.”

By Mrs. Bustos: H.R. 3566.
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. Calvert: H.R. 3567.
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 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. Capuano: H.R. 3568.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. Capuano: H.R. 3569.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. Carter of Georgia: H.R. 3570.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 which grants to the Congress 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.

By Ms. Castor of Florida: H.R. 3571.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. Cicilline: H.R. 3572.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. Cicilline: H.R. 3573.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. Clark of Massachusetts: H.R. 3574.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, United States Constitution.

By Mr. Cohen: H.R. 3575.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. Collins of New York: H.R. 3576.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. Costa: H.R. 3577.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 18, which allows Congress to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution any of Congress’s enumerated powers, including Congress’s powers over appropriations, or just simply Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois: H.R. 3578.
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 of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Ms. DeLauro: H.R. 3579.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. DeSaulnier: H.R. 3580.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. DESAULNIER:
H.R. 3592.

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 of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LEVIN:
H.R. 3591.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LOEBACK:
H.R. 3594.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:
H.R. 3593.

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 of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Texas:
H.R. 3594.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution to “provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 3595.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. LEE:
H.R. 3596.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KILMER:
H.R. 3597.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KIND:
H.R. 3598.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:
H.R. 3599.

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 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MILLER:
H.R. 3600.

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 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:
H.R. 3601.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Amendment XIV, Section 2 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee:
H.R. 3602.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional Authority on with this bill rests in the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in commerce, in, and among the states, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution. In addition this legislation rests on the power of Congress to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Ms. LEE:
H.R. 3602.

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 of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. PAYNE:
H.R. 3613.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 Clause 3—Congress has the ability to regulate commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. PAYNE:
H.R. 3613.
By Mr. POLIQUIN:
H.R. 3614.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States:
The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States—
By Mr. POSEY:
H.R. 3615.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States:
The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States:
The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. RICHMOND:
H.R. 3616.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill.

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

Further, this statement of constitutional authorization is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. RICHMOND:
H.R. 3617.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill.

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

Further, this statement of constitutional authorization is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. STIVERS:
H.R. 3625.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution:
Congress shall have the authority to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:
H.R. 3626.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution:
Congress shall have the authority to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:
H.R. 3629.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:
H.R. 3630.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:
H.R. 3631.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. YODER:
H.R. 3632.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution:
The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. McCARTHY:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article V, U.S. Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS
Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 12: Mr. PIRLMUTTER and Mr. GOMEZ.
H.R. 19: Mr. SEXTONS.
H.R. 25: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 33: Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 113: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 125: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 173: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 252: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 285: Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 365: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 370: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 449: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 490: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 532: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 545: Mr. CHAKOT and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 631: Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 632: Mr. GALLEGO and Mrs. BRATTY.
H.R. 676: Mr. GOMEZ.
H.R. 719: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. DUNN, and Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 731: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 741: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 747: Mr. BRIDEN B. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H.R. 754: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ADENDHOLT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 770: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 792: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia and Mr. WALBEN.
H.R. 820: Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 823: Ms. SVIEBRE.
H.R. 825: Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 828: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.
H.R. 849: Mr. RICHERT.
H.R. 850: Mr. BILLINGS, Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 908: Mr. SENSENHIEBNER and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 915: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 930: Mr. Cramer, Mr. GARETT, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 970: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 972: Mr. DEPAZZO.
H.R. 1022: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 1037: Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 1096: Mr. SHERS and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1099: Mr. PHILMUTTER.
H.R. 1136: Ms. FOXX and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 1158: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. KAPUT, and Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 1164: Mr. LOUDERMILKE, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3346: Ms. Velázquez, Ms. Barragán, Ms. Adams, Mr. Evans, Ms. Norton, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Ms. Shea-Porter, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Soto, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Espaillat, and Ms. Titus.
H.R. 3361: Ms. Pingree.
H.R. 3394: Mr. Loebsack and Mr. Mullin.
H.R. 3396: Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania and Mrs. Walorski.
H.R. 3414: Mr. Rush.
H.R. 3415: Ms. Sewell of Alabama.
H.R. 3421: Mr. Rush.
H.R. 3425: Mr. Burgess.
H.R. 3440: Ms. Lofgren and Mr. Coffman.
H.R. 3441: Mr. Estes of Kansas, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois, Mr. Brat, Mr. Yoder, Mr. Marshall, Mrs. Comstock, and Mr. MacArthur.
H.R. 3443: Mr. Higgins of New York and Ms. Fudge.
H.R. 3452: Mr. Sessions and Mr. Cullerton.
H.R. 3462: Ms. Norton.
H.R. 3466: Ms. Judy Chu of California.
H.R. 3473: Mr. Ellison.
H.R. 3492: Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois.
H.R. 3513: Mr. Collins of New York and Mr. Higgins of New York.
H.R. 3516: Mr. Ellison and Mr. Correa.
H.J. Res. 31: Mr. Ruiz.
H.J. Res. 51: Mr. DeSantis and Mr. David Scott of Georgia.
H.J. Res. 61: Mr. Sam Johnson of Texas.
H.J. Res. 88: Mr. Ted Lieu of California.
H.J. Res. 90: Mr. Cohen.
H. Con. Res. 10: Mr. Shimkus.
H. Con. Res. 27: Mt. Rush, Ms. McCollum, Mr. Garamendi, Mr. Tonko, and Mr. McNerney.
H. Con. Res. 63: Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Mr. Sarbanes, Ms. DelBene, and Mr. Soto.
H. Con. Res. 73: Mr. Franks of Arizona.
H. Res. 129: Mr. Byrne, Mr. Costa, Mr. Moolenaar, and Mr. Gallagher.
H. Res. 318: Mr. Emmer.
H. Res. 327: Ms. Judy Chu of California.
H. Res. 359: Ms. Rosen.
H. Res. 394: Mrs. Lowey.
H. Res. 401: Mr. Evans and Mr. Aguilar.
H. Res. 436: Mr. Evans, Mr. Cohen, and Ms. Ester of Connecticut.
H. Res. 443: Mrs. Napolitano.
H. Res. 455: Mr. Garrett, Mrs. Dingell, and Mr. Cartwright.
H. Res. 457: Mr. Smith of Washington.
H. Res. 461: Mr. Aguilar.
H. Res. 466: Mr. Soto, Ms. Norton, Mr. Conyers, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Ryan of Ohio, and Mr. Yarmuth.
H. Res. 474: Ms. Jayapal.
H. Res. 477: Mr. Dunn.
H. Res. 479: Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. Sánchez, Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois, and Mr. Thompson of California.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION RELATING TO ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS

— SPEECH OF HON. KEITH ELLISON OF MINNESOTA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, people’s legal rights have been limited by the use of forced arbitration clauses in contracts for consumer financial products and services. Forced arbitration clauses, also called mandatory pre-dispute clauses, prevent cheated or defrauded action law consumers from going to court to challenge wrongdoing by banks, cell phone providers, auto leasing and auto financing firms, credit repair, payday lenders, debt collectors and credit card companies. Most arbitration clauses for financial products also prohibit consumers from participating in class actions. Forced arbitration clauses have been opposed by conservatives and progressives.

Forced arbitration is a secret process where consumers seek redress at private firms chosen by the financial institution. This rigged system is why banks and lenders receive more than a million dollars per year paid out to them by their customers in forced arbitration, compared to just $6,216 returned to consumers. While advocates for the financial sector are correct that (sixteen) consumers recover an average of $5,400 in arbitration every year, they leave out the fact that banks and lenders receive an average award of $13,195 when they win—and they win 93 percent of the time. Indeed, a recent report found that consumers paid more restitution to Wells Fargo in arbitration than the other way around between 2009 and 2016, the prime years of its fake account scandal.

After years of effort, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau finalized a rule restoring American consumers’ rights to join together in court when harmed by systemic and widespread misconduct in the financial marketplace. The rule does not eliminate forced arbitration, but it would make individual secret arbitration more transparent by publishing arbitration complaints and outcomes. It also permits ombuds.

Instead of celebrating a rule that prevents financial interests from evading responsibility, Republicans seek to stop this rule under the Congressional Review Act (CRA). Today, they presented H.J. Res. 111. It is a vote to prevent consumers from receiving adequate compensation for fraud, deceptive and predatory practices.

A vote for H.J. Res. 111 is a vote to deny Americans their constitutional right to access the legal process.

H.J. Res. 111 would protect companies like Wells Fargo that used arbitration clauses and class action bans to create fraudulent accounts, overcharge customers with debit fees and mortgages and avoid responsibility for misconduct. H.J. Res 111 would remove federal protections for members of the military from evictions and repossessions while they are on active duty. And, H.J. Res. 111 would deny consumers the ability to get fair compensation for harm.

For those reasons, and more, we urge you to reject a resolution that shields companies from responsibility for risky and illegal conduct.

Today is another example to show the American people just how much Republicans want to rig the system for the powerful. A vote FOR this resolution is a vote to rig the rules to take money from the pockets of the American people and put it into the pockets of the financial sector.

H.J. Res. 111 puts the profits of banks, student loan, car loan and mobile wireless providers, credit card companies, payday lenders, debt collectors over the fair treatment of the American people.

How?

For far too long, people’s legal rights have been limited by the use of forced arbitration clauses in contracts for consumer financial products and services. Forced arbitration clauses, also called mandatory pre-dispute arbitration clauses, prevent cheated or defrauded American consumers from going to court to challenge wrongdoing.

If your bank opens a fake account in your name, if your student loan lender refuses to adjust your loan due to your loss of income, if your bank re-orders your debit transactions to maximize overdraft fees, it was frequently impossible for you to join with others to sue the bank as part of a class action.

But two weeks ago, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau responded to demands from consumers and changed the rules to protect consumers. The Consumer Bureau told banks and lenders they cannot keep their customers out of court. Class action lawsuits must be allowed. And, the Consumer Bureau ended the secrecy that surrounds the arbitration courts. Companies must report court filings, arbitration filings.

The vast majority of the American people, consumer groups like the Consumer Federation of America, the Military Coalition, and even conservative groups oppose forced arbitration.

A vote AGAINST H.J. Res. 111 is a vote to allow people to receive adequate compensation for fraud, deceptive and predatory practices.

A vote AGAINST H.J. Res. 111 is a vote to give Americans their constitutional right to access the legal process.

Please join me in voting against H.J. Res. 111.

I include in the RECORD various statement of opposition to the joint resolution.

[From National Consumer Law Center, July 2017]

SUMMARY OF CFPB RULE ON FORCED ARBITRATION

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has issued a rule addressing the use of forced arbitration clauses in the fine print of financial contracts. The rule has two components:

1) Restores consumers’ day in court and accountability when companies engage in widespread violations of the law. Contracts that have forced arbitration clauses will not be permitted to ban consumers from banding together by joining or bringing class actions involving consumer financial services.

2) Brings transparency to the secretive arbitration process. Companies that use forced arbitration in individual cases must report court filings, arbitration claims and rulings and other information to the CFPB (with identifiable information redacted) so that the CFPB can study the impact of forced arbitration in individual cases.

The rule applies to the core consumer financial markets involving lending money, storing money, and moving or exchanging money. With some exceptions, the rule would cover most:

- Loans and credit, including credit cards, payday loans, student loans, and auto loans (auto finance companies, not auto dealers, except some buy-here/pay-here dealers).
- Mortgages are already prohibited from having forced arbitration clauses.
- Affinity and economic partnerships with attorneys, arbitrators, supports, and other kinds of debt even if not credit related.
- Check cashing, check collection, check guaranty services.
- Auto leases, but not auto dealers who assign their leases.
- Debt collection and payment processing related to these products or services.
- Mobile wireless providers that allow third party charges through the wireless bill.

Key areas that are not covered include: Auto dealers (other than some buy-here/pay-here dealers), such as claims related to discrimination, advertising, odometer fraud, or deception about a car’s history.

For-profit colleges and trade schools, unless the school directly makes loans.

Credit cards, bank accounts and other products begun before the rule goes into effect.

Services offered directly by governments or tribes to members within their jurisdiction. The rule does apply to tribal payday lenders who offer products off-reservation.

Investment products and services by entities regulated by the SEC.

Individuals and others who offer a product or service to 25 or fewer consumers a year.

Nonfinancial products and services, like nursing homes, cable/mobile providers (except for third party charges on bills), employers, or store payment plans that don’t charge.

The rule applies to new contracts entered into 211 days after a final rule is published (likely Spring of 2018) and older contracts that are purchased or acquired after that date.

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.
Re OPPOSE H.J. Res. 111, Congressional Review Act resolution to repeal CFPB arbitration rule and block future reform of forced arbitration.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Americans for Financial Reform and Public Citizen write to urge your support of H.J. Res. 111, the resolution to repeal the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB’s) arbitration rule under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) and block any similar future rule that would allow banks and other financial institutions to force consumers to arbitrate their disputes. We write to express concern that the CFPB’s arbitration rule provides a fair alternative for consumers compared to class action lawsuits, and that it is worth preserving.

Forced arbitration clauses waive a consumer’s right to sue as a member of a class action lawsuit and allow financial institutions to force consumers to arbitrate their disputes. While Congress has taken steps to ban forced arbitration in the mortgage and auto finance sectors, the CFPB’s arbitration rule would ensure that banks and other financial institutions as a class are not able to do so. In particular, this rule would prevent financial institutions from banning the right to jury trial and eliminate forced arbitration in the credit card, deposit, prepaid card, and pay day loan sectors.

According to a 2016 poll conducted by Pew Charitable Trusts, nearly 90% of consumers want their right to join together in a class action lawsuit restored. More than 100,000 individual consumers across the country wrote in to support the rule during its public comment period, as did the Military Coalition, representing 5.5 million servicemembers. Two weeks ago, 310 consumer, civil rights, faith, and labor organizations wrote to support the rule.

All available data supports the conclusion that class action lawsuits hold bad actors accountable and enable harmed consumers to be made whole. Without the option to join together to vindicate rights worth billions of dollars, more than 100,000 individual consumers across the country wrote in to support the rule during its public comment period, as did the Military Coalition, representing 5.5 million servicemembers. Two weeks ago, 310 consumer, civil rights, faith, and labor organizations wrote to support the rule.

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All available data supports the conclusion that class action lawsuits hold bad actors accountable and enable harmed consumers to be made whole. Without the option to join together to vindicate rights worth billions of dollars, more than 100,000 individual consumers across the country wrote in to support the rule during its public comment period, as did the Military Coalition, representing 5.5 million servicemembers. Two weeks ago, 310 consumer, civil rights, faith, and labor organizations wrote to support the rule.
the Military Coalition, which represents nearly 6 million uniformed service members, veterans and their families, has formally petitioned Congress to ban the clause.

2. Unconstitutional. Question: If binding arbitration clauses are so bad, why are they so common? Because a series of Supreme Court rulings (the most recent one in May) have now overturned, the traditional common-law understanding of arbitration. In past centuries, arbitration was understood as a voluntary option that is fair only when both parties are of roughly equal bargaining power or else have agreed to it freely after a dispute has arisen.

In lieu of that reasonable understanding, the CFPB has substituted a doctrine “right of contract” that allows a powerful party to effectively force a weaker party to waive his or her constitutional right to sue, before a dispute has arisen and often without informed consent. This transformation defies common sense and severely weakens Americans’ Seventh Amendment right to a jury trial.

Today, arbitration has devolved into a private star-chamber that’s stacked in favor of the corporation—which, unsurprisingly, usually wins.

Is the CFPB itself unconstitutional? Yes, in my opinion. But so is forced arbitration. And Congress has a duty to protect our right to a jury trial.

Instead of lashing out at the agency by overturning this regulation, Congress should do the right thing and amend the Federal Arbitration Act to make binding arbitration agreements truly voluntary for all Americans, as the Constitution requires. Having done so, it could then, at its leisure, reform (or, as I would prefer, abolish) the controversial agency.

3. A Political Loser. Those who vote to overturn this regulation will be placing themselves on the side of accused sexual harassers, corporate wrongdoers and unscrupulous payday lenders who exploit our troops. If Republicans are politically sensible—or just have an ounce of self-respect—they’ll take the high road and let this reasonable rule stand.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act. I am deeply disappointed that this bill includes a bipartisan provision that has been used for more than 15 years to justify ongoing military actions overseas. It is long past time for Congress to reassert our authority and responsibility to debate matters of military force. The Majority’s decision to remove this provision—which passed out of the Appropriations Committee with broad bipartisan support—shows a disregard for our duties and the legislative process. Additionally the bill bars any funds from being used to close the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, or to transfer detainees. For those reasons, I am strongly opposed to H.R. 3219 and urge my colleagues to vote no.

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I will vote against H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act, because it is not a responsible way to spend taxpayer money. The bill blows through the spending limits in the Budget Control Act. Responsible governing means making hard choices and spending taxpayer money wisely. This bill did not serve either of those goals.

I am particularly concerned about the $1.57 billion included in this bill to pay for the border wall between the United States and Mexico. For that much money, we could pay for over 94,000 students to get their four-year degrees at a UW-System school. Instead, we are spending that money on a project that will only balloon in price and cost even more to maintain. We need to make smart decisions about how to spend our limited resources. We should be investing in ourselves.

There are plenty of opportunities to pay for important defense priorities by eliminating waste in the Defense Department. In January of 2015, the non-partisan Defense Business Board released a report outlining opportunities for reform that would save $125 billion in defense spending. That report is now collecting dust. That is money we could be spending on important defense priorities like troop readiness, training, and equipment. This spending bill is another missed opportunity at reform.

Despite voting against the bill, I was happy to see $55 million provided to the VA to implement the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act. The funding will assist in increasing programs to help medical professionals and patients understand the risks associated with pain medication and examine alternative treatments. This will help address the opioid epidemic and give veterans and their families the tools they need and the accountability they deserve.

