

In his retirement, Mr. Bellardini remained active as a member of the Potsdam Elks Lodge, the VFW, the American Legion, and the Knights of Columbus. He was also an avid hunter.

He will be greatly missed by those left behind, including his son, his sister, two daughters, six grandchildren, as well as four great-grandchildren.

Like so many of that generation, he lived by the motto: "I was just doing my job." That is something we in Washington should clearly emulate.

I thank you for joining with me in honoring Mr. Bellardini's life and his service to our country.

#### IT IS NEVER OKAY TO DISREGARD OUR MOST BASIC PRIVACY RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I rise today in response to a situation which is currently causing a great deal of concern among law-abiding citizens in my home State of Missouri.

We have learned, through the diligent work of State Senator Kurt Schaefer and others in State government, that the Missouri Department of Revenue, which issues concealed-carry permits in our State, has improperly allowed this sensitive, personal information to be shared with the Federal Government. This egregious disregard for privacy rights led last week to the resignation of the director of the State Department of Revenue.

While Missourians are pleased that this inappropriate sharing of information has been discovered, we are still trying to determine why information on who is legally licensed to carry concealed firearms was surrendered to Federal authorities in the first place.

I stand with Missouri's elected representatives as they pursue all legal avenues to learn why the Missouri Department of Revenue displayed such blatant disregard for the rights of our honest, law-abiding citizens.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Lead us this day

in Your ways, that our Nation might be guided along the roads of peace, justice, and goodwill.

Grant strength and wisdom to our Speaker and the Members of both the people's House and the Senate, to our President and his Cabinet, and to our Supreme Court.

Bless as well the moral and military leaders of our country, and may those who are the captains of business, industry, and unions learn to work together toward the mutual benefit of all.

Grant us the courage to develop a sound energy program for the good of all. Bestow on the Members of Congress the perseverance to provide a framework that protects the rights and concerns of all Americans in the wake of terrible violence in our land and the wisdom to forge a fair and equitable immigration reform, that together we might look ahead to ever greater goals for the continued growth of our Nation.

May all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

#### WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2013

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

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Minnesotans I serve who tell me simply: it's about time.

I rise today on behalf of a South St. Paul mom and dad who find it difficult to balance work and family and feel they are not spending enough time with their children.

I rise today on behalf of the Minnesota National Guard and all our brave men and women in uniform who are deployed while their spouses single-

handedly juggle work and household responsibilities.

I rise today on behalf of a college student from Shakopee and millions like her working full-time while pursuing an undergraduate degree.

And I rise today on behalf of an Eagan couple, who, like more than 50 million working Americans, spend at least 8 hours a week providing care for aging relatives, a challenge when balancing the demands of a job.

Mr. Speaker, outdated Federal policy denies many workers the chance to spend more time with their children or care for an aging relative. Accordingly, the Education and Workforce Committee approved legislation last week that will fix this outdated policy and help more Americans balance family and work.

Mr. Speaker, Americans sacrifice a great deal to provide for their families, and I agree with my Minnesotan constituents and most Americans: it is about time.

#### DON'T DISCOURAGE CROSS-BORDER TRAVEL

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I was alarmed to discover that the Department of Homeland Security's budget request proposed a study of the imposition of a fee—a tax—for passengers and pedestrians at our northern land border crossing.

Western New York is home to two rail and three vehicle crossings, including the Peace Bridge, the second busiest northern border crossing. Integrating the economies of western New York and southern Ontario is essential to our economic strength, and nationally 300,000 people cross our Canadian border by vehicle each day and spend an estimated \$235 million.

Last year, the American and Canadian Governments signed a historic Beyond-the-Border agreement to bolster cross-border travel. The imposition of a border toll will discourage cross-border travel and goes against the spirit of this historic agreement.

Mr. Speaker, we should be encouraging increased economic activity between the United States and Canada, not stifling it. This proposal is completely unacceptable and must be withdrawn immediately.

#### SIMPLIFY AND STRENGTHEN FEDERAL SCHOOL AID PROGRAMS

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, for many young people, higher education has become a very expensive dream because of rising costs. The average new graduate is struggling to pay off more than \$25,000 in debt while hunting for a job in this stagnant economy.

While Washington can play a role in fixing the problem, we cannot look to

the Federal Government alone to fix this problem. Instead, we must work with State governments, schools, students, and parents to find a solution.

Within the past decade, costs have risen 66 percent beyond the rate of inflation. Instead of trying to work with schools, the Federal Government has been busy implementing policies that increase their costs. My colleagues and I on the Higher Education and Workforce Training Subcommittee are looking at how to simplify and strengthen Federal aid programs.

