

WELCOMING REVEREND LARRY PHILLIPS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that you accepted our nomination of Surry County minister and commissioner, Larry Phillips from Mount Airy, to lead the House with the opening prayer. In the short time that I have represented Surry County, I have come to know Larry as an outstanding elected official and a principled and thoughtful person.

Reverend Phillips is currently serving in his 25th year as senior pastor of Midway Baptist Church in Mount Airy, which is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. He is a graduate of Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, holds a master of arts in biblical studies, and is completing his master's of religious education.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said in North Carolina there are more Baptists than there are North Carolinians, and Reverend Phillips and his family belong to that very distinguished group.

Larry Phillips was born in Cherokee County, North Carolina, and has been married to Melinda Gay Johnson Phillips for 36 years and is father to Andrea and Darren, father-in-law to Meagan, and grandfather to Madison and Branson.

Larry Phillips was elected to the Surry County Board of Commissioners in 2012 and serves on the County Commissioners Economic Development Task Force, including the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and Board of Directors.

We are pleased, Mr. Speaker, to have Larry Phillips as our guest chaplain today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. Foxx). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

EFFECTS OF OBAMACARE

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I have heard from many of my constituents over the last couple of weeks who are struggling mightily under the President's health care law.

Ed from Hamilton is one of them. He and his wife recently retired but aren't old enough yet for Medicare. Their health care plan is being canceled. It is being replaced with one that will cost \$500 more per month. Now think about that: \$500 more per month every month for their new health care plan.

Then there is Brian from West Chester, my hometown. He runs a small business, just like I used to. Brian has been told that his health care premiums are going to double. If that happens, Brian said to me he might have to close his doors. That means his workers are going to lose their plan and lose their job.

Now, these are just two stories from my district in Ohio, and there are millions more of them all around the country. Premiums are going up. People are losing their coverage, and small businesses are being terrified.

The President's health care law is hurting a lot of our constituents. If he is serious about helping them, he can start by making good on his promise and supporting the Keep Your Health Care Act.

I would encourage every Member to help keep that promise and vote for this important bill.

THE PHILIPPINES ARE IN NEED

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

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, today my thoughts are with the victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. The typhoon ravaged the Philippines, bringing sustained winds that reached 175 miles per hour and storm surges reaching 13 feet.

In the aftermath, reports have confirmed more than 2,300 dead; but the number could be far larger. Haiyan wiped out roads, electricity, and communications in much of the country.

Mayors are faced with unthinkable decisions, like choosing between transporting in food and relief supplies or transporting out the bodies of victims.

When those in the other parts of the globe are in need due to disaster, the United States always lends a hand. Right now, the Philippines are in need.

I urge Members of Congress and all members of this United States of America to continue opening their hearts to provide critical support to the recovery efforts.

OBAMACARE

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

Mrs. BLACK. Madam Speaker, Greg, a constituent from Fairfield Glade in my district, is one of tens of thousands across our State who has received one of these, a letter canceling their insurance policy.

Greg wrote to me that he "operates a small painting business and was very happy with the Cover Tennessee program for small businesses and their employees. This program is being canceled effective January 2014 because it does not meet the minimum requirements of ObamaCare. This directly contradicts the promise made by President Obama that we could keep our existing programs," he says.

Madam Speaker, just yesterday, it was reported that only 992 Tennesseans—yes, less than 1,000 Tennesseans—have selected new coverage through the ObamaCare exchanges. Yet at least 94,000—yes, 94,000—across our State have lost their coverage.

The President must honor his promise to the American people and work with Congress to protect Americans like Greg.

THE AMERICAN WORK OPPORTUNITY ACT

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, last week I met with businesses from around my district as part of my economic development tour.

I visited Sip & Savor, a minority-owned coffee shop in Hyde Park, where people go for great coffee and conversation.

I met with Landauer in Glenwood, ranked 63rd on the Forbes list of Best Small Businesses in America. They are keeping our troops safe by investing in technologies that protect them from the harmful effects of radiation.

I spoke with workers at Nucor Steel in Kankakee, who are helping lead the manufacturing renaissance in the United States.

These businesses take pride in the work they do, but they need a Congress that is willing to work just as hard for them. We need folks on both sides who will reduce the barriers to business growth and who will support the small businesses that create 65 percent of the new jobs in our economy.

I recently introduced H.R. 3328, the American Work Opportunity Act, which extends the work opportunity tax credit for businesses that put Americans back to work. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to work together to pass a comprehensive jobs bill.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KADEN

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, this past weekend we remembered the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much for this Nation. In many cases, their families join in that sacrifice, forced to be apart for birthdays and other family celebrations while their loved ones serve overseas.

I am so grateful for these defenders of freedom who make the tough commitment to be away from their families so they can protect us abroad so we can enjoy peace at home. As these military families make sacrifices, we remember our own families who benefit from their service.

I want to wish my incredible son, Kaden, a happy birthday as he turns 12 today. Your mom and I are so blessed

by having you in our family, and we are looking forward to the great future God has planned for you.