I understand how important it is to provide ample support for our military, which is why I recently voted in favor of the National Defense Authorization Act. Supporting the brave men and women who defend this nation is of paramount importance. We should not be inserting partisan riders into bills that should be bipartisan. I will continue to work with my colleagues to support our military and pursue fiscally responsible policies that invest in Americans.

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chair, I will vote against H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act, for the same reason: spending on a wall between the United States and Mexico.

This wall is not needed and the accountability they deserve. I am particularly concerned about the $1.57 billion included in this bill to pay for the border wall between the United States and Mexico. For that much money, we could pay for over 94,000 students to get their four-year degrees at a UW-System school. Instead, we are spending that money on a project that will only balloon in price and cost even more to maintain. We need to make smart decisions about how to spend our limited resources. We should be investing in ourselves.

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Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I will vote against H.R. 3219, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2018, also ironically named the, “Make America Secure Appropriations Act” (Roll no. 435). I commend House appropriators for their work on this bill and realize that putting it together was no easy task. However, due to several poison pill provisions and deep budgetary issues, I could not support it.

Most concerning, the bill contains $1.6 billion in funding to begin construction of a wall...
along the U.S.-Mexico border. A border wall serves only to instill fear and puts United States taxpayers on the hook for something that is unrealistically costly, and unnecessary. It's immoral and goes against our values as Americans.

There are also severe budgetary concerns.

The bill would increase defense spending more than $72 billion above limits set in the Budget Control Act. House Republicans have refused to work with Democrats on a new budget agreement, and without a budget resolution, the funding levels in this legislation would be subject to a sequester. H.R. 3219 is an affront to smart spending and a testament to misguided governing.

The legislation increases funding levels for several redundant weapons programs, including certain dangerous nuclear weapons programs. The prioritizing of weapons systems over our troops and veterans is wrong and will result in the hollowing out of the Army, Navy, and Air Force conventional forces. We need to set clear spending priorities.

In addition, the bill contains a number of provisions that impair our energy security and environmental policy requirements and important investments in renewable energy. It includes a rider that would prevent the federal government from protecting clean water and even exempts discharged dredged or fill material from clean water act requirements. The bill would also eliminate the Department of Energy’s advanced energy research program and the energy loan guarantee program and would slash energy efficiency & renewable energy investments by nearly $1 billion. The so-called Making America Secure Act even prevents agencies from collaborating on federal ocean policy concerns.

There was a bright spot. The House passed an amendment to defund painful experiments on dogs conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is critical that Congress work to strengthen animal protections, which is why I’ve laid out an ambitious agenda to help animals and crack down on abuse.

I hope we can work together going forward to pass a budget resolution that prioritizes appropriately.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

SPREECH OF

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Chair, I represent the First District of New Hampshire, which includes Pease Air Guard Base, formerly Pease Air Force Base. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I’m aware that our military’s historic use of perfluorinated chemicals or PFCs has not only polluted the groundwater of Pease and the surrounding area, but also of bases and their environs nationwide. That’s why I’m offering this amendment to authorize the Department of Defense to fund a nationwide health impact study—which the House-passed NDAA has just authorized—to be conducted by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry beginning in FY2018. Our service members, veterans, and other affected constituents deserve answers about how they and their children have been harmed by these chemicals, which are classified as emerging contaminants.

This contamination began in the 1970s, when more than 600 U.S. military fire-training sites used a fuel that contained perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). Testing conducted by the Department of Defense at many of these sites has found PFOA groundwater levels that exceed EPA guidelines many times over. At Pease, it is 12.5 times higher than the health advisory. The Department of Defense has so far spent $200 million assessing and remediating the water at many of these sites. The House report accompanying the NDAA has extensive language identifying this problem and directing the Department of Defense to report to the Committee on the process and timeline for identifying and resource-long term remediation on military bases or in the surrounding communities.

Because of the use of sites across the United States, contaminated drinking water now poses a nationwide public health threat. According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), PFOA is especially problematic because it can stay in the environment and in the human body for long periods.

Many peer-reviewed studies indicate health dangers of PFCs, including links to testicular, kidney, and thyroid cancer, liver damage, impaired immune system function, decreased fertility, and even developmental and reproductive impacts on fetuses and children. But the ACS says “more research is needed to clarify these findings,” because a comprehensive, long-term study of the health impacts of PFOA and PFOS has not yet been conducted.

That is why I see a clear and pressing need for this study. Our service men and women, veterans, and others who have been exposed to PFCs deserve answers on both the short- and long-term health impacts of these contaminants. Such definitive findings could enable them to take proactive measures, such as more frequent cancer screenings, to protect their own and their children’s health.

Knowing that groundwater contamination exists and understanding the clear danger of long-term health risks, we can begin to remedy past mistakes by supporting the launch of this much-needed study on behalf of our troops, our veterans, their families, and affected civilians. This is a debt we owe our troops and military families, defense civilian workers, and veterans who served on or lived near these bases.

Please support our amendment to give our military members and veterans, their families and children, in and around bases across our country, the answers they deserve.

RECOGNIZING LAMP HIGH SCHOOL IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the history and continued legacy of LAMP High School in Montgomery, Alabama. This Magnet school remains a significant testament to the success of public education in America, especially in the historic city of Montgomery.

LAMP, formally an acronym for Lanier Academy Magnet Program, was authorized to begin in 1984 as a magnet program in Lanier High School. As the Montgomery Board of Education saw that white flight away from integrated schools continued to increase, public education leaders affirmed that retaining racial balance in schools would allow for quality education for all students.

The first director of the program, Mary George Jester, brilliantly led this school to continually be the number one ranked public school in Alabama, a top 50 public school nationally, and the number one ranked magnet school in the nation in 2013, according to Newsweek and US News and World Report. What started as an idea by the Board of Education to combat white flight turned into a program with the philosophy that any student, regardless of background or race, could get the quality education they deserved. Mary George Jester relentlessly took that attitude into a community that was all too familiar with innovative ideas, a fervor for change, and the desire for equal opportunity. Montgomery remains the backstop of LAMP High School today as it boasts it’s racial, religious, and cultural diversity.

However, as the 2017 to 2018 school year approaches, LAMP will move locations for the third time in four years. After LAMP formed in an already existing high school in 1984, it finally received its own building in 1999. That facility, built in 1923, housed the first junior and senior high schools for African-American students, and was named after Henry Allen Loveless, a founding member of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. Subsequently, LAMP changed its acronym to what it is today: Loveless Academic Magnet Program—reflecting the name of that building. As students and faculty grew accustomed to their new surroundings and strived to get national recognition, the building they worked in slowly deteriorated. Finally, after 13 years, that building was deemed severely unsafe for a school, and the school was promptly moved in November of 2014 to a temporary, unused elementary school building a couple miles away downtown.

Nevertheless, LAMP persisted, with students, faculty, and administrators scrambling to get situated; this was not the first nor the last time LAMP would have to adapt to a new environment. The timeless philosophy Mary George Jester instilled in the program that education for all education leaders affirmed that retaining racial balance in schools would allow for quality education for all students.

LAMP’s second move, Ms. Jester retired after returning that year to be the principal, Ms. Jester’s philosophy remained as LAMP was informed that it would be moving again to a renovated portion of the closed down and vacant Montgomery Mall building. The brand new facility will reopen for students and faculty in August of 2017, which will complete its fourth and final move.

The push of education leaders in 1984 for LAMP’s success to transcend buildings thirty-three years later. Through community support and LAMP stands as a testament that public education creates developed
HONORING BRIAN ROSS LUCAS
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brian Ross Lucas. Brian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 222, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Brian has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Brian completed a landscaping project around a sign he also erected for Eagleville United Methodist Church in Eagleville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brian Ross Lucas for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2017 GRADUATING CLASS OF THE DODGE LONDON EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE SERIES

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the graduating class of the 2017 Dodge London Excellence in Public Service Series. Brandy Wells, Cindy Casaus, Debi Vandenoorn, Farhana Ahmed, Jeni White, Kristen Desmangles, Lauren Pembroton, Lisa Godzich, Dr. Shadow Asgari, Simone Hall, VicLee Jacobs, Bernadette Coggins and Yvonne Cahill have all distinguished themselves as impactful leaders in our community.

HONORING NAFCU NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

HON. SCOTT TAYLOR
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brian Schools on his recent selection to the Board of Directors at the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions, NAFCU.

Mr. Schools has been President and CEO of Chartway Federal Credit Union in Virginia Beach since 2015. Mr. Schools joined Chartway Federal Credit Union in 2008 and served as vice president of lending, corporate strategy officer, and corporate divisional president, until he assumed his current role.

Mr. Schools has more than 20 years of business leadership experience and holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Virginia Tech and a Master of Business Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has also served as a Board member of Chartway's We Promise Foundation, which provides financial support to make dreams and wishes come to life for children facing medical challenges.

He is known at his credit union as a highly capable leader who has the experience, the determination, and the drive to position Chartway for the opportunities and challenges ahead. Mr. Schools' business experience and leadership will bring a tremendous amount of expertise to the NAFCU Board.

I wish Mr. Schools the best of luck in his new role on the NAFCU Board, and look forward to working with him in this capacity. I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Brian Schools on this achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF PENTWATER

HON. BILL HUIZENGA
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the village of Pentwater, Michigan on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

On March 16, 1867, the former settlement of Pentwater was officially incorporated as a village by the Michigan Legislature. The Victorian homes and cottages scattered around the village remind visitors of Pentwater's historic past. Its first sawmill—opened in 1867—turned into a booming lumbering industry, including the largest shingle mill in the United States. As we look back at Pentwater's historic past, we hope to preserve that which has made it special.

From early on, Pentwater was known as a scenic resort destination. Today, with its picturesque location on Lake Michigan, Pentwater offers countless options for recreation and entertainment. Charles Mears State Park provides visitors the opportunity to hike, fish, sail and enjoy all that Lake Michigan has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the village of Pentwater, Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO DAN MATTHEWS

HON. BILL SHUSTER
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dan Mathews and thank him for his years of dedicated service to Congress and the American taxpayers. Dan has worked on the Hill for over 20 years, and, he has been a fixture on the staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as the Republican Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management for the last 14 years. The Subcommittee has a wide area of jurisdiction covering federal buildings and courthouses, the General Services Administration, and GSA leases and capital projects, the Smithsonian, the Kennedy Center, the National Gallery of Art, and numerous other federal facilities. In addition, Dan also staffed the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and the Response to Hurricane Katrina in 2006. He was one of the primary authors of the Committee’s investigative report, “A Failure of Initiative,” which led to the successful enactment of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act, and the establishment of the National Preparedness System and the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act.

In his time with the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Dan has had a leading role in the enactment of major pieces of legislation related to public buildings and emergency management. Most notably, during his tenure, he has overseen the passage and the initial implementation of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act (FASTA), which will shrink the size of government and help ensure savings by selling or redeveloping high value properties, consolidating federal space, and streamlining the disposal of unneeded assets; the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act, which gave FEMA clear guidance on its mission and priorities, and provided the legislative authorities needed to better partner with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments before, during, and after disasters; and the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act, which was the most significant legislative change to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) substantive authorities since the enactment of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974.

Dan has also worked tirelessly to save taxpayer money by reducing the cost of federal real estate, reducing waste in the federal courthouse construction program, coordinating efforts by agencies to reduce leasing costs through space reductions and consolidations, and pushing GSA to negotiate the best lease deals for the taxpayer. It comes as no surprise given his experience and efforts, that the Administration has appointed him Commissioner of GSA’s Public Buildings Service. I am confident in that role, Dan will continue the important work of ensuring GSA and other federal agencies continue to reduce costs and make smarter decisions in federal real estate to benefit the taxpayer.

In his spare time, Dan enjoys spending time with his family, his wife Lara and their two daughters, traveling, doing yoga, and rock climbing. Mr. Speaker, I want to join me in acknowledging Dan’s achievements during his tenure here in the House of Representatives and in wishing Dan the best of luck with new endeavors.

July 28, 2017
RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUBURN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

HON. JOHN KATKO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th Anniversary of the Auburn Correctional Facility in Auburn, NY.

The Auburn Correctional Facility has served Central New York diligently and without fail—never ceasing to operate 24 hours a day for seven days a week—for 200 years. The Auburn Correctional Facility has been an economic driver in Auburn and Central New York, creating jobs and boosting the local economy over the past two centuries.

I commend the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision for keeping the Auburn Correctional Facility operational for the last 200 years, and I wish the Auburn Correctional Facility continued success in the years to come.

FEDERAL COURT DECISION ON THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON ELECTION INTEGRITY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express deep concern about the recent Federal Court decision on the Trump Administration’s Presidential Advisor Commission on Election Integrity. The partisan commission led by Vice President Pence and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach sparked controversy on June 28th when they requested the names, date of birth, party registrations, partial Social Security numbers, and voting history of more than 150 million registered voters across America.

Immediately following this request, voting rights groups and civil liberty activists challenged the Commission on Election Integrity in Federal Court. Earlier this week, a D.C. federal judge ruled that the White House is exempt from federal privacy review requirements, permitting the Trump Administration’s commission to move forward with collecting voters’ personal information throughout the country. This decision is a setback to democracy, because it legitimizes the voter suppression efforts of this commission.

The creation of the Commission on Election Integrity is based on an inaccurate claim by President Trump that he would have “won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally.” It is also upsetting that the commission is using tax payer money to promote this false narrative.

Fortunately, the D.C. Federal Court’s decision will not be the final ruling on the legitimacy of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. Many other groups, including the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, have filed lawsuits in federal courts across the country to challenge the commission’s efforts.

With the seemingly constant attacks on voting rights, it is easy to become discouraged and disengaged. I challenge every American to draw inspiration from the foot soldiers of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Movement who risked their lives in the pursuit of unfettered access to the ballot. As old battles become new again, we must re-double our efforts to ensure equal access to the voting booth. That is why I proposed H.R. 2978—The Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2017. By restoring the full protection of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, we can address the problem of voter discrimination and help ensure all Americans, regardless of race and economic status, are able to exercise their right to vote.

HONORING TALENT IN GEORGIA’S FILM INDUSTRY

HON. DOUG COLLINS
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the success and bright future of the film industry in my home state of Georgia.

When Americans ventured out to see feature films like Spiderman: Homecoming and Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2 they watched movies that were shot 50 miles south of my home in Gainesville. Ten years ago, no one could imagine big ticket films such as these being produced here. But today, Georgia’s film industry yields an economic impact of over $7 billion.

The need for Georgians to keep up with the pace of this industry’s growth is crucial. Therefore, I want to take the time to commend the efforts that my northeast Georgia friends have taken to educate and inspire our youngest generation to get involved in film production.

Recently, the Hall County Library System hosted a film school that offered free classes to young students. There, students were taught how to draft their own movie scripts, shoot videos at different angles, and edit them in order to provide viewers with the best experience.

Additionally, I want to recognize Opal Littleton, a star on the rise from Dahlonega. She was recently cast as the role of young Charlotte Byrde on the show Ozark and is working with Clint Eastwood on his film, 15:17 to Paris.

The future of Georgia’s film industry is being paved by the talent of these young Georgians and the support that their loved ones give to them. I am excited to watch them grow and take on their own roles in the success of Georgia’s film industry.

HONORING DR. JOSEPH V. ERARDI, JR.

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr. upon his retirement as the Superintendent of Schools in Newtown, Connecticut. Dr. Erardi is a distinguished educator and administrator, and his legacy of fighting for Connecticut’s students will inspire the next generation of public servants.

Dr. Erardi has long been active in education in our state. He completed his undergraduate and Master’s degrees at Central Connecticut State University before earning his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Hartford. Before joining the Newtown Public Schools, Joe worked in school administration at Rockville High, Killingly High, and Manchester Public Schools. He then worked as Superintendent at the Southington, Watertown, and Bolton school districts in Connecticut before joining Newtown as Superintendent in 2014.

Joe’s leadership has been vital to support our local schools during a challenging time for our state and local governments. In November 2016, the Connecticut Boards of Education and Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents named Dr. Erardi as the Superintendent of the Year for 2017 in recognition of his dedication to students, teachers, and his district. What’s more, in spite of his demanding work at Newtown Public Schools, Joe found the time to teach at Central Connecticut State University and to share his experience with the next generation of educators.

On a personal note, I want to honor my friend Joe. He is a true educator, mentor, and citizen servant. Joe, we’ll miss you—but know that your service stands as a benchmark for all of us who care about education and about our communities. I extend him my best wishes for an enjoyable retirement with his wife, Sue, and children, Joe and Chelsea.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Joseph Erardi dedicated his career in public service to improving our public schools and ensuring Connecticut’s students receive a quality education. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY NURNBERG

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jerry Numburg for his many years of service to the Creston Volunteer Fire Department. After serving admirably for 45 years, Jerry has decided it’s time to hang up his boots.

Jerry joined the Creston Fire Department in 1972. Not only did he work calls for fires, but in the beginning, the volunteers also responded to ambulance calls. He has had experience with everything from house fires to train wrecks and has been the treasurer for the volunteer fire fighters for most of his tenure.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor representing Jerry in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in commending him for his outstanding service to the city of Creston and in wishing him nothing but the best in his retirement.
LEINENKUGEL’S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON KIND
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company. As every Wisconsinite knows, Leinenkugel’s is a staple of our state’s economy and has been for 150 years.

In my district, Chippewa Falls, WI is home to one of the original Leinenkugel breweries and is still proudly producing union made Leinenkugel beer today. In fact, Leinenkugel’s is not only one of the oldest continuously operating breweries in the United States; it is also the 4th largest craft brewer in our country.

Leinenkugel Brewing Company has also been a dynamic driver of tourism in my district and across the state of Wisconsin. The brewery’s visitor center, the Leine Lodge, draws over 125,000 visitors annually making it one of the most prominent tourist destinations in our great state of Wisconsin.

Leinenkugel’s success, however, is not only because they manufacture great tasting beer, but it’s also because they embody the Wisconsin notion of service to others.