It's obvious more needs to be done to help students and families make the best decision possible about their education at a price they can afford. My goal is to continue to identify and remove unnecessary and costly burdens from this process and put the dream of higher education in reach of more students.

#### ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, climate change, in my view, is real, it's urgent, and we must make progress or ignore it at our peril. But whether we agree or disagree, whether you're a climate change believer or denier, there are things that we can do together for the benefit of the environment and the economy.

We can focus the debate on energy efficiency; we can save money through making our homes and buildings more energy efficient; we can put people back to work and buy American products; and, in the process, we can cut down on harmful carbon emissions and make progress on climate change and strengthen our economy.

That is why I've joined with my friend from West Virginia, DAVID MCKINLEY, in introducing the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, which proposes practical solutions to bolster energy efficiency. This bill will speed our transition to a more energy efficient economy—increasing America's economic competitiveness in energy security—and build jobs.

By finding areas where we actually do agree and working together, we can make progress on the environment and on the economy.

#### MAKE LIFE EASIER FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Ms. JENKINS. Whether it's jobs or our Nation's debt, the economy is still the number one issue for hardworking Americans. But, instead of supporting initiatives like the Keystone pipeline, something that would create 20,000 jobs

and help secure our energy supply, this administration continues to pursue the same failed economic policies. Their budget adds over \$8 trillion to the debt, raises taxes by another trillion dollars, and they continue to support a burdensome health care law that does nothing to address the issue of rising costs.

The House is working on solutions to create a stronger, healthier economy with more jobs and opportunities for all Americans. We have passed legislation to replace the sequester, to balance the budget, to repeal the President's health care law, and we're working on reforming our broken Tax Code to make it more fair and efficient.

It's time for the administration to get on board: stop creating problems like politically motivated flight delays and start helping to make life easier for American families.

□ 1210

#### HONORING ALAMEDA COUNTY LEADERS

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Tomorrow, the Alameda County Labor Council will be hosting their annual Unionist of the Year awards dinner where local labor leaders will be recognized for their tireless advocacy on behalf of hardworking Americans.

One of these great leaders is Obray Van Buren, who will be honored with the Unionist of the Year award. Obray has been a member of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 342 for 30 years. Obray is also on the board of directors for Tri-CED Community Recycling, a company which gives many former offenders and at-risk youth a chance at life. This organization proudly serves both Hayward and Union City in my district.

Also honored will be California's Attorney General Kamala Harris, an Alameda County native who also, like me, served in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office and will be honored as the Warrior Woman of the Year. Attorney General Harris is committed to defending the interests of working families who are the backbone of our economy.

Other honorees include Rachel Bryan, Jason Gumataotao, Tanya Pitts, Tamara Perine, Bud Beal, and Christine Garrett.

Once again, congratulations to all honorees. Alameda County appreciates your efforts to ensure that worker rights and benefits are always protected.

#### REMEMBERING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BARRETT L. AUSTIN

(Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with heavy heart

to honor a military hero and one of my constituents, and a casualty of war. Private First Class Barrett L. Austin died on April 21 after being a casualty, I believe, of an IED while serving his country in Afghanistan. Barrett Austin was just 20 years old. He was assigned to A Company, 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, Georgia. Private First Class Austin was a beloved son, husband, friend, and soldier from the Dacusville-Easley, Pickens County area of South Carolina.

My heart goes out to his wife, his parents, and all of those who called Barrett a friend. This true American hero has made the true sacrifice in defense of our great Nation, and we owe him our eternal gratitude. This Nation remains the greatest on Earth because of people like Barrett Austin, and we must never forget the true cost of the freedoms that we enjoy.

So on behalf of the Third District of South Carolina and the entire Nation, we thank you, Barrett, for your sacrifice. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the entire Austin family. May God bless them, and may God continue to bless America.

#### SUPPORTING SPECIALTY CROPS

(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, I rise today to introduce a bipartisan resolution in support of specialty crops, with support from Members of Congress across the country. Specialty crops, such as fruits and vegetables, are a significant part of agriculture, with annual production valued at over \$50 billion. This is about half of the value of all U.S. crops, but specialty crops aren't given the same attention or financial support as our traditional commodities.

Specialty crops are a major source of economic activity, jobs, and our Nation's food supply. Every State has at least some specialty crop production, and my district is no different. In Whatcom and Skagit counties, hundreds of specialty crops are grown, totaling millions in sales each year. Specialty crops grown on farms in Snohomish and King counties provide fresh, quality foods to our schools, restaurants, and farmers markets.

As Congress begins to consider another farm bill, it is important to acknowledge how vital specialty crops are to our country. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, and I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that programs in support of specialty crops are highlighted and fully funded.

#### NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1