I am so glad that we will be able to see each other this weekend and celebrate, when many other fathers and mothers abroad have to wait months to celebrate with their own kids.

Birthdays and holidays give us another chance to pause and remember them this year. Thank you, veterans.

And happy birthday, Kaden.

BLACKOUT RULES ARE UNFAIR

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, earlier this month, the Federal Communications Commission chair put forth a proposal to end government support for sports blackouts. This is a welcome step in the fight to end blackouts once and for all.

In my home community of western New York, there is a threat of a blackout for the next two home games. This means that, despite overwhelming community support, money spent on merchandise, and tax dollars being spent for stadium improvements, Buffalo fans will not be able to see their NFL team on television.

On Tuesday I introduced the Furthering Access and Networks for Sports, or FANS, Act, which would eliminate these harmful blackouts once and for all. Senators BLUMENTHAL and MCCAIN introduced identical legislation in the Senate.

Madam Speaker, blackout rules are unfair, outdated, and alienate fans. I will continue to fight until sports teams do the right thing for their fans.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BROKEN PROMISE

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

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to shed light on the President's broken health care promise. The President promised over and over again that Americans who like their health care plans could keep them, but that is just not true.

Here is what Wendy from my district wrote me:

My BlueCross BlueShield policy will be canceled due to ObamaCare starting March 1, 2014. I checked out other policy options under ObamaCare and the least expensive qualifying plan was an additional \$208.44 per month. This is with a higher deductible, larger out-of-pocket expense, and only three doctor visits per year per person. This is outrageous. Additionally, this rate only includes me and my three children, not even my husband. I guess we can't even keep a family together under ObamaCare.

As Wendy's story exemplifies, and as we predicted since 2010, ObamaCare is fundamentally flawed in concept and execution. Dictated government health care cannot beat free-market choices.

And as a health care professional, I will continue to do all that I can to protect the American people from ObamaCare.

VETERANS TOUR

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the recent veterans tour I conducted across my region of Illinois.

Last week I traveled to all corners of my district to meet with local veterans and listen to their priorities and to their concerns. I held listening roundtables with veterans to talk about ways we can cut down on the shameful backlog of VA claims, to make sure that veterans have access to good-paying jobs, to education, and to job training programs, and to put an end to veterans' homelessness.

I also worked a shift at the Sterling, Illinois, VA Clinic, where I shadowed nurses and saw firsthand new technology that help veterans have access to treatment closer to home.

And, finally, I interviewed Leland Chandler for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. Mr. Chandler is a World War II veteran from Galesburg, Illinois, who was a prisoner of war in the Pacific Theater. He received many awards and decorations for his brave service to our Nation. He is a true American hero, and I am honored to share his story with the public.

During my time in Congress, I have made veterans my top priority, and I will continue to fight to protect the benefits that they have worked so hard to achieve.

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AMERICANS LOSING THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, today I want to talk about Debbie Brown, who is from Garfield County in Washington State. She has a daughter and two grandchildren and is 53 years old. She works at the local gas station to help support her family. A few weeks ago, she was one of many who were told that, as of December 31, 2013, her health insurance plan would no longer be available. She has looked at other plans and hasn't found one that is affordable, so she is uninsured now.

Unfortunately, her story is too common; and it is repeated all across this country, heartbreaking stories of everyday, average, hardworking Americans losing their health insurance. We can do better. Too many Americans are receiving cancellation notices; too many Americans are losing their doctors; and too many Americans don't have affordable health insurance because of the Affordable Care Act.

Madam Speaker, 3.5 million Americans have seen their plans canceled, almost 300,000 in Washington State alone. President Obama promised the American people, if you liked your health care plan, you could keep it—not, if he liked your plan, you could keep it.

Let's support the legislation tomorrow.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS

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

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to call on the House to pass the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, which passed the Senate with bipartisan support. It is a bill with a simple premise: that people should be hired, fired, and assessed based on their capabilities and job performance, not on prejudice. It would take the common-sense step of extending Federal employment nondiscrimination protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

I spent a decade working in economic development, and the research by Richard Florida and others is pretty clear. One of the prime drivers of economic growth is tolerance, and yet, in 29 States, it is legal to fire an employee because of sexual orientation. The rights granted in my State shouldn't end at our borders.

Failure to act on this doesn't make economic sense; it doesn't make legislative sense; and it doesn't make moral sense.

But I am not here just as an economic developer. I am here as someone whose faith dictates that I love and respect all people and live by the Golden Rule, and I am here as a dad of two little girls. I want my daughters to grow up in a country where discrimination is a thing of the past, where folks can't be treated differently because of their gender or who they love. It is time to pass ENDA.

NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN

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

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, President Rouhani of Iran is doing exactly what he was put in power to do: get the Obama administration to weaken international economic sanctions.

Our sanctions, Madam Speaker, are working. Unfortunately, Secretary Kerry and this administration have been chasing an agreement with Iran that relaxes sanctions and allows Iran to continue enriching material and developing their heavy-water reactor. This is an outcome that the regime in Tehran desires, and they won't have to make any concessions to get it.