

was this perfect idea that no longer should this British nobility system prevail where your destiny was often charted for you before you were even born based on where you were born or to whom you were born to. It was the idea that you should be able to decide your own independence, chart your own destiny.

It was a perfect idea carried out by imperfect men. It wasn't extended to African Americans. It wasn't extended to women. Certain religious sects were left out. So we fought a civil war, ended slavery. We went through the suffragist movement, and women were given the right to vote. Eventually, entire classes of people—Catholics, the poor, and others who had been shut out—were now brought into American opportunity.

Today, when I think about what are some of the final frontiers of freedom that have not yet been expanded, I think back to President Johnson. We are very grateful for President Johnson's declaration of the war on poverty. Fifty years ago, he stated that we are in a war on poverty, and we must fight for civil rights, and he signed legislation that marked the beginning of the end of the Jim Crow era. He also recognized it was time to give the poor a real chance to pursue their happiness.

He hearkened back, just as I did, to our Nation's beginnings. President Johnson said that our Founders made a covenant with this new land and that it was conceived in justice. In his words, this "justice was the promise that all who made the journey would share in the fruits of the land."

So began a renewed effort in America to fight poverty, a renewed effort to give those who are poor the freedom to dream that they could be anything they want. We recognized that kids needed to be better prepared before they go to school, so we created the Head Start program. We recognized the critical importance of health and wellness, and so we created Medicare and Medicaid.

But this freedom to dream has not yet been expanded across America. In fact, I see every day that there are still millions of children living in poverty, and just like every politician, when I see one of these young children in a schoolhouse, I ask them, What do you want to be when you grow up? After doing this a number of times, I realized, I should really ask them, Are you hungry? Are you cold? Are you safe? Because the opportunities around them—the crumbling buildings they are trying to learn in, the parents who are working at a minimum wage that is not a living wage—do not provide them with the tools that these children need to realize their opportunity. This leaves them no different than a child born in the 1700s under the British nobility system.

The freedom to dream is no different, and they are no more able to dream beyond where they were born or whom

they were born to. So our goal must be to continue to fight this war on poverty, to give every child across every schoolhouse in this country the freedom to dream. This means we must raise the minimum wage. We must extend unemployment insurance for the long-term unemployed so that they can find a job and make sure they can reinforce the skills at home that their children are learning in the classroom.

We will not rest on this issue until I can ask and every Member of this Congress can ask a child, What do you want to be when you grow up? And that child will be able to say, My country has given me the tools to be anything I want.

#### 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 10 o'clock and 57 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

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

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

As You make available to Your people the grace and knowledge to meet the needs of the day, we pray that Your spirit will be upon the Members of this people's House, giving them the richness of Your wisdom.

Bless the Members of the minority party as they prepare to gather the end of this week. May they, with those who accompany them, travel safely and meet in peace.

Bless also the majority party, as they will be returning to their constituencies. Give them hearts and ears to listen well to all those whom they represent.

May the power of Your truth and our faith in Your providence give them all the confidence they must have to do the good work required for service to our Nation.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote

on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HUFFMAN 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.

#### HONORING MATT COWDREY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Matt Cowdrey on being named Australia's 2013 Multi-Class Swimmer of the Year.

Matt is serving as a fellow in my office as part of the UNI-Capitol Washington Internship Program, which is ably led by Director Eric Federer. Matt is no stranger to success. He is the most decorated Paralympic athlete of all time in Australia, having won 13 gold medals, and 23 overall in Athens, Beijing, and London.

Even though Matt was born Down Under, he exemplifies the American spirit and is a testimony to the power of hard work and determination.

Matt, it has been wonderful having you be part of our congressional team. I look forward to hearing all about your future successes, including from the pool in Rio in 2016, and likely someday in the Australian Parliament.

Congratulations, Matt, once again, on all of your amazing accomplishments. It has been great having you on our team.

#### COLGAN FLIGHT 3407

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, 5 years ago tomorrow, Continental

Flight 3407 crashed in western New York. This was a tragedy that took so many people far too soon and changed a community forever.

The cause of the crash was found to be pilot and crew error, with fatigue being a contributing factor. In an inspiring act of love, the families of those lost formed as impressive an advocacy effort as I have ever seen. Drawing strength and purpose from their loss, they successfully convinced Congress and the FAA to enact landmark aviation safety reforms.

Their call for "one level of safety" has become a rallying cry for all of those who want to make sure that this kind of preventable tragedy is not visited upon other families and other communities.