The Leinenkugel family has a long history of public service, dating back to World War II when Bill Leinenkugel served as a United States Marine in the South Pacific. It was this same passion for service that propelled Bill’s 40-year career with the brewing company. Two of Bill’s sons, the fifth generation of the family to work for the brewery, Jake and Dick also served as officers in the United States Marine Corps.

In addition to their service as Marines, Dick Leinenkugel served as a County Board Supervisor in Waushesa County, WI and as Wisconsin’s Secretary of Commerce from 2008 until 2010. Jake Leinenkugel is retired from the company but continues to honor the Leinenkugel tradition of service as a Senior White House Advisor to the Veterans Administration.

The dedication for community involvement and support has been passed down through generations and continues to shape the way in which the Leinenkugel family does business in Wisconsin today.

Whether it’s brewing Leinenkugel beer in Chippewa Falls, WI or serving our country in the Marines, the Leinenkugel family consistently represents the hardworking values of all Wisconsinites.

With this in mind, I’d like to raise a Summer Shandy and congratulate the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company and Leinenkugel family on 150 years of dedicated service to western Wisconsin.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE JENNINGS MOXHAM

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE
OF MAINE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Katherine Jennings Moxham who passed away on July 7, 2017.

Katherine Jennings “Kate” Moxham, 46, a resident of Kennebunk, Maine, died Friday, July 7, 2017 at Maine Medical Center in Portland from injuries received in an accident while riding a bike from home to the town library. She was an advocate for education, literature, science, the environment and personal rights, regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation.

Kate was born May 5, 1971 in Kingston, PA, the daughter of Donald Bryden Jennings and Freda Ann Lockyer Jennings, and is a graduate of Merrimack College in North Andover, MA with a BA degree in history.

Kate was constantly seeking knowledge and educating. She loved reading, had a huge passion for libraries and learning, and was a constant advocate for both. She was vocal about what she stood for and fought for what she believed in. Having been awakened more recently (as she put it), Kate participated in the recent march for Women in Washington, DC, and in the March for Science in Boston.

Bringing people together to make connections and develop relationships, within her family, her wide circle of friends and her community was a hugely important part of her life. She was always the brightest light in the room wherever she was. Her laugh was infectious and her wit kept others in stitches. And her heart was as big as could be. She would help others without them needing to ask on a daily basis. And if they asked, she was right there.

One of Kate’s passions was literature, and getting kids within her realm to pick up on that passion in any way she could. She was a volunteer at the Kennebunk Free Library, and served on its board of Trustees, including a term as board chair. Kate worked as librarian in the Kennebunk School System, at the Sea Road School library, and also the Mildred L. Day School Library; created summer reading lists for all students from elementary grades through junior high, and created personal lists for students she knew so they would be challenged, intrigued, and enjoy the fun of a good book.

First and foremost was Kate’s love of her immediate family—husband Todd of 17 years, and sons Tyler (15) and Riley (13). She was a tireless advocate for Tyler and Riley in the school system and in life. She loved to travel and show them new places and things to expand their minds, and to show them how to live in a community, taking care of others. She was planning to go on next spring on a service trip with Tyler to Mississippi with a team from South Congregational Church.

Survivors include her husband Todd Moxham, two sons Tyler Moxham and Riley Moxham, all of Kennebunk, Maine.

DONATTI RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS FULBRIGHT AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Donatti of Pearland, TX, for receiving a Fulbright award to work on his Master of Science degree at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom.

Michael is a Rice University student studying environmental policy and management. His environmental policy program will cover corporate environmental sustainability, legal and economic frameworks and climate science, and will require him to write a thesis. Each year the Fulbright Program grants students the opportunity to study, research or teach English abroad in an effort to internationalize communities and campuses around the world. Fulbrighters focus on the conditions and changes facing regions face, as well as building valuable U.S. relationships.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Michael for receiving this Fulbright award. Keep up the great work.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF RON VAN GUNDY

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a respected constituent of mine, Ron Van Gundy.

Since 1968, Ron devoted his time and energy to the Roza Irrigation District in the Yakima Basin. His collaborative efforts throughout the years have guided the district through several major droughts, enhanced water quality, and improved conservation efforts.

In Central Washington, water is often times a luxury, and it takes an intelligent, visionary mind to navigate the unique irrigation challenges that face our farmers. Ron exhibited an unmatched sense of leadership and cultivated strong relationships throughout the region and state-wide. He did all of this to gain support for one of Washington’s most important and vulnerable agricultural districts.

Ron will be missed by many, and I am proud to have worked with him. We can honor his legacy by continuing his work and demonstrating the passion he had for water solutions in Washington’s 4th District.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in remembering Ron Van Gundy.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT’S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Paramount on its 60th anniversary. I am deeply honored to represent this hub of innovation and history as part of California’s 40th Congressional District, and I hope my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to Paramount and its residents.

The City of Paramount was incorporated in 1957 after two communities, Hynes and Clearwater, merged. The unincorporated Hynes-Clearwater community staged a hard-fought campaign, “Save Paramount for Paramount,” contesting its annexation from surrounding communities, and secured the right to self-governance.

The city we now call Paramount has been home to a rich and enduring history. The city’s “Hay Tree,” where the price of the world’s hay used to be set each day, stands today as a...
State Historical Landmark, proudly representing Paramount's inspiring past as a major hay and dairy producer. Iceland, an ice rink opened in 1940 by Frank Zamboni and an early Paramount landmark, celebrates the city's rich ice skating history. Iceland has not only been a widely enjoyed community asset, but the training facility for professional skaters such as Olympic champions Sonja Henie and Dorothy Hamill. The world-famous Zamboni Ice-Resurfacing Machine, which Mr. Zamboni developed in Paramount, is a memorable illustration of the area's enduring spirit of innovation.

In the spirit of the city's motto, "Positively Paramount," residents of Paramount share a commitment to making the city the best it can be. Neighbors are proud community members, deeply committed to the city's growth and development.

The City of Paramount has transformed the Paramount Pond from a vacant lot riddled with blight to a unique and thriving plaza, whose artistic features encourage community and family-oriented values and celebrate ice skating history. Only a block from Frank Zamboni's ice rink, families, residents, and tourists can dine at three different restaurants, admire the beautiful bronze sculptures, and play on a miniature Zamboni Ice-Resurfacing Machine. At the heart of Paramount are the Civic Center Gardens, connecting City Hall, the community hospital, and the county library. The gardens are much-loved by Paramount residents, and reflect the city's commitment to innovation and community unification.

Paramount's commitment to redevelopment continues to this day. City leaders have recently come together to support a multimillion dollar campaign to revitalize more than 155,000 square feet of downtown Paramount. Paramount Town Center West and Paramount Town Center East have been renovated. A new, vibrant shopping center, Clearwater Crossing Shopping Center, has been completed. New outlets encourage community and family-oriented values and celebrate ice skating history. Only a block from Frank Zamboni's ice rink, families, residents, and tourists can dine at three different restaurants, admire the beautiful bronze sculptures, and play on a miniature Zamboni Ice-Resurfacing Machine.

Recognizing Maytha Sebasto

RECOGNIZING MAYTHA SEBASTO

Maytha Sebasto was born in Merced, California in 1937, the daughter of M.O. and Bertha Richards. The Sebasto Family Farm was established by her great-grandfather, Mr. Richards.

Maytha Sebasto graduated from LeGrand Elementary School, teaching primary grades at Tielman Elementary, Birney Elementary, and Columbia. Maytha joined the faculty at Ewing Elementary in 1967. In 1990, she became the principal of Amber Elementary where she remained until her retirement after more than 35 years of teaching. Maytha was beloved by her students and spent the last 15 years of her career teaching Kindergarten.

Maytha caught the eye of a young soldier, Alfred Sebasto, at a dance. The two were married on December 29, 1962. For the first year of their marriage, Maytha and Alfred lived in Augustus, Germany, where Alfred was stationed in the U.S. Army. Thereafter, the two moved back to the Sebasto Family Farm on the Eastside of Fresno County to raise their family. Maytha and Alfred are the proud parents of two loving daughters, Theresa and Alfreda.

Maytha not only assists her husband in the family farming operation, but she also volunteered for the Farm Bureau "Ag in the Classroom" program, teaching students and teachers more about the industry of agriculture and its importance to our community. Since her retirement from teaching, Maytha has become an accomplished watercolor artist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Maytha Sebasto as she celebrates her 80th birthday. I ask that you join me in wishing her and her family continued health and happiness.

Supporting Legislation to Reduce Sexual Assault on College Campuses

Hon. Terri A. Sewell of Alabama in the House of Representatives, Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to speak in support of the Campus Accountability and Safety Act and the Megan Rondi Act. During August recess, student-athletes return to their universities, some will be freshmen, going to college for the first time. Therefore, I hope that Congress can take decisive action and pass these bills when we return in September. It is our responsibility to ensure all students are safe and secure when they are away from home pursuing their college education.

We cannot ignore the rise of sexual assault on college campuses across this country. RAAN, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, reports one in six women in our nation have been the victim of rape or attempted rape. College-aged women are three to four times more likely to experience sexual assault. Unfortunately when many of these women seek medical attention and justice through their universities, they find neither.

I urge all the members of Congress to support the Campus Accountability and Safety Act, the Megan Rondi Act and any other legislation that would protect victims of sexual violence on our college campuses.

In Recognition of the 40th Anniversary of McDave Park in Scranton, Pennsylvania

Hon. Matt Cartwright of Pennsylvania in the House of Representatives, Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th Anniversary of McDave Park, which will be celebrated on Monday, July 31, 2017. For four decades McDave Park has been an important part of Lackawanna County, providing residents and visitors with a place to have fun and enjoy the beauty and history of Northeastern Pennsylvania.
Since 1977, McDade Park has offered services and recreational amenities for everyone. The park's 180 acres include several sports fields utilized by athletes of all ages while nature lovers enjoy the park's hiking trail and ponds for fishing. Programs such as youth soccer, fishing derbies, and many others bring people together for some friendly competition. More recently, McDade Park has taken great strides to become more accessible to people of all needs. The Boundless Playground is a special structure added in 2009 which contains wheelchair-accessible slides and special sensory areas that allows children of all needs and abilities to have fun.

McDade Park has also helped bring past and present together by commemorating Lackawanna County's history. The Lackawanna Coal Mine tour, Pennsylvania Anthracite Museum, and Miner's Memorial are located at the park to preserve Lackawanna County's rich industrial past. The coal mine tour allows visitors to descend 300 feet underground via a mine car to explore a restored anthracite coal mine. In addition to the mine tour, McDade Park is home to memorials dedicated to honor Cancer Survivors and to commemorate the September 11, 2001 attacks on our country.

It is my honor to recognize McDade Park as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary. May the people of Lackawanna County continue to enjoy the beauty and history that McDade Park offers for many, many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FLORENTINO DURAN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Florentino “Tino” Duran.

Born and raised in San Antonio, Florentino Duran was an accomplished man. He persevered and managed to become Student Corps President, an ROTC Colonel, and editor of his high school newspaper. After high school, he served four years in the United States Air Force. Once he finished his service, Mr. Duran attended St. Mary’s University and received a bachelor’s degree in political science and a master’s degree in public administration.

Mr. Duran worked in a variety of capacities after graduating college. He served as executive assistant to both Mayor John Gatti and the Lyndon B. Johnson Administration. He also worked as executive director of the Bexar County Department of Housing, President of the National Association of Hispanic Publications of the United States (NAHP) and Vice President of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of San Antonio.

Later in Mr. Duran’s career, he became general manager of a Dallas newspaper known as “El Sol de Tejas”. He then became CEO and president of the “Hispanic Informer”.

In 1989, Duran and his loving wife Millie reintroduced the newspaper “La Prensa” as a bilingual publication reporting on San Antonio and the Hispanic community.

Mr. Duran’s successful career brought numerous recognitions, including the 2002 Media Award, presented by the San Antonio Police Association; the 2006 Community Service Award from the San Antonio-Norte Chamber of Commerce; and the 2005 Henry B. González Public Service and Integrity award, presented by the Department of Public Administration of San Antonio College.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize and honor the life of Florentine Duran of San Antonio.

HONORING MILJENKO “MIKE” GRGICH, RECIPIENT OF THE AMERICAN DREAM AWARD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Miljenko “Mike” Grgich, whom I have selected to receive the American Dream Award for California’s 5th Congressional District. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in my district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service. Mr. Grgich is very deserving of this award and recognition.

Mike Grgich was born in Desne, Croatia and studied winemaking and viticulture at the University of Zagreb before leaving to escape communism. He came to Napa Valley in 1958 where he has become a successful vintner and an innovator in the wine community.

After arriving in Napa, Mike learned from some of the best vintners in the region. He became a winemaker for Chateau Montelena and made the Chardonnay that won the 1976 Paris Tasting, forever changing the way the world views American Wine. George Taber documented this consequential decision in a September 1976 American magazine: “The Judgment of Paris.” The resulting coverage of the Judgment of Paris created an immediate positive impact on the world of wine, and inspired among experts, consumers, and the trade a new appreciation for California wines.

In 1995, Mike returned to the University of Zagreb at the age of 72 and finally received the degree in enology and culture that he earned as a young man. In 2002, he helped prove that the Zinfandel vine originated in Croatia. His work led to his induction into the Vintners Hall of Fame and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the California State Fair. His 366-acre property, Grgich Hills, is completely organic, solar powered and strongly supports community organizations. Mike is an active member of Roots of Peace, an organization that works to replace land mines with grape vines all over the world. In 2007, Roots of Peace presented Mike with their Global Citizen Award for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize Mr. Miljenko “Mike” Grgich for his achievements and for enriching our community. It is fitting and proper that we honor him here today with the American Dream Award.

HONORING YEHIA “JOHN” SHOUSHER ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Toledo area legend as he celebrates his 90th birthday, Yehia “John” Shousher. An American of Lebanese heritage and proud U.S. citizen and indefatigable Ambassador of Goodwill, Mr. Shousher has been a one-of-a-kind Arab American leader in Greater Toledo since he adopted the community as an immigrant to our nation.

Yehia, who with his brother ran a real estate investment company and J-S Vending, has been a leader in the Toledo community for decades as a civic-minded businessman as well as a Multi-Faith and Multi-Cultural Ambassador.

Yehia has served as an administrator, public relations representative, and fund-raiser in the Muslim community for many years. His generosity has been felt in many homes and organizations in our community. At the same time, he has diversity was recognized when he became one of the icons of Perrysburg Township: the mosque in Toledo, which was established in 1954 on East Bancroft Street. After the membership of the Mosque on East Bancroft Street outgrew the location, Yehia helped secure and plan the 48-acre campus that has become one of the icons of Perrysburg Township: the mosque in Toledo, which was established in 1983.

The Center has been a fulcrum of the Muslim and Interfaith communities, working to promote freedom and tolerance of religion and, together with his cherished wife Emney, Yehia has been an integral part of its inner workings and work in the larger community.

Always involved in events which promote cooperation among the faith and ethnic traditions in our community, Yehia’s dedication to cultural diversity was recognized when he became a 2013 inductee into the Heroes of Compassion Gallery for Toledo.

Yehia’s commitment to the Toledo community has been passed on to his children, Hussein, Lila, Mona and Mariam, his 10 grandchildren and his six great-grandchildren. When I think of John, I see him carrying the flag of Lebanon at the annual Multi Faith Council’s parade of nations at the University of Toledo on Martin Luther King holiday. I see him hospitably greeting guests with his wife Emney at events throughout our community welcoming new citizens. He has been instrumental in inviting religious leaders and public officials from throughout the world to visit Toledo and built our community into a place of gracious welcome.

I see him setting up exchange programs for students from Arab speaking countries to transmit the learning and values of a free society. He graciously took the time to include me on unforgettable travels with his family through the village of his ancestors and adjoining territories. The memories of that journey greatly inform my work.

Yehia with Emney at his side, and their bright smiles, have been indefatigable forces.
for good in our community for nearly a century. We wish them well in the coming years and consider our community fortunate to have them among us.

The Quran 7:199 teaches, “Show Forgiveness, Enjoin Kindness, Avoid Ignorance.” Yehia “John” Shousher has spent his life on this earth demonstrating this message through word and deed. His legacy is writ large in his faith community, his family, the land of his birth and our region.

We celebrate with Yehia as he reaches this milestone birthday of his 90th year. We take this moment to thank him for all he has done for so many in our community, for his leadership, for his efforts to promote mutual understanding and tolerance of diverse cultures and foster acceptance of our differences. Best wishes to both John and Emney as he celebrates this special milestone.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MAJ. CHARLES APPLEBERRY

HON. JASON SMITH
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the military service of Major Charles Appleberry of Flat River, Missouri. Major Appleberry was a medical doctor who enlisted in the Army on May 28, 1942 and served until his discharge on January 29, 1946.

As a member of the Army Medical Corps, he served in the South Pacific during World War II. He saved many lives, but one particular surgery is recounted in the Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune on November 1, 1944. It tells of how Dr. Appleberry removed a live Japanese 20 millimeter shell from the chest of Private Jackie Miles on the island of Leyte in The Philippines. The newspaper account explains how the doughboy clung to life, “un-aware that the group of tense medics were risking their lives to save him.” The article states how Major Appleberry firmly grasped the shell, removed it and safely lifted it to a tray for careful disposal.

After the war, Dr. Appleberry returned to St. Francois County but became his medical career at the Farmington State Hospital and Bonne Terre Hospital until his death in 1984.

Those who knew the doctor join with VFW Post No. 5741 in Leadington today to honor him for his 55-year career as a physician both at home and at war. I join them in recognizing Dr. Appleberry today before the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO WARREN B. ROLAND

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Warren B. Roland for his 50 years of service as a Funeral Director in Atlantic, Iowa. Warren was recognized today. I ask that the 137th Annual Iowa Funeral Directors Association Convention, Warren grew up in Atlantic where his father was a Funeral Director who served as a Presi-
threats to our European allies—and our military installation in Europe—is Russia’s concern over natural gas and oil. Putin constantly threatens to use these resources as means to exercise political and economic control on those who heavily rely on Russian fuels as their primary source of energy.

