

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS MUST WITHSTAND SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, the Pentagon confirmed House and Senate Republicans' concerns by finally acknowledging that the Overseas Contingency Operations, a fund used to support troops in combat, will be subject to the sequestration cuts.

The Office of Management and Budget's senior adviser and associate director for Communications and Strategic Planning, Kenneth Baer, understands that if the sequester "were to take effect, it would be disastrous for our national security."

House Republicans have always been aware of the impacts sequestration will have on our brave men and women serving in uniform and the impacts it will have on their families. Last month, House Republicans passed the Sequester Replacement Reconciliation package, which is legislation that reduces the spending for unnecessary programs used to promote the President's liberal agenda, in order to use those funds to provide for a strong national defense. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to take action immediately and pass this bill.

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

PREVENT THE DOUBLING OF THE STUDENT LOAN RATE

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, in less than 1 month, the interest rate for student loans is scheduled to double from 3.4 to 6.8 percent.

This increased rate, combined with the skyrocketing costs for college, will make it extremely difficult for Ameri-

cans to afford to go to college. The cost for a higher education at a public 4-year school has almost tripled in the last 17 years. Americans now owe more money in tuition than they do in credit cards. According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, educational loan debt in our country has reached \$1 trillion.

Education is one of the biggest determining factors for earning potential. Those who have bachelor's degrees earn double the salary of those with high school diplomas. Those with associate degrees earn 50 percent more than those with high school diplomas. I am also a strong supporter of fully funding Pell Grants, which provide Federal grant aid for students to make college more affordable.

Access to higher education is an investment in the future economic stability of our Nation. We must put aside partisan differences and work together to preserve Pell Grants and to prevent the student loan rate from doubling on July 1.

STUDENTS BEAR THE BRUNT OF A BAD ECONOMY

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is a tough time to be a student in America.

The President's health care bill, if not repealed, will make school health plans much more expensive. According to The Wall Street Journal, some plans that were \$440 a year are going up to \$1,300 or \$1,600. Many schools will drop coverage altogether either because of cost or because of the President's birth control requirement. Students and young adults will then likely choose the cheapest option—going uninsured and paying a fine to the government.

Then, in July, student loan interest rates are set to increase because of choices made by leading Democrats. Student loan debt now exceeds credit card debt in U.S. households, and the rate at which recent grads are underemployed or unemployed is 50 percent. No wonder students are moving back in with their parents and are more likely to take part-time jobs just to make ends meet.

These failed policies and the bad economy have pushed young adults into survival mode.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS HEALTH & SAFETY INSTITUTE'S CALL TO ACTION

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the National Youth Sports Health & Safety Institute. I am pleased to serve as an honorary member of the institute's leadership board.

In the United States, 50 million children participate in sports. Sports pro-

grams teach our children leadership and sportsmanship, help improve academics, and promote fitness and wellness for a lifetime, but more needs to be done to ensure the health and safety of our youth athletes.

They are increasingly susceptible to injuries, which is why the institute's work to advance and disseminate the latest research in keeping kids safe on the field is so critical. On June 1, the National Youth Sports Health & Safety Institute met to launch a new call to action to all youth sports' stakeholders in America.

As founder and cochairman of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, I applaud this effort. As inactivity remains alarmingly widespread, we must continue to expand sports and recreational opportunities that promote physical activity and wellness in the health of our children, but also always remember that their safety must remain paramount.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the American people have lost more than \$15 billion to cronyism. Pennsylvanians alone have lost \$1.4 billion.

Right now, in southern Nevada, there is an expensive hole in the ground where there should be a nuclear waste repository. We should be storing dangerous nuclear waste at a single secure and geologically sound location. Instead, much of it sits aboveground at dozens of sites scattered across the United States.

When President Obama appointed HARRY REID's aide, Gregory Jaczko, as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission chairman, he shut down Yucca Mountain against the express wishes of Congress. Jaczko even tried to stop the application process, defying a court order to continue certifying the safety of the facility.

Yesterday, this House overwhelmingly voted to give the NRC an additional \$10 million to do its job. No more excuses. Do the work so that we know whether Yucca Mountain is safe.

NATIONAL OCEANS WEEK

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, a strong American future depends on the sound stewardship of our oceans.

Nowhere is the ocean more magnificent and majestic than off of northern California's Sonoma County coast. These are some of the most abundant waters on Earth, but much of the area is vulnerable to "drill, baby, drill" enthusiasts.

That's why I have offered a bill to more than double the size of our existing national marine sanctuary off

these coastal areas, giving these waters the permanent protection they need to protect them from oil and gas exploration. This legislation is a win-win—a pro-environment and pro-economic recovery bill. It is a conservation imperative, and it would provide a boost to our commercial fishing industry and to our local tourism industry.

