

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Mr. Speaker, last week the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati lost a committed and humble servant when Father Edward Rudemiller passed away.

"Father Rudy," as he was known, was ordained in 1958 and served the people of southwestern Ohio for 47 years before retiring in 2005. A 1950 graduate of Elder High School in Cincinnati, he returned to his alma mater in 1959 to teach religion and Latin for 21 years.

In addition to these duties, he was the athletic director from 1962–1977. He could often be seen on Friday nights at the "Pit" strolling the sidelines in support of his Panthers.

Although best known for his loyalty to Elder High School and the west side of Cincinnati, Father Rudemiller was equally beloved in his role as parish priest and pastor at parishes throughout the archdiocese.

In his later years, Father Rudy fought through illness with dignity and grace. We are grateful for his service and we celebrate his life.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you know, Texas is one of 14 States filing a lawsuit challenging the Federal requirement to purchase health insurance as part of the new health law.

This is America. We don't force people to hand over hard-earned money to a private company against their will. That's the ultimate overreach of Federal power, and it's unconstitutional.

I'm also upset by the fact that this health care law creates one more government handout. By pushing more and more people into a government-controlled health care plan, we're going to reach a point where more Americans depend on the government for help than those who get along by themselves. That's not right.

Americans want, need, and deserve prosperity and success achieved by sacrifice, hard work, self-reliance, and personal responsibility, not government control. It's called the American Dream.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, well, it's been 72 hours since health care reform was passed and, as near as I can tell, nobody has to go to the post office to get their prostate checked. They're not getting mammograms in the DMV, and we aren't herding doctors to gulags across the country.

The fact is people are seeing what is in this bill: simple, commonsense health insurance reforms that will

make a difference for Americans this year in extending coverage, in being able to put children on their health insurance program until they're 26; eliminating the insidious practice of denying coverage when you get sick.

And as Americans see more and more what is in this legislation, we'll have an opportunity to build on this important foundation of health care reform for economic health and security, a better health care for our families, and maybe, just maybe, showing that in the Federal Government here some of us can work together to get things done.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER DONALD ADKINS

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember one of West Virginia's finest citizens, volunteer firefighter Donald Adkins. Donald was a volunteer with the Glasgow Volunteer Fire Department, and our hearts go out to his fellow firefighters.

On March 13, Donald was bravely providing rescue support to the flooded areas of Raleigh County, West Virginia, when his rescue boat capsized after striking submerged debris. After 6 days of searching by nearly 100 volunteers, Donald's body was found March 19, 2010.

While our hearts remain heavy for the loss of a true selfless servant, we celebrate the gift of life Donald gave to others in our community as a volunteer firefighter.

Mr. Speaker, Donald Adkins and countless rescue volunteers across West Virginia and the Nation put their lives on the line to protect us during times of emergency. I hope you'll join me in praising them for this difficult, dangerous work that they do for the safety of us all.

I also ask that you keep Donald Adkins' parents; his two sons, Devin and Ethan; his daughter, Allyssa; and his girlfriend, Bobbie Evans, in your thoughts and prayers.

THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, you know, I hear from the other side about the American Dream, but I want to say, the American Dream doesn't mean that the government shouldn't get involved to end discrimination.

We have a long history in this country of the government getting involved to end discrimination. And that's a big part of this health care reform, because right now, people who have preexisting conditions cannot get health insurance, or, if they can, they have to pay prohibitive costs which are not accept-

able and make it impossible for them to get health insurance.

What we're doing in this health care reform bill is ending discrimination, so that if you have a preexisting condition, if you've had cancer, you can still get health insurance.

Immediately after this bill becomes law—and it actually has become law; the President signed it—children cannot be excluded from policies because of preexisting conditions. And gradually that will occur for every American, that they cannot be discriminated against.

People are discriminated against now. Women are charged more than men. That's not right. That's not part of the American Dream. We are ending discrimination with this legislation, and I was so proud to see the President sign it on Tuesday.

□ 1030

AMERICAN ASTRONAUTS HITCHING A RIDE INTO SPACE WITH THE RUSSIANS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out a growing concern within the community of supporters for a strong human space flight program—American exceptionalism lagging behind Russia and other countries.

Just yesterday in the Washington Post, a special advertising section on Russia had a front page story about their growing investment in human space flight. The headline read, "American Astronauts are Hitching a Ride with the Russian Space Program. Russia Makes Space for the U.S."

Additional comments in the story included: "Russia will fuel space exploration once again, while the U.S. vision appears dampened. As the United States reprioritizes its programs, the country will rely on Russia to take its astronauts into space."

Under the President's proposed budget, the Russians will be the only game in town for getting our astronauts to and from the International Space Station. The United States of America should never have to depend on another foreign nation to "make space" for our astronauts to get to the Space Station that the American taxpayer has largely paid for.