It is for these reasons that I was proud to join my friend and colleague from South Carolina, Representative Joe Wilson, in shining a light on this threat in the House Armed Services Committee report to accompany the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act.

Just as we focus on the risk to our forward-based troops, aircraft and ships, we must not overlook the risk to the installations from which they operate. The energy we rely on to power these facilities supports our troops, their families, and their vital mission.

As a matter of strategy, our military installations overseas require secure and reliable sources of energy. Today in Europe—particularly in Germany—our military facilities receive furnished heat and other utilities from commercial or private power stations. In many cases, these energy systems are fueled by gas from natural gas distribution systems which are heavily supplied with natural gas from the Russian Federation.

Our growing exposure to Russia’s ability to disrupt our energy supply lines is clearly shown in our network of military installations in Germany. I wish to call attention to one such facility: the U.S. Army’s future medical complex at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, nearby Ramstein Air Base where I was the installation commander. At an authorized cost of nearly $1 billion, this vital new facility will replace the Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center and serve the combat needs and family requirements of military personnel on three continents.

Mr. Speaker, I am gravely concerned that our current energy supply strategy will actually increase our exposure to harmful Russian influence over time. Under no circumstances should we construct and operate critical military installations overseas where the only source of energy comes from Russia. We must adopt a strategy of energy resilience through mixed-fuel diversification such that not one single source—such as Russian Federation gas—should serve as a primary supply of energy.

It would be financially irresponsible and strategically reckless to appropriate nearly $1 billion for a state-of-the-art military medical center to serve our troops and families overseas, only to have the design of the new facility compromise the very reason it exists by relying on the Russian Federation to supply natural gas as the primary fuel source. These local mixed-fuel energy supply options readily available and it would be inexcusable not to make them part of the design of this project. This is good strategy, good economics and just plain common sense.

We simply cannot allow ourselves to be put in a situation where Russia has the ability to cut off energy to our forward bases, especially when we could have averted this tragic vulnerability ahead of time.

The seriousness of the Russian energy threat to our overseas military installations is addressed in the 2018 House Armed Services NDAA report which directs the Secretary of Defense to make a comprehensive evaluation of these risks and report his findings and recommendations. I am pleased to see my colleagues in the House Appropriations Committee also took up this issue with similar language in the Military Construction Appropriations and Defense Appropriations bills that passed the House.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House and Senate—and especially all Members of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees—to join me in exercising aggressive oversight of this real and serious threat to our national security.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEB HENSARLING
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted YES on Roll Call Vote 433 and would like to have it reflected that I meant to vote no.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2017

HON. STEVE COHEN
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing alongside Rep. Dennis Ross of Florida, the Housing Accountability Act of 2017 to hold property owners of low-income housing accountable for poor living conditions.

This legislation would require the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to survey tenants living in subsidized housing owned or managed by the government, and rate their properties based on their conditions and management performance and create new penalties for property owners who repeatedly fail the tenant surveys.

The Housing Accountability Act comes in the wake of recent local and federal investigations that found deplorable living conditions at several federally subsidized-housing properties owned by the Governmental Ministries Foundation (GMMF) in Memphis, Tennessee and Jacksonville, Florida.

For too long, property managers like Global Ministries have taken advantage of HUD’s lack of effective oversight and over dependence on often unreliable third-party property inspections. As a result, it has continued to force our nation’s most vulnerable to live in squalor with impunity.

This bill seeks to put an end to these malpractices, hold federally-subsidized property managers to account, and provide HUD the necessary authority and directive to ensure that public housing units are suitable homes for all families, children, and hardworking Americans.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan, bicameral legislation and do right by the American public.

RECOGNITION OF MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL GRAND REOPENING

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the grand reopening of the Minnesota State Capitol after nearly four years of renovation.

Designed by renowned architect Cass Gilbert and inspired by the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair’s White City, an Italian Renaissance city-sized exhibit, the Minnesota State Capitol was celebrated as one of America’s finest state houses when it opened in 1905. Now, after nearly 30 years of planning and study, this great building has been reborn through renovation, restoration, and enhancements, including technological improvements.

The renovation extends the usable lifespan of the State Capitol by at least another century. The amount of public space has doubled to nearly 40,000 square feet, brand new public meeting rooms line the halls, the public will have more access and seating in hearing rooms, and a new information center for students and educators will enrich school visits. In addition, the renovation has made the State Capitol more accessible to all Minnesotans, especially those with disabilities.

When the State Capitol open its doors to Minnesotans this summer, the citizens of my home state will be able tour expanded public spaces, marvel at restored art and craftsmanship, and more effectively participate in our legislative process.

Thank you to all the workers for the hours of planning, design, building, and polishing our State Capitol back to its original grandeur. Congratulations to everyone involved.

JOHN MILLER RETIRES FROM THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

HON. PAUL COOK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of John Miller, who will retire from his position as the U.S. Forest Service Public Affairs Officer for the San Bernardino National Forest on July 31, 2017.

My office has had the pleasure of working with John over the past four and a half years. On numerous occasions, John demonstrated a willingness to go above and beyond to serve my constituents and forest visitors. He has repeatedly shown his dedication to the Forest Service’s mission and has been instrumental in balancing multiple and sometimes competing uses of the most heavily urbanized forest in the nation.

In addition to his work as a public affairs officer, John was the Public Information Officer for a Federal Interagency Management Team and served on the U.S. Forest Service Honor Guard. John is a true professional in every sense of the word, and I wish him the best of luck as he embarks on a new chapter in his life.
IN CELEBRATION OF JAMES W. PARISH AS 2017 AVIATION PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of James W. Parish, executive director of the Punta Gorda Airport, who was recently recognized as the 2017 Aviation Professional of the Year by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Every year, the Florida Department of Transportation honors one executive member of the aviation community with the title of Aviation Professional of the Year. The recipient is selected based on the management and logistical organization of their airport, as well as the safety and technological advancements that take place under their watch.

Mr. Parish earned this award because of the impressive progress that the Punta Gorda Airport has made under his leadership and his overall contributions to the Charlotte County community. During his tenure in Punta Gorda, Mr. Parish elevated the airport from one that only served the general aviation community to one that now offers commercial services and has brought over $200 million dollars into the local economy while serving over 1 million customers. Under his guidance, the airport has modernized and streamlined its safety protocols while still maintaining a low-cost business model.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Parish and thank him for all that he has done for the Punta Gorda community. He is truly deserving of the Aviation Professional of the Year award, and I am honored to represent him in Congress.

KATY GYMNAST WINS GOLD AT JUNIOR OLYMPICS

HON. PETE OLSON OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rowan Dumond of Katy, TX, for winning a gold medal for his floor routine at the U.S. Men's Junior Olympic National Championship.

I was both Rowan's first gold at the Junior Olympics and his first time competing there. The 12-year-old competed against 800 of the top junior gymnasts in the country. When not training at the gym, Rowan is also a student at Seven Lakes High School and plays percussion with the band.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Rowan for winning gold at the Junior Olympics. We are very proud of him and look forward to his future success as a gymnast. We're excited to have him represent TX-22.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF F. GAVIÑA & SONS, INC.

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize F. Gaviña & Sons, Inc., a coffee company located in my 40th Congressional District of California, in the city of Vernon. The company, one of America's largest family-owned coffee companies and the nation's largest privately held minority roaster, celebrates their 50th anniversary in 2017.

The history of this coffee company is a story about family. Brothers José María and Ramón Gaviña left their native Basque region of Spain in 1870, in search of a better life. They settled in the fertile mountains of southern Cuba and planted the seeds of what would become Gaviña Coffee.

Don Francisco Gaviña was born on the family coffee estate, Hacienda Buenos Aires. As a boy, he worked in the fields with his own father, watching and learning the secrets of growing quality coffee. He spent hours upon hours helping sow the seeds and urging the little plants to grow. The family left Cuba in 1959, and arrived in Los Angeles in 1963, where they put down roots. The family later leased a 1,100 square foot building in Vernon and purchased a small roaster from Bob's Big Boy Restaurant. By June 1967, when they founded F. Gaviña & Sons, Inc., they were roasting and selling Café Gaviña Espresso.

In the beginning, they focused on producing Cuban-style coffee, but eventually expanded into other coffees that appealed to Middle Eastern and Vietnamese coffee drinkers. About 35 years later, Gaviña's retail brand, Don Francisco's Coffee, had become the top selling coffee in Southern California, behind Folgers and Maxwell House.

The family began selling their coffee to a small group of McDonald's restaurants in 1983. In 2005, Gaviña created a stronger blend that resulted in a double-digit increase in the chain's coffee sales. According to the Los Angeles Times, by 2010, F. Gaviña & Sons, Inc. had become a $114 million business and was roasting 40 million pounds of coffee a year. A fifth of their revenue was coming from making and packing private label coffees for McDonald's, 7-Eleven, and Costco stores. Gaviña coffee brands were being sold in 20 states, and in stores like Ralph's, Walmart, and Vons / Safeway.

Don Francisco's sons, Paco, Pedro, and José, and his daughter, Leonor Gaviña-Valls, grew up on the plantation and learned about coffee in the fields. Along with their own children, they still personally select beans, cup samples as they arrive, and oversee the specialty coffee roasting and production every day. They do all of this so that their customers and guests can be assured a wonderful cup of coffee every time, from first sip to final drop. Today, they carry on the dream in their 240,000-square-foot eco-friendly, state-of-the-art coffee roasting facility, just a few blocks from their original 1,100 square foot building. Gaviña Coffee employs more than 250 people, and services businesses of all sizes—from mom and pop shops to multinational accounts. The company offers four leading U.S. coffee brands: Gaviña Gourmet Coffee, Don Francisco's Coffee, Café La Llave Espresso, and José's Gourmet Coffee.

In honor of their 50th anniversary, Gaviña Coffee created a special Anniversary Blend which is roasted in Los Angeles and uses beans grown on the award-winning Carmen Estate in Panamá by a third generation coffee-growing family. The Anniversary Blend, which entered the market on June 19, 2017, comes in a commemorative tin with a 10-ounce bag of ground coffee. Flavor notes in the new blend include caramel, honey, and ripe fruit with a chocolaty finish.

Fifty years have brought many changes to the original company, but one thing remains the same: Members of the Gaviña family still run the day-to-day operations of the company, with a new generation of Gaviñas poised to continue the pursuit of a great cup of coffee. Gaviña Coffee's 50th anniversary celebration includes: the opening of their first brick and mortar store in downtown Los Angeles, named Don Francisco's Coffee, Casa Cubana; the special anniversary blend; reaching the goal of 100% zero-waste-to-landfill; a continued commitment to leaving a greener coffee footprint through their Direct Impact™ initiative, which is based on four core pillars of dedication to farmers, sustainable sourcing, environmental sustainability, and social stewardship; continuing to donate coffee to local shelters and missions; and continuing to support organizations such as the Komen Race for the Cure, Avon Walk 39, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMNH), EnrichLA and the International Women's Coffee Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in raising our coffee cups to the Gaviña family and F. Gaviña & Sons, Inc. as we celebrate their 50 years of success. We look forward to the next 50 with great anticipation.

TRIBUTE TO SHERRY AND NEAL HANLEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sherry and Neal Hanley for being named the 2017 Earlham Freedom Fest King and Queen. This award is given to a couple that gives back to the community of Earlham.

Sherry and Neal moved to Earlham in 1976 to raise their children and attend Earlham schools. Since then, the Hanley's have served on a number of school projects to help bolster the community. They were on the original Freedom Fest committee and love the parade and how everyone comes together at the park. Both Sherry and Neal serve with the Earlham Lion's Club and with Early Chapel Christian Church. Neal is also a member of the American Legion and served as commander and chaplain.

Mr. Speaker, Sherry and Neal's hard work embodies the Iowa spirit and I am honored to recognize them and Cowans like them in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Sherry
and Neal for receiving this award and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

CELEBRATING THE SALEM COURTHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Salem Courthouse Community Center for its outstanding service to New York’s 21st District.

Founded by a group of dedicated local citizens, the Salem Courthouse Community Center provides a place for people of all ages to come together. Cognizant of its historic location in the Old Washington County Courthouse, the Center seeks to preserve our region’s history while creating opportunities for individuals to enjoy and strengthen our community in the present.

In service of this mission, the Center offers a wide variety of programs that foster artistic expression and community growth. The Center’s many facilities, including a community garden, pottery studio, and public kitchen, host instructive and enriching programs for both children and adults. This summer, the Center has hosted nearly 150 local children in their Lunch, Learn & Play program which provides active and educational fun for its participants.

On behalf of New York’s 21st District, I want to thank the Salem Courthouse Community Center for its dedication to bringing our community together. We commend its incredible service, and look forward to its future endeavors.

HONORING NICHOLAS HROMALIK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated member of my staff, Nicholas (Nick) Hromalik, who is leaving this week after serving in many capacities over the past six years.

Nick graduated from the University of California, San Diego, in 2009, but he began on the path of public service even earlier, working as an intern for Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN and then-Mayor of San Francisco Gavin Newsom while still in college. After graduation, he traveled to Washington to intern for my predecessor in Congress, Lynn Woolsey, and was soon hired to work for the Green Capitol Initiative at the CAO. In that role, he helped to support its growing student body and sustainability efforts to connect with local businesses and nonprofit groups. The Kids Fun Run is a fun part of the fair that helps children join in the fun and get active.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. STEPHEN HROMALIK, a dedicated member of my staff, who has served California’s second Congressional district with distinction, staffing me on issues as diverse as health care, agriculture, trade, energy, and education.

In the six years he has had the pleasure of working with him, Nick has never lost sight of our mission—to solve problems and make a positive difference—and he has maintained deep connections to California that have served him well in his career. He has championed causes that needed a champion, from special education to clean energy, and he has maintained his good humor and dedication throughout.

My family, my staff, and I all wish him and his fiancee Colleen Kilbride all the best as they travel to Chicago for the next step in their careers.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE NEW STONEGATE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY CAMUS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate StoneGate Christian Academy on the opening of their new school campus, located in Irving, Texas. Founded in 1976 as a ministry of the Shady Grove Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, StoneGate Christian Academy was built to foster the educational and spiritual needs of the prospering communities that made up its congregation.

In 2008, the Academy’s board of directors faced the tremendous hardship of having to relocate their campus to two separate buildings, neither of which possessed the facilities to adequately house StoneGate Christian Academy’s growing student body. By the grace of God, StoneGate Christian Academy continued to grow for the next nine years. During this time, StoneGate leased practice venues for its sports teams, band, choir, and drama programs, in order to ensure its students access to their sports and award-winning fine arts programs.

In 2014, word began to spread that the Lakewood Baptist Church in Irving, Texas, was considering selling its property. After two years of discussion and prayer, Lakewood Baptist Church’s board of directors reached a decision to sell the property to StoneGate Christian Academy in December of 2016. For the next seven months, StoneGate worked tirelessly to raise enough funds to complete the purchase of its new academy campus, which includes a schoolyard, auditorium, and gym. Through the tireless efforts of alumni, students, parents, teachers, and staff, StoneGate Christian Academy now has adequate facilities to support its growing student body and sustain this growth well into the future.

Today, StoneGate serves as one of the most affordable private Christian schools in North Texas, providing an outstanding education to its students and teaching valuable lessons about community service and civic duty.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize StoneGate Christian Academy and congratulate them on the opening of their new campus in Irving, Texas. I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating StoneGate Christian Academy for this monumental achievement.

HONORING NEW MILFORD VILLAGE FAIR DAYS

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the annual New Milford Village Fair Days, sponsored and organized by the New Milford Chamber of Commerce. Village Fair Days is the highlight of the summer in New Milford, and the festival brings thousands of people together for two days of shopping, eating, and playing on the town’s village green.

Since its inception in 1967, New Milford Village Fair Days has grown to be the largest annual event in New Milford. Bob Hanna, the Chair of the Fair, planned a special way for the community to commemorate five decades of the festival. This year, fairgoers can make a wish and donate to a local nonprofit of their choice at the Wishing New Milford Well. Village Fair Days brings together our community to enjoy live entertainment and games, as well as to connect with local businesses and nonprofit groups. The Kids Fun Run is a fun part of the fair that helps children join in the fun and get active.

Mr. Speaker, New Milford Village Fair Days has brought together our neighbors for five decades. Thanks to the event’s sponsors, organizers, and volunteers, we can look forward to the annual event for many years to come. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor New Milford Village Fair Days here today.

HONORING FALLEN CLINTON COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPUTY

HON. GLENN THOMPSON
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as flags throughout the Commonwealth are lowered to half-staff in honor of Clinton County Sheriff’s Deputy Stephen Henroid who died unexpectedly on Thursday, July 20.

Stephen was 30 years old and had served as a sheriff’s deputy for the last year and a...
half. He and his wife, Kelly, had just welcomed Brock—their first child 10 days before his death.

On Wednesday, more than 100 members of law enforcement from near and far lined the auditorium at Central Mountain High School to say goodbye.

Clinton County Sheriff Kerry Stover said Stephen was the first deputy he’d hired after being elected sheriff. At Stephen’s service, he said:

He was outstanding. He took his job seriously... He served his community. He helped people. He comforted people. He was polite and courteous. He projected law enforcement in a positive way... He trusted his heart and he did it right.

Mr. Speaker, Stephen’s sendoff was awe-inspiring, which was a fitting goodbye for a man who served his community with distinction and honor. Stephen will be missed, but his memory will live on forever.

HAPPY 104TH BIRTHDAY TO ANNIE QUEEN

HON. DOUG COLLINS
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Annie Galloway Queen, a northeast Georgian who recently celebrated her 104th birthday.

Annie has been a part of our community since her birth in 1913. She learned to value hard work at an early age, and her life illustrates the strength and diligence that characterizes America’s Greatest Generation.

