

to Jack Nicklaus in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence and good sportsmanship in golf.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 153, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 16, 2012 I had a previously scheduled meeting with constituents in Ogden, Illinois. As a result, I am unable to attend votes this evening. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3001, the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Act; and "yea" on H.R. 4040, to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence and good sportsmanship in golf.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in the House chamber today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 152 and 153.

□ 1900

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE TO ATTEND FUNERAL OF THE LATE HONORABLE DONALD M. PAYNE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HURT). Pursuant to House Resolution 571, and the order of the House of March 6, 2012, the Speaker on March 14, 2012, appointed the following Members of the House to the committee to attend the funeral of the late Honorable Donald M. Payne:

The gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH

The gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. CLYBURN

The members of the New Jersey delegation:

Mr. PALLONE
Mr. ANDREWS
Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN
Mr. LOBIONDO
Mr. PASCRELL
Mr. ROTHMAN
Mr. HOLT
Mr. GARRETT
Mr. SIRES
Mr. LANCE
Mr. RUNYAN

Other Members in attendance:

Ms. KAPTUR
Mr. LEVIN
Mr. TOWNS
Ms. WATERS
Ms. BROWN (FL)
Mr. RUSH
Mr. SCOTT (VA)
Mr. WATT
Ms. WOOLSEY
Ms. JACKSON LEE (TX)
Mr. JACKSON (IL)
Mr. CLAY
Mr. BUTTERFIELD
Mr. CLEAVER
Mr. AL GREEN (TX)
Ms. MOORE
Ms. CLARKE (NY)
Mr. JOHNSON (GA)
Ms. EDWARDS
Ms. FUDGE

Ms. BASS (CA)
Ms. SEWELL
Ms. NORTON
Mrs. CHRISTENSEN

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4089, SPORTSMEN'S HERITAGE ACT OF 2012, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Ms. FOXX, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-444) on the resolution (H. Res. 614) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4089) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing and shooting, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KYLE STOCKAMP

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding young man from Deep Gap, North Carolina.

Kyle Stockamp is set to graduate from the United States Air Force Academy this May. He will be graduating as squadron commander of his unit and was recently selected to represent the Air Force Academy at the Doolittle Raider reunion.

He was selected as the number one cadet from all of the history and FAS-history majors to serve on the silver goblet detail at this historic event.

Kyle was first nominated for the Air Force Academy in 2006. In 2007, he left the academy to spend time as a missionary in Taiwan and subsequently returned to the academy.

Today, I am proud not only to congratulate Kyle for graduating at the top of his class but proud of his dedication and commitment to God and his country.

May God continue to bless Kyle and his family.

PRESLEY POE, #10

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the sun rose in the Hill Country shortly before 8 a.m., she breathed her first breath of life. She weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 19½ inches long as she arrived in Round Rock, Texas, on April 12 of this year.

Presley Poe is the fourth child born to Suzy and Kurt Poe.

I call Presley #10 since I refer to each of our grandchildren not only by name but by their birth numbers as well.

Anyway, Presley, like all of us, did not choose her family or her place of birth, but she is blessed to be born to a God-fearing family and in a Nation like no other.

There is something about little girls that makes us smile. Maybe it's their happy spirit. Or is it that little glow of angelic quality with a speck of mischief? Or maybe it is we see in their eyes a hope for a better and gentler world. It's all of these, of course.

So, welcome to the world, Presley. As your grandfather, I hope you walk in the path of goodness, giving, and gratitude—and that you attend the University of Texas and not Texas A&M.

And that's just the way it is.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANN AND JACK MURPHY ON THEIR 70th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, occasionally, we go to remarkable events, and I did so last Saturday.

A couple that had reached the age of 94 and 92 were celebrating not only the gentlelady's birthday but also their 70th year of marriage. When I told people where I had been, they said, "You've got to be kidding. Seventy years?"

No, they were not married as teenagers, but they were married in their twenties. They happen to be my aunt and uncle, and I love those genes.

So congratulations to Ann and Jack Murphy on Ann's 90th birthday and their 70th anniversary.

AMERICA NEEDS A NEW TAX CODE

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is tax day, and as Americans work to file their taxes by midnight tomorrow, they are reminded about how broken our Tax Code and our tax system really is, how burdensome it has become, how complicated it has become, and how it has not kept up with today's economy.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, there are too many in Washington that always believe the answer is only to raise taxes rather than focusing on tax reform. Just a few weeks ago, the United States became the number one country in the developed world for having the highest corporate tax rate. This is something we should not be aspiring to. A new medical device tax is set to start next January that will be a hard-hitting tax on the American success story of medical innovation.

Mr. Speaker, we need a Tax Code that promotes hard work, achievement, innovation, and also savings and investment. Mr. Speaker, we need a Tax Code that is simpler and fair and more

competitive for all taxpayers so we can grow our economy and create jobs.

□ 1910

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE SECRET SERVICE AND THE GSA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I was in Colombia, South America, this past week with the President for what was an outstanding discussion among 30 Presidents, including the President of the United States. The meeting reenforced our commitment to South America and Central America on business opportunities, small business opportunities, human rights, and the controlling of drug trafficking.