Mr. Speaker, that should be a concern to all Americans.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I hereby notify the House of my intention to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of my resolution is as follows:

Whereas, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct initiated an investigation into allegations related to earmarks and campaign contributions in the Spring of 2009.

Whereas, on December 2, 2009, reports and findings in seven separate matters involving the alleged connection between earmarks and campaign contributions were forwarded by the Office of Congressional Ethics to the Standards Committee.

Whereas, on February 26, 2010, the Standards Committee made public its report on the matter wherein the Committee found, though a widespread perception exists among corporations and lobbyists that campaign contributions provide a greater chance of obtaining earmarks, there was no evidence that Members or their staff considered contributions when requesting earmarks.

Whereas, the Committee indicated that, with respect to the matters forwarded by the Office of Congressional Ethics, neither the evidence cited in the OCE's findings nor the evidence in the record before the Standards Committee provided a substantial reason to believe that violations of applicable standards of conduct occurred.

Whereas, the Office of Congressional Ethics is prohibited from reviewing activities taking place prior to March of 2008 and lacks the authority to subpoena witnesses and documents.

Whereas, for example, the Office of Congressional Ethics noted that in some instances documents were redacted or specific information was not provided and that, in at least one instance, they had reason to believe a witness withheld information requested and did not identify what was being withheld.

Whereas, the Office of Congressional Ethics also noted that they were able to interview only six former employees of the PMA Group, with many former employees refusing to consent to interviews and the OCE unable to obtain evidence within PMA's possession.

Whereas, Roll Call noted that "the committee report was five pages long and included no documentation of any evidence collected or any interviews conducted by the committee, beyond a statement that the investigation 'included extensive document reviews and interviews with numerous witnesses.'" (Roll Call, March 8, 2010)

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee included in their investigation any activities that occurred prior to 2008.

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee interviewed any Members in the course of their investigation.

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee, in the course of their investigation, initiated their own subpoenas or followed the Office of Congressional Ethics recommendations to issue subpoenas: Now therefore be it:

Resolved, That not later than seven days after the adoption of this resolution, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall report to the House of Representatives, with respect to the activities addressed in its report of February 26, 2010, (1) how many witnesses were interviewed, (2) how many, if any, subpoenas were issued in the course of their investigation, and (3) what documents were reviewed and their availability for public review.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legisla-

tive days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Arizona will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1586, TAX ON BONUSES RECEIVED FROM CERTAIN TARP RECIPIENTS

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1212 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1212

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1586) to impose an additional tax on bonuses received from certain TARP recipients, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI, a single motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the title and that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the text with the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. The Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time through the calendar day of March 28, 2010, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules. The Speaker or her designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or his designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

SEC. 3. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of March 29, 2010.

SEC. 4. (a) On any legislative day specified in subsection (b), the Speaker may at any time declare the House adjourned.

(b) When the House adjourns on a motion pursuant to this subsection or a declaration pursuant to subsection (a) on the legislative day of:

(1) Thursday, March 25, 2010, it shall stand adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Monday, March 29, 2010.

(2) Monday, March 29, 2010, it shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 1, 2010.

(3) Thursday, April 1, 2010, it shall stand adjourned until 4 p.m. on Monday, April 5, 2010.

(4) Monday, April 5, 2010, it shall stand adjourned until 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 8, 2010.

(5) Thursday, April 8, 2010, it shall stand adjourned until noon on Monday, April 12, 2010.

(c) If, during any adjournment addressed by subsection (b), the House has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in an applicable concurrent resolution of adjournment, the House shall stand adjourned (as though by motion) pursuant to such concurrent resolution.

(d) The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by this section as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution provides for consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 1586, the Aviation Safety and Investment Act of 2010. The rule makes in order a single motion offered by the chair of the Transportation Committee that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the title and concur in the Senate amendment to the text with the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report. It provides for 1 hour of debate on the motion.

The rule provides the Speaker may entertain motions to suspend the rules; and waives requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee. This requirement is waived through Monday, March 29.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here just a day after having been reminded yet again of the pain of many of my friends and constituents of the tragic February 12, 2009 crash of Colgan Air Flight 3407 and the grief caused to the people of our area.

Yesterday morning, right here in the Capitol, I was privileged to meet with some of the victims' families. It is always a sobering experience to sit down with those brave souls and their efforts to fight for safer travel for the rest of us. Their great fight is a testament to their commitment and passion.

In fact, it is my sincere hope and prayer that once we finish this effort and make changes to the laws governing pilot safety that we can find a way to name it to honor the lost lives of this crash. I suggest calling this legislation the "Buffalo Safety Act." I can think of no better way to mark the lessons we have learned as a Nation about