Like many in that generation, Annie and her husband struggled through the Great Depression, which taught them to make the most of what little they had. Rather than mourn their lack of physical possessions, Annie educated her children in the spiritual dimension of life, teaching them to rely on their faith during life’s most challenging seasons.

Mr. Speaker, it is a blessing to spend birthdays surrounded by loved ones. I am thankful to know that that is how Annie spent hers—sharing with family and friends the wisdom that she has gained over 104 years.

I am honored to be Annie’s neighbor and ask that you join me in wishing her happy 104th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT SAM BALDWIN

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sam Baldwin of Clarinda, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Sam is a 2017 graduate of Clarinda High School and has earned the 21 merit badges that are required to obtain the honor of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout designation is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the award. It is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. One of the requirements is to place near the main entrance of the St. Clare Catholic Church in Clarinda, Iowa as his Eagle Project. The work ethic Sam has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes about his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Sam and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout rank and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his future education and career.

RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE TOWN OF DAVENPORT

HON. JOHN J. FASO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Town of Davenport on the occasion of its bicentennial. On March 31, 1817, Davenport was established as a new town in Delaware County, New York. It is named for its founder, John Davenport, who first settled there less than a decade earlier and laid down the roots for what would become the vibrant community that exists today.

For over 200 years, Davenport has participated in the American story, contributing to our great state and nation. On the weekend of July 29, 2017, the residents of Davenport will hold a well-deserved celebration of its history and accomplishments. In the neighborly and hospitable tradition of Davenport, this bicentennial celebration will reflect the values of this beautiful community, bringing families and residents together to commemorate the town they love and share.

I formally thank the Town of Davenport and each of its residents of the past two centuries for their contributions to our Catskills community and our Upstate New York home.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record Davenport Town Supervisor Dennis Valente’s statement regarding the Town of Davenport’s bicentennial:

An Anniversary is a time to look back. 200 years seems so long ago. However, a look back over the Town’s history brings the present Davenport community closer together with our ancestors. It is with a good deal of enjoyment that we explore the past together with our ancestors. It is with a good deal of enjoyment that we explore the past with the same.

The first meeting for the Town of Dav- enport was in 1817. The town re-ognized the need for our community to work together between neighbors and the community at large. The delicate balance of open space and individual property rights was ad-dressed first in regard to free ranged ani-mals.

Along these past 200 years the Town has found itself involved in many issues including the establishment of local cemeteries, and community sacrifice in times of war. Immigrants from many countries settled here to be our blacksmiths, work our tanneries, and build our railroads. The work of woman suffrage was engaged by ‘bloomer girls’ at the Lake in 1869. The establishment of the 1930s was a struggle so similar to the rural internet broadband availability strug-gle today.

The acknowledgment of a shared sense of values, with neighbors long ago, adds pur-pose to present day community engagement. We are a Town that endeavors to settle con-flicts with reasoned engagement and a com-munity that offers a helping hand when the need calls.

YON GOICOECHA: POLITICAL PRISONER OF THE VENEZUELAN REGIME

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the plight of Yon Goicoechea, a 36-year-old political prisoner who is being unjustly detained in a Venezuelan prison. On August 29, 2016, Mr. Goicoechea was arrested by the Venezuelan secret police because of his role as a leading advocate for a democratic and transparent Venezuela. Over the past decade, Mr. Goicoechea has played a crucial part in leading pro-democracy movements in Venezuela. At one point, he even led the pro-democracy opposition party, “Voluntad Popular.”

After working for various opposition movements, Mr. Goicoechea found himself and his family increasingly under threat by the repressive Maduro regime. Mr. Goicoechea made the decision to leave Venezuela with his family in 2013 and come to the United States to pursue a degree in Law from Columbia University. Three years later, Mr. Goicoechea returned to Venezuela to fight for freedom, democracy and human rights.

Mr. Goicoechea has remained in prison since his arrest in 2016. As highlighted in a recent report by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Arbitrary Detentions Group, Mr. Goicoechea has been denied the right to due process and subject to brutal forms of solitary confinement. Unfortunately, Mr. Goicoechea is only one of thousands to have been unjustly imprisoned by the Maduro regime.

The United States must address these egregious human rights abuses by fully implement-ing and applying additional sanctions against Maduro regime officials who continue to violate the most basic principles of human rights and liberty and who are responsible for the plight of the Venezuelan people. Maduro and his thugs must not be allowed to continue to oppress the people of Venezuela without paying a significant price. We must demand the release of all the political prisoners who have been denied their fundamental human rights.

The Venezuelan people have illustrated an unrelenting resolve to bring about a just and democratic Venezuela. Just during the past three months, over ninety people have been
killed, thousands injured, and hundreds have been subject to politically motivated arrests, as the people of Venezuela have taken to the streets to protest the undemocratic nature of this brutal regime. The United States must stand with Mr. Goicochea, all political prisoners, and the people of Venezuela in their pursuit of a democratic society.

27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. NEAL P. DUNN
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 27th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a law that protects the rights of people with disabilities. The Act stands on the principle that no matter one’s disability, whether it be visible or invisible, the Constitution and laws of the United States protect us all. Personally, I appreciate and support how this law protects the rights and opportunities for our wounded warriors. I welcome my colleagues to join me in marking the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and its contributions to equal rights in the United States.

CONGRATULATING DISTINGUISHED YOUNG WOMEN NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER AND D.C. RESIDENT SKYE BORK

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating District of Columbia native and resident Skye Bork on being named the 2017 winner of the country’s largest scholarship program for girls, the Distinguished Young Women (DYW) program. Skye was awarded $36,500 in scholarships for her college education.

DYW is a 60-year-old national scholarship program aimed at encouraging high school girls to develop their full potential through a series of scholastic and creative workshops. DYW allows college-bound high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to participate as long as they maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average. A scholarship is then awarded based upon an interview, academic achievement, talent, self-expression and physical fitness. DYW is well-known nationally, and past winners have included television broadcasters Diane Sawyer and Kathie Lee Gifford, and actresses Debra Messing and Kim Basinger.

Skye was selected to win the scholarship from among four finalists from schools in wards throughout the city. She attended the Washington School of Ballet for many years, as well as the Akhmedova Ballet Academy in Maryland. For her talent segment, Skye performed a ballet excerpt en pointe, from Bizet’s Carmen. Skye, the daughter of Shigeko and Tim Bork, is a 2017 graduate with honors from the National Cathedral School. She is the first D.C. resident to be awarded the scholarship in the program’s 60-year history, due in large part to the fact that the area chapter of the program remained dormant for 30 years. I would like to thank the D.C. chapter of DYW for reviving the program, and also thank the local businesses who supported the program and donated to the scholarship fund. Skye was proud to announce that she will be attending Columbia University this fall, and, in preparation for the career she would like to pursue in international business and government, she will be studying applied mathematics and economics. The District is very proud of Skye. She will be the national representative of DYW for a year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Skye Bork on her impressive achievements.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERTA “BOBBIE” BISHOP

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of the beloved Roberta Bishop, or to those who knew her, “Bobbie.” Bobbie was a model citizen who dedicated her life to giving back to those in need. Not only did she have a kind spirit and a big heart, she also empowered herself to make a real difference by creating Midwest Service Dogs, a non-profit in South Bend, Indiana, that helps train and place service dogs and companion dogs.

The combination of her love of animals and her desire to give back fueled her participation in multiple charities as well as her work at a local animal clinic. Bobbie strived to make our community a better place, and from her loving family to the many friends she made along the way, her strength in character and compassion for others were hard to miss.

Bobbie lived a meaningful life full of love, happiness, and generosity of spirit. I am grateful that her wonderful legacy is sure to live on in the cherished life lessons she taught her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I’m personally thankful for our decades-long friendship and the impact she had on my life. Our country lost a great human being, and I wish her two sons and extended family all the best.

HONORING ERIKA FEIN ON HER 88TH BIRTHDAY FOR HER EXEMPLARY RESILIENCE AND STRENGTH

HON. RAUL RUZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. RUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Erika Fein, a Holocaust survivor who turns 88 years old on August 11, 2017. Her powerful story is an example of resilience, perseverance, and strength in character. Erika was born in 1929 in Yugoslavia, where she lived in a small village with her family. They were torn apart when Yugoslavia was invaded by Germany, Italy, and Hungary in 1941. Erika, her mother, and aunt were taken by the Nazis, and she never again saw her other family members. Over the next four years, she was kept as a prisoner in three different concentration camps. She was first taken to a death camp, where she ultimately lost her mother and aunt. The Nazi military organized large scale marches to move prisoners to different camps to evade suspicion of mass killings, and to erase any trace of evidence. Nazi soldiers subjected prisoners to starvation, dehydration, and humiliation during inclement weather. Not only did Erika survive these marches as a teenager, but she endured, despite being ripped apart from her family.

While at Bergen-Belsen in Germany, Erika and the other prisoners were finally liberated by the British Armed Forces in April 1945. A few years later, Erika moved to the United States seeking a new beginning in pursuit of the American dream. She married her current husband, and they adopted a son. They later moved to Palm Desert, in my Congressional District, where they live today.

Today, I am elated to honor her courage and dedication, as we celebrate her 88th birthday. Her story is a reminder that we must always be steadfast in the fight against intolerance, hate, and injustice. The hardships she overcame are unthinkable, but her strength is admirable. She is truly an inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the life of Erika Fein. On behalf of California’s 36th Congressional District, it is with deep respect that I extend my best wishes on her 88th birthday. I wish her and her family all my best in the years to come. Happy Birthday Erika.

HONORING DON SIMPSON FOR RECEIVING A SILVER STAR MEDAL FOR HIS COURAGEOUS SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. RAUL RUZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. RUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual from my Congressional District Sergeant Don Simpson of Hemet, California. Because of his commitment to protecting our nation and his fellow service members, Don received a Silver Star Medal. His story is truly an inspiration and today, I want to recognize his exceptional achievement and courage.

Don graduated from Hemet High School in 1964 and entered the U.S. Army a few years later. During his service, Don was sent to Vietnam where he served as a rifleman, Radio Telephone Operator (RTO), and squad leader. In February of 1967, Don was a Specialist 4 (SPC 4) and the RTO for a reconnaissance team that was conducting a sweep of the forward battle area. After disengaging the helicopters, his unit came under intense heavy
enemy automatic weapons fire. Seeking cover behind a small hedge, SPC Simpson returned fire against the enemy.

Over the next hour of intense fighting, SPC Simpson established radio communication with Captain Conlon, Alpha Company Commander, requesting support from helicopter gunships and artillery fire. While continued intense enemy fire, and at great risk to himself, SPC Simpson maneuvered to a position allowing him a better view of the enemy. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, SPC Simpson established direct contact with the Air Force Pilot on station, directing an air strike on the enemy. When the first two air strikes did not fully eliminate the opposing forces, SPC Simpson directed the strike that was dangerously close to himself and his own troops, resulting in elimination of the enemy. During the entire combat event, SPC Simpson maintained communication with higher command, calling additional air support.

The engagement resulted in 4 personnel killed in action and 8 wounded in action. His courage, energy, and valor led to the saving of his fellow soldiers’ lives. Specialist 4 Simpson unselfishly and sacrificially engaged in military Operation in the face of enemy resistance, resulting in elimination of the enemy. During the engagement, SPC Simpson directed the strike that was dangerously close to himself and his own troops, resulting in elimination of the enemy. During the entire combat event, SPC Simpson maintained communication with higher command, calling additional air support.

The engagement resulted in 4 personnel killed in action and 8 wounded in action. His courage, energy, and valor led to the saving of his fellow soldiers’ lives. Specialist 4 Simpson unselfishly and sacrificially engaged in military operation involving conflict with insurgent force in keeping with the finest tradition of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the 1st Cavalry Division, and the United States Army.

Five years ago, Don discussed his service and this incident with his doctor when getting a VA C&P Exam. The doctor, Mr. Ronnie Immen, contacted Don’s squad leader Sgt. Carl Lawrence and his 1st Sgt. Ralph Cranitz. Both recommended Don for a Silver Star. My office was pleased to partner with them to ensure Don’s service was properly recognized. Together, we worked to find the rest of Don’s chain of command and submit the Silver Star Medal to the Department of the Army. After a few months, Don’s Silver Star Medal was finally received and I was honored to present it to him.

Among the many awards he has received for his honorable service are the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Valorous Unit Award, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with “60” Device.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize and honor Don Simpson. He is indeed a hero whose actions embody the true meaning of valor. I am very proud to have met him. His commitment to service to our nation are an example of excellence and dedication that all should seek to emulate.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JARROD DAUGHERTY AND HIS MEMORY AS A DEDICATED STUDENT AND LOVING SON

HON. Raul Ruiz of California
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Texas A&M University Women Former Students Network, known as “Aggie Women.”

In the summer of 2007, a group of Aggie women started talking regularly and sharing ideas about ways to give back to Texas A&M University and contribute to its reputation as a world-class university. The original idea to form the Women Former Students Network as a constituent network of the Texas A&M University was that these women could give back to their alma mater, while honoring the extraordinary female students who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition. Women who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition. Women who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition. Women who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition. Women who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition.

A&M University. It is designed to recognize outstanding research, scholarship, and service; and it honors the role these extraordinary female students on in serving as models for all generations of women students; and through their increased philanthropic ties to the University and The Association of Former Students. The Network strives to value and promote inclusiveness and diversity in the representation of its membership and in all its activities.

Another Aggie Women initiative is the Eminent Scholar Award which is a joint project of Aggie Women and the President of Texas A&M University. It is designed to recognize outstanding research, scholarship, and service; and it honors the role these extraordinary female students on in serving as models for all generations of women students; and through their increased philanthropic ties to the University and The Association of Former Students. The Network strives to value and promote inclusiveness and diversity in the representation of its membership and in all its activities.

HONORING TEXAS AGGIE WOMEN

HON. BILL FLORES OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Texas A&M University Women Former Students Network, known as “Aggie Women.”

In the summer of 2007, a group of Aggie women started talking regularly and sharing ideas about ways to give back to Texas A&M University and contribute to its reputation as a world-class university. The original idea to form the Women Former Students Network as a constituent network of the Texas A&M University was that these women could give back to their alma mater, while honoring the extraordinary female students who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition. Women who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition. Women who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition. Women who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition. Women who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition.

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HONORING TEXAS AGGIE WOMEN

HON. BILL FLORES OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Texas A&M University Women Former Students Network, known as “Aggie Women.”

In the summer of 2007, a group of Aggie women started talking regularly and sharing ideas about ways to give back to Texas A&M University and contribute to its reputation as a world-class university. The original idea to form the Women Former Students Network as a constituent network of the Texas A&M University was that these women could give back to their alma mater, while honoring the extraordinary female students who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition. Women who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition. Women who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition. Women who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition. Women who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition.

A&M University. It is designed to recognize outstanding research, scholarship, and service; and it honors the role these extraordinary female students on in serving as models for all generations of women students; and through their increased philanthropic ties to the University and The Association of Former Students. The Network strives to value and promote inclusiveness and diversity in the representation of its membership and in all its activities.

Another Aggie Women initiative is the Eminent Scholar Award which is a joint project of Aggie Women and the President of Texas A&M University. It is designed to recognize outstanding research, scholarship, and service; and it honors the role these extraordinary female students on in serving as models for all generations of women students; and through their increased philanthropic ties to the University and The Association of Former Students. The Network strives to value and promote inclusiveness and diversity in the representation of its membership and in all its activities.

HONORING TEXAS AGGIE WOMEN

HON. BILL FLORES OF TEXAS
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Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Alberto Patricio Cardenas of Laredo, Texas, who proudly served the people of Laredo in public and higher education for nearly forty-four years.

Alberto Patricio Cardenas was born on March 17th, 1937 in Laredo, Texas. After graduating from high school at the age of 16, Alberto began his studies at The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas where he would successfully graduate in four years with a degree in history and as a member of the Corps of Cadets.

After college, Alberto began a 13-year career with the Laredo Independent School District, where he taught students at Urbahn Elementary, Lamar Middle School, Nixon High School, and Martin High School. He earned his Master of Education degree from Texas A&M University and thereafter was recruited to be a faculty member of Laredo Junior College where he would meet the love of his life, Maria de la Luz.

Mr. Cardenas spent the next 31 years served as a counselor and eventually Director of the Counseling and Assessment Center at Laredo Community College. He influenced thousands of students by helping them navigate their degree plans, personal challenges, and by teaching multiple courses. He also raised money for scholarships, organized school floats for parades, and counseled student organizations.

Mr. Cardenas lived a long and service filled life. Not only was he an accomplished educator, but a dedicated community leader. He served in the United States Air Force Reserve, on the Board of Directors and as President of the Laredo Boys & Girls Club, as President of the Laredo Chapter of the International Good Neighbor Council, and on the Laredo-Webb County Child Welfare Board. He also was a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem for 15 years, achieving the rank of Knight Commander with Star.

Above all, Alberto was a committed husband and father to Maria de la Luz (Lucy) Rodriguez and their three children Cristina Doda, Alberto Jr., and Maradelle Lilliam.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize and honor Alberto Patricio Cardenas for his many years of service to the city of Laredo.
The following thoughtful obituary was appropriately published in the Aiken Standard on June 20, 2017:

Frank S. Moore Jr., Ph.D., passed away Monday, July 24, 2017 at his residence at the age of 81. Dr. Moore was born July 25, 1935 in Norfolk, VA to the late Frank S. Moore Sr. and the late Margaret Moore. He received his undergraduate degree from Hampden-Sydney College, his Master’s degree from the University of Connecticut, and his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He has been a resident of Aiken for the past twenty-five years. Dr. Moore retired as a Nuclear Medicine Specialist at the Aiken Regional Medical Center. Dr. Moore is survived by his wife, Kathleen Moore; two daughters, Elizabeth Cornelius (David) and Martha Ruthven (KT.); two sons, Christopher Moore and Matthew Musoif (Michelle); and four grandchildren, Allison Cornelius; Michael Cornelius; Dylan Crowell, and Jacob Crowell.