Madam Speaker, I and all of western New York stand united with the families of Flight 3407. We feel their loss and express our sympathy to them. We also stand in awe of their commitment and tireless effort to work on behalf of travelers everywhere. The entire American traveling public owes a debt of gratitude to these families who turned tragedy into purpose.

#### CBO REPORT MAKES REFORMS EVEN MORE URGENT

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, recent CBO estimates predict that regulatory changes created by ObamaCare will remove 2.3 million Americans from the full-time workforce. The President has gone to great lengths to spin this as a positive development, saying job losses will come as a result of people voluntarily choosing to pursue interests other than full-time work.

It is true that, all else being equal, individuals and families being able to make ends meet while working less is a cause for celebration. The problem is that all else is not equal. We have a social safety net that depends on robust economic growth and is already forecast to run perpetual deficits for decades to come. No one disputes that 2.2 million lost jobs will diminish economic growth.

For as long as I have been in Congress, Republicans have been working to enact structural reforms to put our budget back in balance. Last week's CBO report makes those reforms even more urgent.

#### CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of the Great Recession, Congress established the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau for a very clear reason: to ensure that financial markets and services work for all Americans, not just the big banks and best connected.

Today, the CFPB makes sure that consumers get the information they need to make smart financial decisions on everything from mortgages to credit cards to student loans.

Today, the House majority will introduce a purely partisan measure called the Consumer Financial Protection Safety and Soundness Improvement Act. That is a mouthful, if nothing else, but rather than improve the CFPB, it would do precisely the opposite by undermining its independence and eliminating its rulemaking authority.

Consumer protections could be scrapped. We must not repeat the same costly mistakes that put our economy in the free fall of the Great Recession.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

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

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Marriage Week.

Every year, in the lead-up to Valentine's Day, we recognize the importance of the institution of marriage and the stability it brings to the American household. Married couples lead longer lives, have greater financial and emotional stability, and are healthier and generally happier than their unmarried counterparts. However, only 52 percent of adults in America are married today—a steep decline from 80 percent in 1970.

Children who grow up in a two-parent household generally perform better in school, stay out of trouble, and are on track to live a healthier and happier life. Yet today, over 40 percent of babies are born out of marriage, compared to only 5 percent in 1960.

I have been married to my wife, Rebecca, for 32 years. We have enjoyed raising our four wonderful children together, the oldest of whom is now married himself.

I believe promoting the positive benefits of marriage is important for the happiness, stability, and well-being of the next generation. I am proud to recognize National Marriage Week, and I am honored to be married to Rebecca and be the father of Patrick, Kathleen, Laura, and Colin.

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, just a few minutes ago, I left the House Judiciary Committee, where they were discussing, "Asylum Fraud: Abusing America's Compassion," a hearing that was called by the Republican majority.

Madam Speaker, I adhere to following the law, but I do believe as we approach the 50th year of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, we will see more and more voices being raised for the indignity

and lack of human rights in not passing comprehensive immigration reform.

Let me remind my colleagues that the Refugee Act was signed by President Reagan in 1980. It reflects America's values and this country's deep-seated commitment to liberty and human dignity, as well as to pledge, under the Refugee Convention protocols, to save those who have been abused, sexually or otherwise, and children or families who have been subject to violence.

Let's get on with the values of this Nation. Let's pass comprehensive immigration reform. Let's restore the values of this country and provide laws that secure all of our borders. Yet we continue to have these hearings suggesting that those of us who cry out for immigration reform do not understand the law. Coming from a border State, let me be very clear, Madam Speaker, that I understand the law.

Let's pass comprehensive immigration reform.

#### HONORING ILLINOIS VETERAN OF THE MONTH JOHN CARR

(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, I rise today to honor U.S. Army veteran John Carr, who was recognized as Illinois' January Veteran of the Month.

Enlisting in 1969 during the Vietnam war, John was wounded in action and was medically retired in 1972. For his service, John received the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, and a Purple Heart, among others.

John didn't know what was in store upon leaving the service, but when he saw an ad to transport other veterans to the hospital, he signed up. He then joined the Kane County Veteran's Assistance Commission as a hospital caseworker and was elected as superintendent only 3 years later. He retired last February, after nearly four decades of service to his fellow veterans.

My staff is proud to have worked alongside John to help Illinois veterans navigate the Federal benefits system. Constituents regularly told us how John helped anxious veterans or spouses receive their well-deserved benefits.

Thank you, John, for your service to our country and to the men and women like you who have made sacrifices to defend it.

#### JOBS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

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

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of joblessness in America.

A simple way to enhance opportunities for all Americans is continued investments in career technical education or vocational schools. Not every