At the same time, we had to, in essence, listen and hear about a horrible action that occurred by members of the Secret Service. This does not undermine the Secret Service's long years of service for 147 years, but there must be accountability.

I do not think that we should cede any authority to the House Oversight Committee. This is a question of Homeland Security and national security, and we must begin to act immediately for a full investigation.

Finally, on the General Services Administration, it should be cleaned up and cleaned out. I know for a fact that is true because monies that are being spent on the Mickey Leland Federal Building—the contractor is Gilbane. They are adhering to no rules regarding small businesses, minority-owned businesses, diversity and workforce, nothing at all. They are overseen by the General Service Administration, which has done absolutely nothing to rein in companies like Gilbane that have done nothing as it relates to diversity of small business and are doing nothing to adhere to the American value that everybody must have an opportunity under Federal funding.

GSA, clean up your act.

SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this past break that we were just on, I had an occasion to visit a great friend and ally in the Persian Gulf area. If we ever needed allies in that area because of Iran, we sure need them right now. I'm talking about the country of Bahrain.

Bahrain is a great friend, not only because they have been historically a friend of the United States, but we have the Fifth Fleet there, and the

Fifth Fleet is there to protect the interests of that part of the world as well as the United States of America. The Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf are right there, and the Fifth Fleet is there to guarantee that shipping of oil from that part of the world can get through. So Bahrain is extremely important to the United States, as well as being a friend and an ally. In addition to that, Bahrain is also a free trade agreement partner. We have a great free trade agreement with them, and they've been absolutely great as far as trade is concerned. I think we have a trade surplus with them.

The reason I've brought this up tonight, Mr. Speaker, is because I watch television, and I've seen where there has been a repressive government in Bahrain. There is no question there have been problems in the past. There has been overreaction by the police in certain instances in the past year, year and a half. As a result, there were people who were hurt severely when they were demonstrating in the streets of Bahrain. But the King and the Crown Prince have worked very hard to solve this problem.

One of the problems they have over there is the Iranian Government is working to try to undermine many of the countries in the Persian Gulf, and Bahrain is one of them; and there have been people coming from Iran into Bahrain to try to work with the demonstrators to undermine that government and overthrow it. People from Bahrain who are fairly radical have gone to Iran and Iraq to learn tactics to employ against the government there.

We have found that just recently there have been firebombings of homes of police. There have been firebombings of police in the streets. Some of them have burned to death. Just recently, at one of the homes of a policeman there who was gone, his wife and child were there and their house was firebombed.

The police have been ordered by the government, the King, and the Crown Prince to be very careful in how they react to the demonstrators. As a matter of fact, they don't use ammunition; they use tear gas to control the crowds. So there is no attempt right now to hurt the people there who are trying to hurt the police and the government.

I think it's important that we get the proper perspective on what's going on over there because this is one country that is extremely important to the United States because of energy that we get as well as trade and other things. If the Strait of Hormuz were to be closed down, if the Persian Gulf was closed down, if they sank some ships in there or if they put mines in the Strait of Hormuz or the Persian Gulf, the Fifth Fleet would have to go in and clean those out to make sure that commerce continued through the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. So Bahrain is extremely important.

Now I want to make a couple of points tonight that are extremely important.

First of all, the government and the police have made mistakes in the past; there is no question about that. Demonstrators, as I said before, have been infiltrated by outside radical elements. The demonstrators have used terrorist tactics, as I said, to try to destroy and undermine the government, and the Molotov cocktail is one of the things that they've been using. They've also been learning other things from the radicals that come in there or have been trained by the Iranians.

The government has attempted to solve the problems. As a matter of fact, the King appointed an outside commission, and this is the commission report: Report of the National Commission Charged with the Recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) Report. This is a huge report. It's not by the Government of Bahrain. It's by an outside group of people who were being fair and objective when they made these recommendations to the government. The King and the Crown Prince and the government are doing everything they can to implement these recommendations, and we need to applaud them for doing that.

They are reaching out to the demonstrators and the more radical elements to try to get them to the conference table to solve these problems. So far the demonstrators, supported in large part by these radical elements, will not come to the conference table and discuss these issues. The government is trying to reach out to them, but the demonstrators don't want to. That's something I think the world needs to know and the people in this country need to know. I hope our State Department is paying attention to this, because the State Department has a different view in many respects than what I found when I was there.

I want to stress very clearly tonight that the government has reached out to the demonstrators to discuss their grievances, but they can't get them to sit down with them. The government is reaching out, but the radical elements of the demonstrators are trying to make sure that the government continues to be undermined and stopped.

Let me just end by saying that we don't have a lot of friends in that part of the world. We have seen all kinds of problems in Libya. Libya is now in a state of confusion. If you look at Egypt right now, radical elements are trying to take over the Government of Egypt. That's the biggest country in that area. We see the problems in Syria. People are being killed, and we're trying to see a resolution of that problem through the mitigation of the United Nations and the former head of the United Nations.

But that entire area is in a state of flux, and we need all the friends that we can get. One of the best friends we have in the world, in my opinion, is Bahrain. Since they are our friend and the Fifth Fleet is there and since they are a great trading partner, I think