Funeral services will be held at 3:00 PM Friday, July 28, 2017 at New Covenant Presbyterian Church with Pastor Dr. Kornreich officiating. Interment will follow in Southlawn Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Elmer Willhite, Don Drinkwater, John Cook, Ken Jackson, Jason Harris, and Claire O’Donovan. The family will receive friends beginning one hour prior to the services at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the Carolina Foundation, PO Box 3694, Aiken, SC 29802.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF DR. MARY R. STAUFFER.
HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mary R. Stauffer on her upcoming 100th birthday, which will be celebrated on August 27, 2017, in Downey, California.

Born in Toledo, Ohio on August 26, 1917, to Amelia and Reverend Henry Schuh, Mary Ruth Schuh was raised in a home of three generations of Lutheran ministers. At age six, she started attending Sunday school. Her early teaching experience and involvement with the church introduced her to a lifelong interest in education and philanthropy.

Mary loved reading and studying, and in 1935, she was the class valedictorian of Bexley High School, near Columbus, Ohio. With a scholarship, she attended Capital University, a Lutheran college. By working as an unpaid assistant at a psychologist at White Cross Hospital, she gained invaluable experience and a glowing recommendation for medical school. She graduated summa cum laude from Capital University near Columbus, Ohio. With a scholarship, she attended Capital University, a Lutheran college. By working as an unpaid assistant at a psychologist at White Cross Hospital, she gained invaluable experience and a glowing recommendation for medical school. She graduated summa cum laude from Capital University near Columbus, Ohio.

Mary was admitted to Ohio State University Medical School, where she was one of just five women in a class of 75. She graduated top of her class on April 15, 1943. Concurrent with her MD, she earned her MS in Pathology by applying the first electron microscope in the U.S. to biological research.

On December 18, 1943, she married a co-resident in pathology, Dr. Floyd (Dal) Stauffer, a scholar and an athlete. Dal was commissioned into the Navy on their wedding day and reported to duty in Bremerton, Washington, on January 1, 1944. In Bremerton, Dr. Mary completed her residency, but just when she opened her own practice, Dal was transferred to Pensacola, Florida. In 1953 after Dal completed his service in the Navy, the family moved, and settled in Georgia.

After briefly working as a physician for the Los Angeles Unified School District, Dr. Mary Stauffer opened her own OB-GYN practice and in 1954 joined the Downey Community Hospital Medical Staff. As her practice grew, she began making time for her family afternoons open for her five children’s activities.

Dr. Mary Stauffer was one of the first obstetricians to offer expecting mothers an educational program. Based on Gantly Dick-Read natural childbirth (before Lamaze), she developed a series of three lectures. The third was held with spouses at her home and included an 8-mm film of her delivering twins. In 1976, after delivering babies for 23 years in Downey, she transitioned into general practice.

In 1972, Dr. Mary was chosen Chief of Staff at Downey Community Hospital. In 1987, with a donation of $100,000, she was the first physician to qualify as a member of the Founders Gallery of the hospital. She hoped to be the first of many.

Dr. Mary’s other honors include the 1983 Ohio State Medical School Alumni Achievement Award, the 1997 Distinguished Service Award from Capital University, and the 2007 Delta Kappa Gamma Chi State Distinguished Public Service Award. She was also named Downey High School’s “Alumni of the Year” in 1998 by California State Senator Betty Karnette and in 2010 by State Senator Hector De La Torre, and was a 2012 Downey High School Hall of Fame Honoree. In 2007, Dr. Mary was one of the founding directors of the Columbia Memorial Space Center. Later she rescued an Apollo capsule from unclaimed freight to become the center’s welcoming icon. In 2014, the Downey Unified School District renamed West Middle School the Mary R. Stauffer Middle School.

In 1993, her passions for education and philanthropy came together in the Mary R. Stauffer Foundation, a private educational foundation she established to give back to Downey, the community where she had had a successful medical practice. On June 30, 1997, at nearly 80 years old, Dr. Mary retired from her medical practice and became the full-time CEO of her educational foundation. Since starting the foundation almost 25 years ago, she has donated well over $5 million for innovative educational projects in the Downey Unified School District and scholarships for Downey students. Among the projects that the Foundation has helped fund with initial startup funds are the Academic Olympics for middle schools; Project Lead the Way; Robotics Clubs; and Character Counts, a city-wide program.

The foundation invites teachers annually to propose grants for creative projects, such as a Cooking Cart with lessons in math and science. Other projects have become traditions and encourage use of local resources, such as the Art Museum and the Mission Control Program at the local Space Center.

In the 2016-17 school year, over 900 students received these non-traditional merit awards: Junior 4.0 GPA; Scholar-Athlete for students who have lettered in a sport with a 3.5 GPA (created by Dal, Mary’s late husband); and the Stauffer Scholar award to start a college savings plan for 4.0 GPA 6th and 7th graders. In the same year, 90 students received scholarships to attend community college or trade school.

Dr. Mary’s favorite saying is “be the best you can be.” Her decision that the Mary R. Stauffer Foundation will continue in perpetuity will carry on her legacy of helping to make Downey students the best they can be.

On Sunday, August 27th, the community will celebrate Dr. Mary’s birthday at the Columbia Memorial Space Center. A full program will commemorate this momentous occasion with local school projects throughout the facility, special guests, and, of course, a birthday cake. Light refreshments will also be provided by the culinary arts students of the local Downey schools.

Congratulations to Dr. Mary Stauffer and her family: sons Jim and John; daughters Dorothy Knight, Judi Saunders, and Janet Suzuki; granddaughters Dawn Martens, Diane Saunderson, Katherine Rieh, Mary Owens, Jessica Stauffer, and Jordan Nichols; and great grandchildren, Phoenix Rieh and Quillian Owens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Dr. Mary R. Stauffer for her many years of enriching the lives of others so they can be the best they can be, and wish her a very Happy 100th Birthday.

FARISHTA RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS FULBRIGHT AWARD
HON. PETE OLSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karim Farishta of Sugar Land, TX, for receiving a Fulbright award to do research in Sri Lanka.

A graduate of George Washington University and a Truman Scholarship recipient, Karim is focused on the core of youth engagement, urbanization and reconciliation. Prior to leaving for Sri Lanka, Karim worked for the White House and was one of the youngest political appointees in the Obama Administration. Each year the Fulbright Program grants students the opportunity to study, research or teach English abroad in an effort to internationalize communities and campuses around the world. Fulbright scholars focus on the conditions and challenges differing regions face, as well as building valuable U.S. relations.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Karim for receiving this Fulbright award. Keep up the great work.

TRIBUTE TO MARY COLLINS
HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mary Collins of Shenandoah, Iowa on the occasion of her 103rd birthday. Mary was born on July 30, 1914.
Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Mary’s life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Mary has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-six Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Mary in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 103rd birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mary on reaching this incredible milestone and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

HONORING DR. WANDA WILSON, CRNA, MSN, PHD, CEO OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dr. Wanda Wilson, CRNA, MSN, PhD, of Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. Wilson will soon complete her tenure as the CEO of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) whose headquarters are located in my district. I am proud that Dr. Wilson has led the AANA as their CEO and Executive Director since 2009, a job she began after serving as President of the AANA in 2007. She has been an extremely effective leader on behalf of her CRNA colleagues.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered nurses who administer approximately 43 million anesthetics to patients each year. CRNAs practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered: traditional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms; critical access hospitals; ambulatory surgical centers; the offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons, and pain management specialists; and U.S. military. Public Health Services, and Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities.

Prior to her time at the AANA, Dr. Wilson enjoyed a career as the nurse anesthesia educational program director and professor of clinical nursing for the University of Cincinnati’s College of Nursing and Nurse Anesthesia Major. The highly regarded Cincinnati program includes a primary clinical site at the University Hospital in Cincinnati, where she maintained her clinical skills while directing the education of 28–32 nurse anesthetist students per year. Dr. Wilson’s love for her nursing diploma was from Holzer Medical Center in Gallipolis, Ohio.

During her time as CEO of the AANA, Dr. Wilson has been a prominent advocate for practitioners and students of nurse anesthesia before federal agencies and members of Congress. She has worked tirelessly to promote anesthesia patient safety and the value of CRNAs to our healthcare system, recognition of CRNAs as Full Practice Providers in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), proper implementation of the provider non-discrimination, and appropriate recognition of the full scope of CRNA practice including pain management and related services in Medicare.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Wilson today on a job well done. Her service to the AANA, her patients, and her students and her commitment to advancing the nurse anesthetist profession as a leader, educator and advocate are unrivaled.

ANTONIO “TONY” VEGA

HON. DON BACON
OF NEBRASKA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a leader in the Hispanic, small business community of my congressional district in Omaha, Nebraska. Immigrant, Mr. Antonio “Tony” Vega’s career of entrepreneurship and mentorship is recognized through his commitment to service and upholding the values of hard work.

Mr. Vega was born and raised in Zapatlan, El Grande, a city about 80 miles south of Guadalajara, in Mexico. He was raised by a single mother who considered his education to be her highest priority. She sacrificed greatly for his higher education by immigrating to the United States to earn enough money to pay for Tony’s education back in Mexico. Tony also attributes his strong morals, values and work ethic to his grandparents, who influenced him during his childhood. As a result, Tony successfully completed a Bachelor’s Degree in Tourism and Travel Management at the Universidad de Guadalajara in 1987.

Following graduation, Tony’s first job was with the State of Jalisco tourism agency as the Deputy Delegate, overseeing 16 counties and developing relations with all county dignitaries. He later became the Director of Small Business Development for his hometown of Zapotlan El Grande, where he was the coordinator for the annual festival Feria Zapatlan, which runs during the entire month of October with a variety of cultural activities and national attractions.

In 1994, he immigrated to the United States to reside in San Gabriel, CA. It was there that he met a wholesale leather goods distributor who taught him about Hispanic, small businesses. Mr. Vega worked Monday through Friday at Arambula Hats. During the weekend, he explored ways to develop more efficient shipping routes north from the Pacific coast to Southern California to Oregon.

Tony came to Omaha, Nebraska in 2000 to work as an administrator at Plaza Latina. Mr. Vega implemented a new management style for retail through an inventive strategy of connecting small businesses in a single retail, one-stop location. His concept was praised by the owners of Plaza Latina, who offered to sell the whole business and building to Mr. Vega along with a 5-year financing deal, requiring no lawyers to be involved. This led Mr. Vega to construct an incubator for a Hispanic, small business. Using the small retail spaces and resources at Plaza Latina, new entrepreneurs had an opportunity to succeed within one community and location.

The concept for small business development caught the attention of Dr. Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, a faculty member at the University of Nebraska—Omaha, who wanted to know more about Mr. Vega’s modern marketing and business approach. Dr. Benjamin-Alvarado brought the University of Nebraska’s College of Business’ students from all campuses to experience his business concept. This partnership was the initial catalyst that led to the success of the many businesses that Tony helped.

In 2005, the Hispanic business community in South Omaha started to take off and the first major bank moved into the area. First National Bank of Omaha broke ground on a new Spanish-speaking branch, solely focused on Hispanic clients and businesses along the 24th Street corridor. This would eventually become the main financial hub of South Omaha. The move by the bank was initially received with reluctance by local Latino business. However, due to the quick actions of Mr. Vega, seven core businesses gathered for a meeting at Guacamaya Restaurant on the 2nd of March. Mr. Vega proposed the local Hispanic Business Community integrate with the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC).

On April 7, 2005 by unanimous vote, Mr. Vega’s Hispanic Business Group became a member of the USHCC and grew from 7 Hispanic businesses to 28 in their first month. Tony became the first President of the Nebraska Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and held the position for the first 3 years. He paved the way for the current business model of incubating, developing and empowering small business success.

Today, Mr. Vega is the owner of Factor Latino magazine. Published monthly in Spanish, it is catered to the Latino and Hispanic business community leaders in Nebraska. An avid fan of Mexican Lucha Libre (Wrestling) since childhood; he is the founder and President of Midwest Mexico. Additionally, he created TV Latina Nebraska to serve the online Latino community. It is a platform that provides coverage on local politics, community support programs and leaders within the Hispanic community in Omaha.

Mr. Vega is happily married to the love of his life, Eliana Ortiz since 1992. He is a father to three boys: Braulio, Omar and Nicolas, and two girls: Jessica and Grecia. His everyday passions include communications, road trips, Mexican wrestling and hosting gatherings of friends and family. I am proud to recognize all of Mr. Vega’s accomplishments and am confident that he will continue to inspire and enhance the Hispanic, small business community in Nebraska.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

HON. DOUG COLLINS
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor four northeast Georgians
REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DESIREE LANGSTON CARN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mrs. Desiree Langston Carn, a revered member of our Toledo community. Mrs. Carn passed from this life on June 26, 2017 surrounded by her family. Desiree was a community pillar and the embodiment of love and kindness. She was a tireless advocate for the underdog and someone who gave the underdog a chance to thrive. Desiree took on many roles throughout her life, from a devoted daughter, a loving wife, a dedicated mother and grandmother, to the founder of the first juvenile drug court program in Ohio. She was a trailblazer in the field of juvenile justice and her legacy lives on in the programs she helped create.

Desiree's contributions are not limited to her work in the field of justice. She was also a passionate advocate for education and the arts. She founded the Toledo Playhouse, which continues to be a staple of the Toledo arts community. She was a lifelong learner and a supporter of the arts, and her dedication to these causes is a testament to her unwavering commitment to her community.

Desiree was a woman of great strength and resilience, and her legacy will live on as an inspiration to all who knew her. Her memory will always be cherished by those fortunate to have known her. May her spirit continue to shine on the souls of many and may her legacy continue to be a guiding light for us all.
with her father and tagging along on his deer hunting trips. It was at this point in her life that she knew that she wanted to make a positive difference. Those experiences set her on a course that led to a bachelor’s degree in marine biology, a master’s degree in fisheries and aquaculture, and a long career protecting fish and wildlife and the untamed places upon which they depend.

Cindy made conservation her career. She has worked for a private environmental consulting firm and held positions in several state and federal agencies before joining the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1993. Prior to her time in the Southeast Region, Cindy worked with the Southeast Division of Fish Hatcheries and as the Branch Chief for Recovery and Consultation in Washington, D.C. She came to Atlanta in 1999 to serve as the Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services and later served as Deputy Regional Director.

For the last seven years, Cindy has led the Southeast Region in a daily mission to make a difference for fish, wildlife, plants and the people who live and work in communities across the region. As Regional Director, she provided vision and leadership for more than 1,300 employees in 10 southeastern states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and has emphasized the importance of proactively managing successful management solutions that have positively influenced our national conservation efforts. On any given day, you are just as likely to find her working with employees and partners on issues as big as the restoration of Louisiana’s coast and as small but no less consequential as the partnership work and proactive conservation that led to removing the Georgia aster from the list of candidate species under the Endangered Species Act.

I witnessed Cindy’s dedication to protecting and conserving America’s natural resources firsthand while working together with her to restore Louisiana’s coast and the Gulf of Mexico following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. At the time of the spill in 2010, she led an extraordinary effort to respond to this unprecedented event that deployed thousands of employees and partners to stations in four Gulf Coast states over the first year. Additionally, she was instrumental in securing funds to rebuild Brenton Island—an area that has provided protection for our bird habitat as well as fishing habitat for Louisiana’s saltwater anglers. Whether the need was simple or more complicated, she worked tirelessly to solve a host of environmental and economic needs. While serving as the Department’s Authorized Official for the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration, Cindy was a committed partner to the State of Louisiana and the other Gulf states in working collaboratively to help us get on the right path to repairing our ecosystem, and restoring the Gulf’s abundant natural resources and the economy its people depend upon.

She is recognized throughout the Southeast as an honest partner and innovative conservation leader. Under her leadership, the region has joined forces with states, private landowners, other federal agencies, the Department of the Interior and business including energy, timber, and finance among others to find creative ways to conserve fish and wildlife resources. This collaboration has resulted in notable conservation successes including removing the Louisiana black bear from the endangered species list, upgrading the status of the West Indian manatee and wood stork and protecting the need to list more than 100 fish, wildlife, and plants petitioned for federal protection in the past seven years. She worked closely with many partners to restore more than one million acres of bottomland hardwood habitat in the South and reverse the decline of longleaf pine forests so critical for migratory birds and wildlife in decline. Her recognition of the little things to build lasting relationships that so often have big implications and make conservation success possible on larger scales is something I will miss. I commend Cindy for her desire to make a lasting difference and hope the Service will continue to build on her outstanding conservation legacy.

I speak for myself and I think for many policymakers, business leaders, and lovers of the outdoors when I say Cindy Dohner and her passion for wildlife will be missed. I appreciate the many years of public service she has to the Southeast Region and people that call Louisiana home and make it a Sportsmen’s Paradise. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our deepest appreciation and gratitude for her public service and wishing Cindy success and happiness in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN KELMENDI FOR HIS WORK WITH THE METRO DETROIT COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John Kelmendi for his career as an educator and involvement in the southeast Michigan community. Mr. Kelmendi has been a dedicated advocate for students during his career with the Detroit Public Schools and involved with local community groups.

Mr. Kelmendi, a native of Albania, began his career with Detroit Public Schools in 1993 and his efforts are worthy of commendation. Mr. Kelmendi’s actions have impacted countless lives.

TRIBUTE TO BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP 533

HON. TODD ROKITA
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an important Hoosier institution, the Boy Scouts of America Troop 533 from Munster, Indiana, which is celebrating its ninetieth anniversary this year.

