

4) Capps/McNerney Amendment to H.R. 3826—Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this amendment.

5) Schakowsky/Lowenthal Amendment to H.R. 3826—Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this amendment.

6) Waxman Amendment to H.R. 3826—Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this amendment.

7) Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 3826. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on the motion to recommit.

8) Final Passage of H.R. 3826—Electricity Security and Affordability Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on this bill.

9) Motion to Table the Fudge Privileged Resolution. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on this motion to table.

10) Jackson Lee Amendment to H.R. 2641—Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this amendment.

11) McKinley Amendment to H.R. 2641—Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on this amendment.

12) Nadler Amendment to H.R. 2641—Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this amendment.

13) Johnson (GA) Amendment to H.R. 2641—Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this amendment.

14) Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 2641—Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on the motion to recommit.

15) Final Passage of H.R. 2641—Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on this bill.

16) H.R. 4152—To Provide for the Cost of Loan Guarantees for Ukraine—Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this bill.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) for the purpose of inquiring of the schedule for the week to come.

Mr. CONAWAY. I thank the gentleman from Maryland, the Democratic whip, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday the House is not in session. On Tuesday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour and noon for legislative business. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a few suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by close of business tomorrow.

Today, in a strong bipartisan vote, the House passed a bill to provide the administration with the authority to extend loan guarantees to the government in Ukraine, and I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for his support, along with Chairman HAL ROGERS and Ranking Member NITA LOWEY. I urge the Senate to act promptly on this bill and send it to the President for his signature.

Building upon this support, I expect the House to consider a resolution under suspension next week to express our support for the people of Ukraine and their territorial integrity.

In addition, the House will consider a number of bills to address the executive overreach of the Obama administration. Mr. Speaker, these bills are designed to restore the balance of power created by our Founders and require that this President faithfully execute our Nation’s laws. The House will consider the following bills to reestablish the rule of law:

H.R. 3973, the Faithful Execution of Law Act, authored by Representative RON DESANTIS, to require Federal officials to report to Congress when the administration fails to faithfully enforce current law;

H.R. 4138, the ENFORCE Act, sponsored by Representative TREY GOWDY, to establish procedures under which the House, or the Senate, may authorize a lawsuit against the executive branch for failure to faithfully execute laws; and

H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act, authored by Representative SCOTT TIPTON, to ensure privately held water rights.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as you know, the patch for the Medicare sustainable growth rate expires at the end of the month. For this reason, I expect the House to consider H.R. 4015, the SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014, sponsored by Representative MICHAEL BURGESS, next week. This completely paid-for bill will replace the flawed SGR formula.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for the information he has given to us.

Let me say that on Ukraine, I think the House acted properly. It acted in a timely fashion to express the views of this House with respect to the Russian violation of international law and the agreements that they have with Ukraine, and I am pleased we were able to join together to pass that through the House. Hopefully the Senate will pass it quickly.

I just make the observation that the Senate I know believes that the reform of IMF will be important to work with that extension. We will see what happens on that. I thank the gentleman and his side of the aisle for acting promptly. We were pleased to join in that action.

Let me ask the gentleman, the gentleman mentioned as we know that by March 31 the authorization for the sustainable growth rate payment will expire and the payment to physicians for Medicare services will be substantially reduced under present law. There is, I think, a strong feeling by many of us that this needs to be fixed. It needs to be fixed permanently, and it needs to be paid for.

It is my understanding that the bill H.R. 4015, a bipartisan agreement on the SGR payment policy, as the gentleman knows, does not have a pay-for

in it. Is it my understanding that that will be amended before it is brought to the floor, or will there be an amendment on the floor to add the pay-for?

I yield to the gentleman

Mr. CONAWAY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

We all are concerned about the SGR fix. We have seen this movie more than four, five, six times. Physicians were in town this week explaining to us exactly the impact of not getting this done on time, so that their billing systems and their cash flows are not interrupted. We have a keen interest in small businesses, which are most physician offices, so there is a keen interest to do that. That will be amended on the floor to include the pay-for that will offset the SGR.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. Let me clarify, Mr. Speaker, this will be under a rule and there will be an amendment made in order to add the pay-for; is that correct?

Mr. CONAWAY. No, the pay-for will be added through the Rules Committee.

Mr. HOYER. So before it comes to the floor, it will be paid for.

I ask the gentleman, it is my understanding that the pay-for, I don’t know if I am accurate on this, but my understanding is that the pay-for is the repeal of the individual mandate. If so, can the gentleman tell me whether he has any indication that the Senate would be in agreement on that, and I say that because obviously there hasn’t been agreement in the past, and if we use that as a pay-for, it seems to me it puts at risk meeting the March 31 deadline.

Mr. CONAWAY. The specifics of the pay-for have not yet been finalized. There are lots of things under consideration. We, too, want this done in advance of the March 31 date so, like I said earlier, physician offices can continue their billing as is without the interruption that a failure to extend or fix the doc fix would cause. We are keen on making that work, and the specifics of what the pay-for will be are currently under discussion.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman, and I would say I am hopeful in light of the fact that the bill itself is a bipartisan, or at least the two committees have agreed on it, and I think there is general agreement on the fix for the SGR, but the pay-for have been contentious. I would hope that, as the bill has been a product of agreement, that the pay-for, which is essential, would also be a product of that. I would hope we would see a bill come to the floor that does have agreement of both sides of the aisle so we can, as the gentleman points out and we fully agree, ensure that the SGR is fixed and put on a sustainable path for our Medicare and for the provider community prior to March 31. I would hope that could happen.