In recognition of World Ocean Day, I urge my colleagues to sign on to my bill, H.R. 192, the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Protection and Modification Act.

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PROTECT MEDICAL INNOVATION ACT

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, as a doctor, who has taken care of patients in northern Michigan for 30 years, I strongly support the Protect Medical Innovation Act. This initiative will repeal the President's \$29 billion job-killing tax hike on our medical device manufacturers.

There are medical device businesses in my district that employ hundreds of people. These job providers should not be punished to pay for President Obama's health care law.

I'm a doctor, not a tax expert, but I know tax hikes on our job providers will hurt northern Michigan's economy. To me, it makes no sense to tax medical innovation. If this tax increase is enacted, there is little doubt these costs will be passed down to consumers and increase health care costs.

Mr. Speaker, I spent my entire career serving my community as a doctor. I want to see real health care solutions that put patients in control of their care, not the Federal Government.

I believe we need to listen to the American people about the need for real health care reform. I recommend we enact free-market reforms like letting people purchase health insurance across State lines, encouraging medical innovation, and allowing patients more flexibility in deciding how to spend their health care dollars.

REPLACE POSTMASTER GENERAL PATRICK DONAHOE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, in the past year, the United States Postal Service has attempted to close thousands of its facilities across the Nation. Though many, including the mail processing facility in Buffalo, have been spared, the process gives me no confidence that the current postal leadership should lead this organization during this challenging time.

Regarding the proposed closures, postal executives discourage public en-

gagement, refuse to provide information on how they reach their often contradictory conclusions, and dismiss the idea that they were accountable to this body or to the public. That is why I'm calling on the Postal Board of Governors to proceed with immediate action to replace Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe.

Mr. Speaker, I don't take this action lightly, but I believe that we are left with no choice. We must protect the institution of the Postal Service and the people and businesses it serves.

ULA'S 60 SUCCESSFUL MISSIONS

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

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the achievements of the Air Force's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program and the EELV industry team led by the United Launch Alliance. Just recently, ULA placed their 60th consecutive mission into orbit, the best record in the world.

ULA's Alabama employees work tirelessly to produce launch vehicles that are the backbone of America's national defense satellite program. ULA's success and partnership with the government in achieving on-time delivery and success is a testament to the patriotic bond between the private sector and America's warfighters.

ULA's 100 percent success record makes the challenging task of getting to orbit look easy, but, in fact, the company has built upon the expertise gained over 50 years, setting a standard for mission success that all others aspire to achieve.

ULA's record is a testament to the quality of the EELV program. It is an honor to represent the men and women who work at ULA's Alabama facility.

HONORING SECOND LIEUTENANT TRAVIS MORGADO

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

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and service of Army Second Lieutenant Travis Morgado, who was killed in action on May 23 in the Kandahar Province of Afghanistan. He was 25 years old. Travis was the son of Joe Morgado of San Jose, and our community was greatly saddened to hear of his passing.

Born in Los Gatos, he moved to Edmonds, Washington, with his mother when he was 5. He graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in civil engineering in 2009 and enlisted in the Army, determined to serve his country. He deployed to Afghanistan on March 20 and was tragically killed while conducting operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Second Lieutenant Morgado leaves behind his mother, Andrea; stepfather,

Dean Kessler; his father, Joe; step-mother, Nancy; as well as two younger brothers, a stepsister, and a step-brother.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Second Lieutenant Morgado and his family. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his service to his country. He served America well with courage and honor. I ask all of Congress to join me in thanking his family as they grieve at his loss and to express our condolences to all of them.

STATE SENATOR BOB BACON

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Colorado State Senator Bob Bacon for his 14 years of service in the Colorado State Legislature.

After serving for 6 years in the Colorado House of Representatives and 8 years in the Colorado Senate, Bob is retiring from elected office to uphold the Colorado State Legislature's commitment to term limits.

I had the opportunity to serve alongside Senator Bacon in the State legislature and know that Coloradans will miss a true champion for northern Colorado. As an educator for over 35 years, Senator Bacon's insight into the classroom and education system helped shape the policies that support Colorado students.

Senator Bacon served Coloradans well and has a genuine passion to help the students and citizens of Colorado. He was twice elected to the Poudre School District for the board of education before he served in the State legislature, and his commitment and service were recognized by the naming of Bacon Elementary School in Fort Collins in his honor.

Today, I would like to formally recognize Senator Bacon's outstanding commitment and thank him for his hard work, dedication, and selfless nature when serving the citizens of Larimer County and the students of Colorado.

KEEP STUDENT LOANS AFFORDABLE

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention an issue that is extremely important to me and the middle class families around the country: the ability for every student in America who so desires to get a college education.

My dad was a waiter when I was growing up. I'm the first person in my family to go to college with the help of student loans. I know firsthand the invaluable role that student loans play in helping Nevada's middle class families enable their children to get a college