Boy Scout Troop 533 was organized in 1927 by Mr. Maury Kray, an eighth grade attending Munster Public Schools. He gathered classmates, local boys, and a retired school principal to form Munster’s Boy Scout Troop. Troop 533 was present on June 14, 1927 when President Calvin Coolidge dedicated Wicker Park in Highland, Indiana. The Troop was also heavily involved in the World War II effort by organizing parades and rallies for war bonds, planting and maintaining gardens for local consumption, practicing blackout drills, carrying warden messages and reports to sector headquarters, and participating in wartime recycling programs.

More recently, Troop 533 organized Cub Scout Packs in Munster elementary schools in the 1960s. In 1982, the Troop presented the colors during the dedication of the first Munster Town Council meeting in the town’s newly constructed municipal complex, and began leading the Independence Park Fourth of July Parade a year later—an honor it still holds today. During the Little Calumet River flooding in 2008, Troop 533 assisted with filling sandbags to protect public and private property and later helped with yard clean-up, raking, moving dirt, and re-graveling driveways after the flood waters subsided.

Troop 533 has positively influenced countless Munster families by leading many boys to success, including producing over 100 Eagle Scouts. The scouts and their adult leaders have long served the community in which they live and love. They have lived by the Boy Scout Oath and Motto, and my hometown of Munster is better for having Troop 533 a part of the community.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud father of a young Cub Scout, I am honored to congratulate Munster Boy Scout Troop 533, on its ninetieth anniversary and look forward to their continued service to fellow Hoosiers and our nation.
Ikwuezunma receives Prestigious Fulbright Award

HON. PETE OLSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ijezie Ikwuezunma of Richmond, TX, for receiving a Fulbright award to do research in the UK. Ijezie, a student at Washington and Lee University, was awarded a Fulbright grant for his project, “Cardiovascular Pharmacogenomics and Pharmacokinetics of Warfarin (an oral anti-coagulant).” His research will be based around cardiovascular agents and their pharmacology, with a particular focus on the drug warfarin. While completing his Fulbright, Ijezie will also be pursuing his Masters of Research in biomedical sciences and transnational medicine at the University of Liverpool. Each year the Fulbright Program grants students the opportunity to study, research or teach English abroad in an effort to internationalize communities and campuses around the world. Fulbright scholars focus on the conditions and challenges differing regions face, as well as building valuable US relationships.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ijezie for receiving this Fulbright award. Keep up the great work.

Recognizing Mike Miller, New U.S. Wheat Associates Chair

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent from my district, Mike Miller, of Ritzville, Washington, who was recently selected as the new Chairman of the U.S. Wheat Associates.

Mike is a fourth-generation farmer and a family man who has served on many local, state and national boards. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Washington Grain Commission, and has been representing Washington as a U.S. Wheat Associates Director for six years.

He has been very active in supporting wheat research and development, and I know he will be an excellent leader for the U.S. Wheat Associates. He is someone who will continue to promote the quality and value of all six U.S. wheat classes to international markets.

Please join me in congratulating Mike on his new position.

Opposing Proposed Legislation That Threatens the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record my letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee. The letter expresses my strong opposition to a discussion draft the Committee held a hearing on this week, proposed by Representative Tom Emmer, that would undercut existing environmental and public laws to allow a Chilean mining conglomerate to conduct dangerous sulfide-ore copper mining adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.


Hon. Paul Gosar,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals, House Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

Hon. Alan Lowenthal,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals, House Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

Dear Chairman Gosar and Ranking Member Lowenthal: I write to express my strong opposition to the discussion draft proposed by Representative Tom Emmer considered today, July 27, in the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee. The proposed legislation would undercut existing environmental and public laws to allow a Chilean mining conglomerate to conduct dangerous sulfide-ore copper mining adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Located in northeastern Minnesota along the United States’ border with Canada, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) comprises approximately 1.1 million acres of unspoiled woodlands and more than 1,800 pristine lakes. It is home to iconic species such as loons, moose, and lynx, while the waters support thriving populations of walleye, bass, and trout.

Congress recognized the value of this unique national treasure when it passed the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act in 1978. This critical legislation established necessary protections for the BWCAW, prohibiting logging and mining and placing limits on the use of motorized vehicles to preserve the unspoiled nature of this special area.

That law strengthened the federal role as caretaker of this area of unparalleled natural beauty, and in doing so built upon more than a century of actions by federal and state governments. In 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt created the Superior National Forest to protect the surrounding area. In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law, and set aside one million acres of the Boundary Waters as a wilderness area. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed the Wilderness Act into law, and set aside one million acres of the Boundary Waters as a wilderness area. In 1986, the state of Minnesota banned mining on state lands within the Boundary Waters.

These policies have ensured that Minnesota’s Boundary Waters are one of the few remaining wild places in the United States. The BWCAW does not exist in isolation, however. It is a critical part of a vast, interconnected watershed that flows through the Superior National Forest and into Voyageurs National Park and Canada’s Quetico Provincial Park. While the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is the focus of mining within the Boundary Waters itself, it did not address existing mineral leases located within the parts of the watershed in the Superior National Forest.

In 2011, Chilean mining conglomerate Antofagasta announced plans for its Twin Metals sulfide-ore copper mine on federal land within the BWCAW. Antofagasta planned to pursue this mining under mineral leases issued in 1966, before the enactment of modern environmental legislation such as the National Environmental Policy Act and the Clean Water Act. However, those leases expired in 2014, requiring Antofagasta to apply for a renewal.

Under the terms of the leases, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) reviewed and determined lump sum lease renewals in June 2016, based on a denial of consent from the United States Forest Service (USFS). The USFS determined that copper-sulfide ore mining on those leases would pose the risk that “might cause serious and Irreplaceable harm to this unique, iconic, and irreplaceable wilderness area.”

Before mining is the most toxic industry in America, polluting waterways with acid drainage that contains arsenic, mercury and zinc.

Researchers that surveyed sulfide-ore copper mines in North America found that every mine had leached pollution into surrounding water, with 92 percent failing to contain mine seepage and seriously affecting water quality. Underscoring the danger of sulfide-ore copper mining, the failure of the Mount Polley copper mine in British Columbia in August 2014 released a toxic slurry of 10 billion liters of wastewater and 5 billion liters of solid tailings. This immense pollution disaster demonstrated why the BLM would permanently damaged an irreplaceable salmon spawning area.

Smaller, sulfide-ore copper mining is not suited in the vast, interconnected watershed that contains the BWCAW, which is exactly why the BLM and USFS determined that the sustainable mining on state lands, lakes and streams in this area was best served by not renewing Antofagasta’s leases.

This decision was also supported with all thoughtful and deliberate review by the state government. In March 2016, Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton directed the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources “not to authorize or enter into any new state agreements or lease agreements for mining operations” on state lands in close proximity to the BWCAW.

Following the denial of the leases, the USFS submitted an application to the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw portions of land covered by a decision from the USFS in 2016 to withdraw the BWCAW from future mineral permits and leases, to remove the threat of sulfide-ore mining throughout this sensitive landscape. Today, the USFS and the BLM are conducting a thorough environmental analysis to determine whether the lands should be withdrawn from mineral leasing for a period of 20 years. In order to rely on the use of these lands, this review includes input from the public and key stakeholders. In just the past two weeks, more than 1,500 people have attended public meetings held by the USFS in Virginia, Minnesota and St. Paul, Minnesota.

This environmental review and public input process is the best path forward, as Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue affirmed to me during a hearing of the House Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee on May 24, 2017. Perdue responded: “We are determined to proceed in that effort and let it run its course. No decision will be made prior to the completion of that.”

Unfortunately, the discussion draft proposed by Representative Emmer short-circuits this careful and deliberate review process, recklessly overturns the science-based denial of consent decision from the BLM and USFS, and attacks existing environmental and public lands laws—all for the benefit of a foreign conglomerate’s mining project.

I have several serious concerns about the far-reaching impacts of the discussion draft presented by Representative Emmer:
It automatically grants Antofagasta two federal mineral leases on Superior National Forest lands, ignoring the strong federal and state opposition to sulfide-ore mining in this area. The public lease issuance process is explicitly stated as the decision to be made by the Forest Service. These jobs are dependent on a healthy water-based ecosystem like the Boundary Waters because contaminated water could have dramatic impacts to aquatic life, sport fisheries, and recreation-based business and communities.

As Members of Congress, we have an obligation to be good stewards of our nation’s natural resources. It would be a grave mistake to shortchange the American public by reinstating these leases and override the law that gives USFS the right to consent to mining in the Superior National Forest. The Administration’s proposal to amend the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act and interfere with an interconnected watershed. It undermines established laws governing mineral leasing on the Superior National Forest, bypasses the National Environmental Policy Act, and interferes with an ongoing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), used to amend mining leases. It voids the Forest Service Record of Decision in which the USFS denied to consent to the renewal of Antofagasta’s federal mineral leases based on the risk of harm to the Boundary Waters if the leases were granted. The Forest Service’s decision on the lease renewals was made by professional career USFS staff after a 3-year review, with extensive opportunity for public comment. The decision cites sound scientific evidence of harm to the BWCAW and considerable public opposition to the projects. The discussion draft ignores entirely and recklessly overturns the well-considered decision of the Forest Service.

It undermines established laws governing mineral leasing on the Superior National Forest, bypasses the National Environmental Policy Act, and interferes with an ongoing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), used to amend mining leases. It voids the Forest Service Record of Decision in which the USFS denied to consent to the renewal of Antofagasta’s federal mineral leases based on the risk of harm to the Boundary Waters if the leases were granted.

The waters of Lake Superior and the Boundary Waters are a precious national resource, recognized by millions of Americans. Sadly, members of Congress are clearly prioritizing the interests of multinational mining companies over the needs of both local indigenous communities and the American public. We strongly oppose these attacks on our public lands and waters, and call on Congress leaders to do the same.

Jamie Williams, President, The Wilderness Society:

The Emmer mining bill is yet another dangerous attack on our public lands. Anti-conservation, anti-American, and anti-sustainability. It undermines bedrock conservation laws including the Antiquities Act, used by Republicans and Democrats alike to protect places of historic or natural significance. The Boundary Waters is one of the original places protected by the 1964 Wilderness Act, the most visited wilderness area, and its waters must be protected from industrial mining.

Alex Taurel, Deputy Legislative Director, League of Conservation Voters:

This radical legislation would harm Minnesota’s outdoor recreation economy by allowing a foreign mining company to build a risky mine that threatens the health of America’s most visited wilderness area in the spectacular Boundary Waters. We urge members of Congress to oppose this harmful bill that greenlights a decision on the project based on politics and shamefully cuts out the voices of Minnesotans and people across the country that have engaged in a lengthy public process.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN AND WENDELL VOLKENS

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jean and Wendell Volkens of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on June 16, 1957 at Zion Lutheran Church in Auburn, Iowa. Jean and Wendell’s lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their love grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together, and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING IMPD DEPUTY CHIEF JIM WATERS

HON. ANDRE CARSON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a profound sense of sadness, as I grieve with the City of Indianapolis and the entire law enforcement community, over the loss of a true public servant. Today, we remember Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Deputy Chief Jim Waters, who dedicated his life to serving others.

Deputy Chief Waters served our city for nearly 30 years, in a variety of roles in city government and on the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. In all his roles, Deputy Chief Waters was known as a bridge builder and someone who worked alongside community members to improve and protect our city.

Deputy Chief Waters was a decorated police officer who came from a long line of public servants. He rose through the ranks of IMPD, serving as District Commander of the East District, Assistant Chief, as well as Deputy Chief. His service did not go unnoticed; he was awarded the Medal of Bravery and Mayor’s Community Service Award for his commitment to protecting Hoosiers.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our thoughts and prayers to Deputy Chief Waters’ wife, Sherry, his children and his entire family. Deputy Chief Waters left a lasting legacy on the Indianapolis community and I am grateful for his years of dedicated service to our city.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE POKE-O-MOONSHINE FIRE TOWER

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Poke-O-Moonshine fire tower.

Sitting atop Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain since 1917, the historic fire tower has played an important role in protecting the Adirondack’s environment and wildlife by allowing lookouts to detect and report early signs of wildfires. Although it was decommissioned by
New York State in 1988, the fire tower has been fully restored and continues to offer hikers incredible views of the Adirondack Mountains, Lake Champlain, and Vermont.

In honor of the fire tower's centennial, the Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine is hosting several celebratory events including hikes up the mountain, a silent art auction, and live performances. The organization, which was largely responsible for the restoration of the fire tower, is dedicated to preserving Poke-O-Moonshine and to educating the public about the mountain and its surrounding areas. Their efforts have earned public access to this special place and increased awareness of our region's rich environmental history.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to join in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Poke-O-Moonshine fire tower. It is an important piece of the Adirondack Park and a symbol of the North Country's long tradition of outdoor engagement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF IRV HOLLAND

HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Irwin Holland. Irwin Holland was a brave and courageous man who served our country in a multitude of ways and will forever be remembered as a member of one of the great generations.

Mr. Holland was born in 1917, eldest child to first generation immigrants. He grew up in New York where he graduated high school and attended night school but never graduated from a college of his choice. In 1943, he joined the United States Army Air Corps, and became an Army Air Corps navigator, eventually reaching the rank of Second Lieutenant. In the midst of World War II, and on his maiden mission, the navigational instruments on his B-17 failed. In the dark and over the ocean Mr. Holland led three B-17 airplanes to the Ashen Islands where they landed safely. After taking off from the Ashen Islands they continued to the European Theater and in June 1943 he and several other crew members were shot down over Germany. Irv bailed out and was taken as a prisoner of war. He was a prisoner of war from 1943-1945 and was a member of the USS Oklahoma. In 1947, he and his crew mates were released and returned home.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize a mentor and a friend, Irwin Holland. A gentleman, who felt the obligation to serve both his community and his country of birth as well as his new-found home.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Barbara, who still lives in Israel and three children: Francine, Amy, and Robbie, their five grandchildren: David, Sarah, Rachel, Hannah, and Naomi, and their four great-grandchildren: Amir, Ophir, Ariel, and Elia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN M. KUSTER
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 27, on Roll Call vote 414, I did not vote. Had I been present, it was my intention to vote NO.

CONGRATULATING THE SERGEANT ANDREW BRUCHER VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 5499

HON. JOHN J. FASO
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Sgt. Andrew Brucher Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5499, located in Kauneonga Lake, New York, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary on August 5, 2017.

At its anniversary dinner, the Post will honor two very special people: Mrs. Mabel Brucher, a Gold Star Mother, and Mr. Raymond Jankowski, a veteran of the Second World War and founding Charter Member of Post 5499.

Post 5499 is named for Sgt. Andrew Carl Brucher, son of Leo and Mabel Brucher of Smallwood, New York. Sgt. Brucher was inducted into the Army on November 8, 1965, and in Vietnam on January 13, 1966, and died on April 4, 1967, in Da Nang, Vietnam. Having served honorably, Sgt. Brucher was awarded the Purple Heart, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with a Bronze Star, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Honoring those who serve our nation should be a top priority for all Americans, and the VFW is an essential organization that fosters camaraderie among American veterans and advocates on their behalf. Congratulations to Post 5499 on this milestone anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF NAVY YEO-MAN 3RD CLASS EDMUND RYAN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, Navy Yeoman 3rd Class Edmund Ryan of Wilbraham, Massachusetts was killed when the Japanese sank the USS Oklahoma during the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. For 75 years, Yeoman Ryan was one of the nearly 400 sailors from that vessel whose identities were deemed “non-recoverable.” But thanks to the advancements in DNA testing and the efforts by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Yeoman Ryan’s remains have been finally identified. This was possible by matching the mitochondrial DNA to family members of the deceased. This achievement gives hope to the family members of the 26,000 servicemembers from World War II that possibly they too can be identified.

Next week, Yeoman Ryan will be interred in his final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery. On behalf of the First District of Massachusetts and the United States, we are eternally grateful for his service and sacrifice to our nation. And on this solemn occasion, I want to extend my best wishes to his family.

RECOGNIZING NORTHEAST GEORGIA’S STEM STUDENTS

HON. DOUG COLLINS
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seventeen of northeast Georgia’s brightest high school students. The National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists and the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists selected these young scholars to represent the state of Georgia at their respective national conventions held in late June.

Despite the fact that these students hailed from different parts of the district, they share a common interest in science and medical-related fields. Representatives and senators as delegates gave them a chance to discuss their interests and ideas—all the while the Georgia Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Board of Directors is proud to recognize these students for their hard work and dedication.

I want to extend my congratulations to all of these students and their families on this great achievement. These students will be our country’s future leaders and innovators, and I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize them.
becoming the brain power behind the next iPhone.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the following outstanding young people: Omeka Bhatia, John Bradley, Justin Mayo, Tyrese McIntosh, Andrew O’Brian, Thinh Pham-Hoang, Avery Tran, and Ana Woodard for attending the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. Additionally, Briana Bishop, Keah Grudua, Andres Meza, Garrett Raxter, Angela Rivera, Lorenza Rojas-Gonzalez, Helen Vec, and Amber York have made northeast Georgia proud by attending the Congress of Young Medical Leaders.

These talented students are carving out a future for STEM fields and will help lead the next generation of innovation in our country. I am honored to represent them in Congress, and I wish them the best as they run after their dreams.

CELEBRATING TONY ZAPATA

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Tony Zapata, who recently concluded his service as Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4966 in East Los Angeles. As a representative of East LA in Congress, I have had the honor of getting to know Tony over the years, especially in his capacity as the organizer of the annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day events at the Cinco Puntos intersection.

Tony, a Vietnam veteran, comes from a family with deep military roots. His grandfather served in World War I, his father and two brothers served in WWII, two of his uncles served in Korea, and his son went to Kuwait. It should come as no surprise, then, that Tony has shown an unstinting dedication to those who serve and have served in our nation’s armed forces.

Tony was born in Del Rio, Texas, and graduated from high school in 1963. In January 1965, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After boot camp in San Diego, California, in April 1965, he went aboard the U.S.S. Evans (DE-1023) in Bremerton, Washington, as a Machinist’s Mate Fireman Apprentice. In August 1967, he was assigned to North Island Naval Air Station in Coronado, California, as an Airman Aviation Ordnance man. He was trained in Search and Rescue operations on NHU1 Helicopters, also known as Hueys.