Next, I don’t know whether the gentleman has watched colloquies in the past, but the majority leader and I have had an ongoing discussion about immigration reform. Both of us believe

the immigration system is broken. Both of us believe it needs to be fixed. Can the gentleman tell me whether there is any likelihood of an immigration bill coming to the floor anytime soon? Again, we have a relatively short period of time left to go, and we believe this legislation is one of the most important pieces that are pending on the agenda, and I would be, as I told the majority leader, very inclined to try to work with the majority on behalf of the minority, and I know the minority would like to get an immigration reform bill that we can both agree on passed as soon as possible.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. CONAWAY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

There is nothing scheduled for next week, and I would tell the minority whip, beyond that I am not aware of any further scheduling other than I know it is not next week.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. I hope if it is not next week, it will be soon. I thank the gentleman for his information.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
MARCH 10, 2014

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2014, and that the order of the House of January 7, 2014, regarding morning-hour debate not apply on that date.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COTTON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

MILITARY SERVICE IS NOT
ENTITLEMENT TO CONGRESS

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, recently recorded in political dialogue was a statement about one of my colleagues somehow feeling that his military service “entitled him to a seat in Congress.”

Mr. Speaker, no one in the military feels that their service entitles them to anything. I am deeply disappointed in the implication that because I served my country, I feel entitled to serve in this esteemed body—or, for that matter, to anything. My colleague didn’t pledge an oath of service to God and country because he felt he would get something in return.

Mr. Speaker, this type of statement not only is regrettable, reprehensible, and offensive, but it diminishes the sanctity of military service and those who tirelessly and selflessly dedicate themselves to it.

□ 1515

VETERANS UNEMPLOYMENT

(Ms. DUCKWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, the unemployment rate for veterans is more than 10 percent. 900,000 veterans receive food stamps each month. Nearly \$104 million in food stamps were redeemed at military commissaries in fiscal year 2013, yet the majority has repeatedly failed to bring the extension of unemployment insurance to a vote.

Since it expired last year, more than 2 million individuals, including 200,000 veterans, have been cut off from this vital lifeline.

I know firsthand how important this program is for hardworking veterans. After I completed flight school and returned home to Illinois, I relied on unemployment insurance to help me transition back to civilian life.

The unemployment rate for veterans recently separated from the military is now sitting at 10 percent. 246,000 veterans who served since 9/11 are now out of work.

For those coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan, this transition has been especially challenging. They have enough to worry about without suffering from cuts to unemployment insurance.

Taking an up-or-down vote on extending unemployment insurance is the right thing to do, Mr. Speaker. We need to renew this for those searching for jobs and those who are getting back on their feet.

Our veterans and unemployed have not given up on finding work, and we cannot give up on them.

MAKE COMMON SENSE CHANGES
TO END HUNGER

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans, led by Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN, criticize our Nation’s antipoverty programs. Some want to drastically change them, and others want to eliminate them altogether. Over the past 6 months, we have seen \$19 billion in cuts to SNAP alone, our Nation’s premier antihunger program.

Participation in SNAP reached an all-time high a few years ago because of the Great Recession, the worst economic period since the Great Depression. That is because people were either unemployed or underpaid.

If you want to reduce SNAP participation, it is simple: put more people back to work and better paying jobs. Yesterday, the Center for American Progress released a report showing how easy one step is. They found that increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 would move about 3.5 million people off of SNAP, simply because they wouldn’t need it.

We shouldn’t arbitrarily cut antipoverty programs like SNAP. We must make commonsense changes like in-

creasing the minimum wage if we are truly going to end hunger in this country.

WELCOME HOME STAFF

SERGEANT NICHOLAS LAVERY

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Nicholas Lavery from Medway, Massachusetts.

Nick graduated from UMass with a degree in criminal justice and enrolled in the Special Forces in 2007. After graduating as a distinguished honor graduate from the Special Forces Qualification Course, he became a Green Beret.

There is an excerpt from a letter that I wanted to share with you that Nick left his loved ones when he first deployed.

If I should fall, do not let your heart fill with sadness. Know that I passed doing what I love to do, what I believe in, what brings me happiness, that is protecting those who cannot fend for themselves, protecting the United States of America, and all those who I love so dearly. Look back on me with kindness and happiness, be happy knowing that I could not have chosen a better way to go.

With love filling my body for my friends and family, I tried to always be there for you all. Whether the shirt off my back or somebody’s teeth, if you needed it, I would get it for you. Happiness was brought to me through the eyes of my loved ones. Seeing you all happy brought me such joy.

I live for you. I never wanted money, accommodations, or even any sort of recognition. None was necessary. I hope I served you all well. I gave it my all. No need for thank you. The pleasure was all mine.

Mr. Speaker, this weekend, Nick Lavery will be coming home, loved, alive, and a hero.

Since enlisting in 2007, Nick has been awarded three Purple Hearts. In the spring of 2013, Nick and his team were involved in a green-on-blue attack, which is a strike against coalition members by people dressed in their own uniform. Nick sustained injuries to his right leg during that attack and subsequently had it amputated below his knee.

He will receive a Silver Star with Valor and a Bronze Star with Valor at Fort Bragg on March 27.

After over a year in Walter Reed, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the town of Medway is proud to say to Nick: welcome home.

PLANT VOGLIE

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Department of Energy’s recent loan guarantee for Plant Vogtle in Burke County, Georgia. Plant Vogtle is the first nuclear power plant built in the United