In November 1967, Tony was sent to Okinawa, where he joined a Search and Rescue Unit with the 3rd Marine Division Temporary Attached Duty (TAD). From Okinawa, he went to Cubi Point in the Philippines Islands. At Cubi Point, he qualified with an M-60 Machine Gun (mounted). In January 1968, he went on to Da Nang, South Vietnam. After one year in Vietnam, he returned to North Island Naval Air Station, where he was honorably discharged in February 1969. He was awarded the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Civil Service Medal, Expeditionary Medal, and Meritorious Service Ribbon.

In May 1969, Tony went to work for Travelers Insurance Company as a Workman’s Compensation Investigator. After Travelers, he worked as an inspector at U.S. Can in Commerce, California, until his retirement in 2006. In 1992, Tony began to become involved with the VFW, and began full-time VFW involvement following his retirement. In 2010, he was appointed Commander of VFW Post 4966.

Tony has shown an inspiring commitment to assisting veterans and their families with their benefits. He has also been involved with helping homeless veterans get into VA programs, including help with housing, education, and medical benefits. He has also enjoyed working with local community high school students. In his talks with students, he has described the importance of patriotism, spoken about Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and reminded his young listeners that freedom is not free. He has also described how they can support our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan by writing letters and sending care packages to our servicemen and women overseas.

On May 29, 2017, Tony stepped down as Commander for Post 4966, but I am pleased to hear that he will still be involved with the VFW as an at large member. I hope my colleagues will join me in sending Tony Zapata our deepest gratitude for his record of service overseas and here at home. His defense of our country, and his faithful support of our veterans and current servicemembers, is an inspiration to us all.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF DAVID SKORYI

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief David Skoryi who is retiring after serving the Lockport Township community for over 25 years.

Chief Skoryi was raised in Lockport and attended Taft Grade School and Lockport Township High School. He joined the Lockport Township Fire District in 1980 as a firefighter and quickly rose through the ranks. He became a Lieutenant in 1993, Battalion Chief in 1998, and Assistant Chief in 2001. In 2010, Skoryi was named Lockport Township Fire District Chief.

During his time with the fire district, Chief Skoryi reached a number of milestones. He was the first Battalion Chief in the department’s history and the first full time Training Officer. He also served as the Operations Chief, the Technical Rescue Team Leader, and the Swift Water Rescue Technician. Chief Skoryi has also overseen five fire station construction projects in the district.

Chief David Skoryi is married to Deb Skoryi and has three grown children, two of whom still live in the area. He plans to spend his retirement with his wife, tending to a small farm the couple purchased and traveling in their motor home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief David Skoryi for his public service and congratulate him on his achievements. He has spent many years protecting the people of Lockport and the surrounding areas. His dedication is greatly appreciated by the residents of the Third District of Illinois. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING BENTON POLICE CHIEF KIRK LANE

HON. J. FRENCH HILL
OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Benton Police Chief Kirk Lane’s appointment as the new Arkansas Drug Officer. His experience and activism truly embody what all states need in the fight against illegal narcotics.

Chief Lane is a graduate of the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy and the FBI National Academy. After graduation, Chief Lane spent 20 years with the Pulaski County Sheriff’s Office, where he served as the Captain of Criminal Investigations.

Chief Lane has gone above and beyond his duty in the fight against illegal narcotics by participating in many organizations, including the Arkansas Drug and Alcohol Coordinating Council, the Arkansas Prescription Drug Advisory Board, and the Arkansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Board.

As a recipient of the 2010 Benton Citizen of the Year Award and the 2012 Marie Interfaith Award, Chief Lane is recognized for his exceptional character and devotion to community.

I’m proud of my friend Chief Lane, who has proven his devotion to law and order, and he will be a great addition to Arkansas’s Drug Enforcement Agency to fight against narcotics and reduce the crime rate.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF STEPHEN THOMAS ZAMORA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Stephen Thomas Zamora, who proudly served the people of Houston, Texas, as a professor at the University of Houston Law Center for nearly thirty-six years.

Stephen Zamora was born on June 26, 1944, in Los Angeles, California. Steve graduated from Servite High School in 1962, and earned a B.A. from Stanford University four years later. It was there where he met and married his wife, Lois. Together, they worked for the Peace Corps for two years. Afterwards, Steve graduated first in his class with a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1972.


Mr. Zamora joined the University of Houston Law Center’s faculty and served as the first dean of Hispanic origin from 1995 to 2000. He also dedicated his independent research at the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law to Mexican law and relations. For his work, he was awarded the highest distinction by the Mexican government to a foreign national, the...
Order of the Aztec Eagle, in 2006. He continued to devote his time to his professional interests until 2015.

Mr. Zamora lived a long and service filled life. He was an accomplished educator, a role model to his students, and loving father and husband to his wife, Lois Zamora; his daughter, Camille Zamora, and her husband Thomas; grandsons Landon and Nate; and siblings Carol, Anita, John, Mary, Paula, and Tony; and his many nephews, nieces, aunts, cousins, and friends. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize and honor Stephen Zamora for his many years of service.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER HARRISON
HON. JOHN B. LARSON
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Walter Harrison, who retired as the president of the University of Hartford on June 30, 2017 after serving in that position for 19 years. In his time as president, the University of Hartford has truly flourished. Under his leadership, UHart has grown by leaps and bounds through increased enrollment, expanded academic success, new academic programs and centers, and major renovations to campus facilities. He leaves the university as a place with a national reputation as a renowned academic institution.

Walt is first and foremost an educator and a scholar of American literature and culture. A native of Pittsburgh, he first came to Connecticut to study at Trinity College in Hartford where he received his bachelor’s degree. He then went on to earn a master’s degree from the University of Michigan and his doctorate from the University of California—Davis. He is a veteran of the United States Air Force where he served as an officer.

During his time as chair of the NCAA’s Committee on Academic Performance, he became one of the nation’s most influential voices on higher education and collegiate athletics. He has always been a champion on behalf of student-athletes and ensuring that collegiate athletics are always a part of an enriching academic experience. This culminated with Walt’s receipt of the NCAA’s Gerald R. Ford Award.

Walt has not only been an extraordinary leader of the university, but has been a pillar of the Greater Hartford community. That can be seen in the two magnet schools opened by the university under his tenure and through his service on boards of the Hartford Stage, St. Francis Hospital, MetroHartford Alliance, Suffield Academy, Hartford Consortium for Higher Education, the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, and the Connecticut Science Center. Walt has contributed immensely to the fabric of our civic culture.

I am proud to call Walt a friend. Anyone who knows Walt knows that he is a passionate baseball fan, particularly of his Pittsburgh Pirates. His doctoral dissertation was on baseball’s influence on the nation’s culture and he is the most knowledgeable baseball fan that one could ever meet. I wish him the best in retirement and I hope he takes his newfound free time to enjoy his family and to finally visit every big league ballpark.

I would like to submit for the RECORD the undergraduate and graduate commencement addresses delivered on Walter’s last graduation ceremonies as president by my colleagues, Congresswoman MIA LOVE of Utah and Congressman RICHARD NEAL of Massachusetts, two proud UHart classmates.

This is MIA LOVE.

It is wonderful to be with you all today. It is great to be back to a place filled with so many memories. My mind has been racing back to scenes in this campus to so many lessons learned, and to so many people who made a difference in my life. My time here as a student stretched me, strengthened me, and taught me to recognize opportunities so I can rise to my full potential.

One of those amazing faculty members who challenged me to rise was Peter Flint. He was our teacher and sadly, he passed away far too soon—but he is forever a part of my life and the lives of those who were blessed by his vision and direction. Peter had a motto for those of us in musical theater. He had us memorize it—but more importantly he challenged us to understand it.

The motto said, “I am an artist. These are my emotions and I own them. And I like them. My talent comes from something other than me and more importantly I am responsible for it. I will dare to be bad, so that I may be good. I am an artist. I am who I am.”

Peter continually challenged us to rise. He gave us permission to be outside the box. It was ok to be bad in the beginning and that working through the bad was the only way to rise to the good and ultimately to the best we had within us.

After Peter expected us to take responsibility and ownership for our talents and gifts.

Winston Churchill said it this way, “To each there comes a special moment when we are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do something very special, unique to our talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds us unwilling, unprepared or不合格 for that which could have been their finest hour.”

The great question you will face in the days and years ahead is this, “Am I prepared to rise in such moments?” I hope you consider those taps on the shoulder and offer the opportunity to rise we will be left to live with what might have been.

Mr. Zamora lived a long and service filled life. He served as an officer.

In the last year of Walt’s tenure he was presented with the NCAA’s Gerald R. Ford Award for his leadership and contributions to NCAA athletics. He has given me an opportunity to learn, to engage in elevated dialogue and help others rise to their potential.

You are the rising generation. You are the legacy just for tomorrow. Today I challenge you to raise your sight, not just your status, as you enter the workforce and a world desperately in need of your energy, talent and commitment.

Remember the second half of Churchill’s statement about those taps on the shoulder and those opportunities to rise. There is one more quote I’d like to share, by a man named John Greenleaf Whittier. He wrote, “Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: ‘It might have been.’"

Guys, we cannot accept “what might have been.” It is a haunting horrible phrase. Fifty years from now you will have far more regrets about the opportunities you don’t take, the mountains you did not climb and the adventures you did not pursue than you will ever have for opportunities you took—even when you tried and failed.

When we fail to continuously learn—we will be left to live with what might have been.

When we fail to engage in elevated dialogue in our homes, communities, and places of employment—we will be left to live with what might have been.

A few years ago my family and I were at an event in our community. There was a large hot-air balloon there as part of the fun. An event emerged for our daughter Abigail and our son Peyton to jump in the basket with the balloon. As I approached they told me to bring my daughter Abi who was 15 years old, and my son Peyton, who was 7 years old, to their tent. My dad provided me, and my siblings, the opportunity to rise in pursuit of our own American dream. My dad dropped me off here on campus on orientation day. He was so excited and giddy as if he was ready to make sure we arrived safely on campus, away from home. At one point he became serious as he looked me in the eye and said, “Mia, your mom and I have worked hard to get us to this point today, but you will not be a burden to society. You will give back. You will contribute. You will make a difference for others.” What he was telling me is that it was part of my responsibility not only to rise myself, but to bring others along with me. Just as he had done with me. Each of you here today.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize and honor Stephen Zamora for his many years of service.
The opportunity to rise and soar in the sky came and was gone. I took Peyton aside and told him to remember this experience. Because in life, especially in politics, if you ever get an opportunity—it quickly passes and you never know if it will—come back. Presented with opportunity—we must rise to the occasion.

Graduates—your experiences on campus have given you a view from higher up. Remember those experiences—remember what it felt like to engage in people that truly understand that new knowledge, ace that test, master that new skill or maximize your talent. So that when life knocks you down—and surely it will—I hope you get back up because you know what it takes to rise.

So my challenge to each of you is the same one I make to my colleagues in Congress: create opportunities every day for yourself, for those you love, and for good people everywhere to rise.

To you graduates I say — You got this. This is your tap on the shoulder. This is your time. These are your days—Rise.

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD GRADUATE KEYNOTE ADDRESS, MAY 20, 2017
THE HONORABLE RICHARD NEAL
Good morning President Harrison, President-Designate Woodward, parents, friends and guests. And of course the graduate school class of 2017. I am so honored to speak at University of Hartford’s 60th Commencement Address. For me, it is a homecoming.

Looking around campus and at the students and faculty brings back fond memories of when I studied here for my Master’s degree. For my first year, I worked in the Mayor of Springfield’s office during the day and went to school at night. The second year, I went to school as a full time day student. The education I received here allowed me to serve as a lecturer at UMass Amherst and other institutions for the last 28 years.

The opportunity to rise and soar in the sky comes to those who deserve special recognition. You blend your experience and teaching talents to help students reach their potential. As I have always said, when you reach your potential, your potential expands.

I applaud you for pushing students to rely on facts and listen closely to both sides of an argument. This biggest group of students to be curious and examine evidence while at the same time, discourage them from insulating themselves from opposing views. It is admirable to do this at a time when many students and activists refuse to hear both sides of an argument. The university is not the place for the curious to hide.

As a graduate student, your professors expected more from your writing, presentations and papers. In turn, you had to ensure your work and arguments were backed up with facts, not opinions.

Since the beginning of this Congressional session, the House Ways and Means Committee has been the leading Democratic Committee, has been at the heart of almost every major public policy debate about issues that directly impact our nation’s economy, including: health care, tax, trade, and Social Security. My Committee colleagues on both sides of the aisle rely on facts and ensure we take time to listen to both sides of each argument. And like me, my colleagues think it is important to talk in complete sentences and give thought to something before we say anything. There is very little substantive though on this basis that can be done in 140 characters or less.

Thanks to the education I received at University of Hartford and the support of its great faculty, I taught myself that we think critically and prepared me to be the new Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Committee. As a child who was raised by my aunt and grandmother on Social Security Survivor Benefits, the fact that I am standing here today having accomplished as much as I have is a great education I received throughout my lifetime.

As you move forward in your careers or toward your next degree, it is imperative you give thought to something before we say anything. There is very little substantive importance to talk in complete sentences and simply exist. The 24 hour news cycle creates a constant race to get news out before anyone else.

And often, facts are cast aside and “inflationary language” takes over—entertainment is more and more disguised as news. News should not be entertaining, especially in today’s political environment. Opinions draw ratings and provide a ripe environment for fake news to thrive.

Merriam Webster Dictionary is headquartered in Springfield, Massachusetts. They have become the referee in this new aged news cycle—having to point out what appropriate behavior. Men and women in masks are inimical to representative democracy. Fake news is not based on fact, instead reflects the “only if you agree with me” mentality. This is a dangerous precedent. As we saw at the University of Wisconsin this year, the social media mob can disrupt a campus. It reflects the common misperception that you are entitled to your own set of opinions, but not your own set of facts. The university must remain the citadel of freedom of speech and thought.

A former Clinton official recently said UC Berkeley made a mistake when they cancelled an appearance earlier this year by a conservative commentator. Cutting them loose, but not being able to defend the first amendment. Why? Because cancelling events like this sets the stage for a slippery slope towards dismantling the first amendment. A similar situation happened at Middlebury—student backlash in response to a conservative speaker sparked violence and other inappropriate behavior. Men and women in masks are inimical to representative democracy.

This goes to exactly what I am talking about. Cancelling events like this lacerate the first amendment. Many students like you—living in an environment that seeks to protect students to think through how their actions and protests will ultimately help people rather than looking inward at college life.

As complex as things are today, facts are more important than ever. I challenge you to expand your potential, engage with people with opposing views, and take time to examine evidence to protect facts and discourage fake news. All of these actions ultimately protect the cornerstone of our democracy that is free speech.

Thank you President Harrison, President-Designate Woodward and the entire University of Hartford community. Congratulations on behalf of the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO EILEEN DENNIS
HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Eileen Dennis of Atlantic, Iowa on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Eileen was born on July 27, 1917.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Eileen’s life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Eileen has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.
Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Eileen in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Eileen on reaching this incredible milestone and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action
The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 4 p.m., on Monday, July 31, 2017.

Committee Meetings
No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 8 public bills, H.R. 3525–3632; and 14 resolutions, H.J. Res. 116; H. Con. Res. 75, 76; and H. Res. 485–495 were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed:
Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 873, to authorize the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation to establish the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–264);

H. Res. 442, resolution of inquiry directing the Secretary of the Treasury to provide certain documents in the Secretary's possession to the House of Representatives relating to President Trump's financial connections to Russia, certain illegal financial schemes, and related information; adversely (H. Rept. 115–265);

H.R. 95, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–266);

H.R. 3262, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide educational assistance to certain former members of the Armed Forces for education and training as physician assistants of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish pay grades and require competitive pay for physician assistants of the Department, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–267);

H.R. 2195, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for access of the Special Counsel to certain information, with amendments (H. Rept. 115–268);

H. Res. 437, resolution of inquiry requesting the President to provide certain documents in the President’s possession; adversely (H. Rept. 115–269); and

H. Res. 447, directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to Department of Homeland Security policies and activities relating to businesses owned or controlled by President Donald J. Trump; adversely (H. Rept. 115–270).

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Veterans' Access to Child Care Act: H.R. 95, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Veterans Affairs Senior Executive Accountability Act: H.R. 2772, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for requirements relating to the reassignment of Department of Veterans Affairs senior executive employees;

Grow Our Own Directive: Physician Assistant Employment and Education Act of 2017: H.R. 3262, amended, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide educational assistance to certain former members of the Armed Forces for education and training as physician assistants of the Department of Veterans Affairs,
to establish pay grades and require competitive pay for physician assistants of the Department; and

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide educational assistance to certain former members of the Armed Forces for education and training as physician assistants of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes."

Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act: H.R. 873, to authorize the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation to establish the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia.


Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted.

H. Res. 481, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3180) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 186 nays, Roll No. 436, after the previous question was ordered without objection.

Department of Veterans Affairs Bonus Transparency Act: The House passed S. 114, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, by a yea-and-nay vote of 414 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 458.

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in H. Rept. 115–262 shall be considered as adopted.

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To authorize appropriations and to appropriate amounts for the Veterans Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve hiring authorities of the Department, to authorize major medical facility leases, and for other purposes."

H. Res. 480, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (S. 114) was agreed to by voice vote, after the previous question was ordered without objection.

Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017, Improvements Act: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass S. 371, as amended by Representative Royce, to make technical changes and other improvements to the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, August 1st.

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2017—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 115–59).

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H6523.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6556–57. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Committee Meetings
No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, JULY 31, 2017

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House
No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the Senate
4 p.m., Monday, July 31

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Kevin Christopher Newsom of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the House of Representatives
11 a.m., Tuesday, August 1

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m.

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