

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, on Capitol Hill, we are watching several hundred dedicated volunteers fan out to share their vision of the United States' providing leadership for safe drinking water and sanitation around the globe.

They will point out that, today, women will spend 200 million hours gathering water for their families—200 million hours that will not be spent farming or in economic enterprise, 200 million hours that will not be spent in school, 200 million hours that too often take them away from the village and put them at risk for physical sexual assault. They will be talking to our colleagues on Capitol Hill about some critical legislation that my colleague TED POE and I have introduced, H.R. 2901, the Paul Simon Water for the World Act, which will, in a deficit-neutral fashion, help refine the approach that the United States, the USAID, and the State Department take in providing water assistance around the globe.

I must say, this morning I heard, in an eloquent fashion, Congressman POE lay out the need, the vision, and the solution. I cannot say enough about the bipartisan leadership of my colleague from Texas. He points out that, as a Democrat from the Northwest, I don't have all that much in common with my Republican friend from Texas, but this is an area in which we are united. The United States must do all it can to prevent unnecessary disease and death from contaminated water, but it goes beyond issues of disease and sanitation.

Look at what has happened in Syria. Between 2006 and 2011, nearly 60 percent of Syria's landmass was ravaged by a severe drought. The water table was already too low because of irresponsible farming practices. It wiped out the livelihoods of almost a million Syrian farmers, and it created a massive population of drought refugees that flooded into the cities and added to the instability of that tragic country.

It did not cause the civil war, but the failure of the government to respond to the drought played a huge role in fueling the uprising, made possible by that sad, tragic consequence of events. Now the fourth largest city in Jordan is a refugee camp where men and women and children are fighting for survival and water as they cross the border to escape the violence. And this is a growing problem. The global population has now passed 7 billion people, and much of that growth has taken place in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, two regions of the world in greatest need when it comes to water and sanitation.

Mr. Speaker, we have within our capacity the ability to make a difference, and I am pleased to have worked with volunteers from coast to coast—from churches and rotary clubs and students—who are making a difference in their own communities. It is important for Congress to pass the Water for the World Act and to support the terrific

work of Congresswomen GRANGER and LOWEY, on the Appropriations Committee, that has protected and has actually enhanced a little bit this important money that the United States provides—a small amount in the overall scheme of things but one that has a tremendous impact on lives around the world.

I urge my colleagues to take the time to listen to these dedicated volunteers. They have a message we should take to heart and act upon.

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 7 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: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this Chamber where the people's House gathers, we pause to offer You gratitude for the gift of this good land on which we live and for this great Nation which You have inspired in developing over so many years. Continue to inspire the American people, that through the difficulties of these days we might keep liberty and justice alive in our Nation and in the world.

Bless the Members of this assembly with the wisdom they need to conduct the Nation's business with an eye toward the benefit of all, especially those most in need.

Bless as well the citizens of Ukraine, whose Prime Minister visits the Congress today. May our Nation be a good friend to that nation during these turbulent times, and may peace prevail in that part of the world.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. 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

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

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CAPTAIN JAMES HENRY CULLEN

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Captain James Henry Cullen. Captain Cullen was born in my hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio, on January 9, 1923, and died in Springfield, Virginia, on September 9 last year. He grew up in Price Hill, attended Elder High School, and was a graduate of Xavier University.

Captain Cullen led a distinguished life and an honorable one as a devoted husband and father and as an accomplished naval officer.

As executive officer of the USS *Gaud canal*, he oversaw the recovery of the *Apollo 9* space capsule in the Atlantic Ocean. He also served as director of operations, Pearl Harbor, and chief of staff Third Fleet, with responsibility for antisubmarine warfare in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and was awarded the Gold Star.

Captain Cullen epitomized the term "America's Greatest Generation." Our country has benefited greatly from his service, and as Americans, we owe him a debt of gratitude.

Full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery for Captain Cullen will take place on March 24.

Well done, Captain Cullen, and may you rest in peace.

FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL

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

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to speak about a case the Supreme Court is going to hear in a week, the Hobby Lobby case.

As a doctor, I took an oath to provide my patients with the best medical advice possible and empower them to make the decisions that impact their lives and to put them in charge. Women should be free to make the health care decisions that work best for them and respect their own faith and personal circumstances.

Allowing bosses to pick and choose the health care their employees receive sets a very dangerous precedent that could have far-reaching consequences. That is why the Hobby Lobby case that will be argued before the Supreme Court later this month is so important.

CEO David Green may oppose birth control—and that is his personal decision—but individual Hobby Lobby employees have their own moral and religious views, and they shouldn't have to subscribe to his.

This case isn't about the rights of corporate CEOs. It is about the rights of workers and patients everywhere. It is about the individual freedom to choose and make your own health care decisions.

We need to stop bosses and out-of-touch politicians who want to come into our exam room and make those health care decisions. Let's keep these bosses out of the exam room and allow women to make the health care decisions that impact their own lives.

OBAMACARE ENROLLMENT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. When the Federal Government intervenes in the private sector, like ObamaCare, we end up with a celebrity in chief who chooses to spend valuable time marketing his product—ObamaCare—on comedy shows rather than focusing on our warring economy, jobs, and crises in Ukraine, Syria, Venezuela, Israel, and North Korea.

This week, the administration released its number for total enrollment in the President's health care law—4.2 million. This falls miserably short of the President's goal to enroll 7 million people by the end of this month. And what is worse is that health care experts estimate that the majority of the 4.2 who have enrolled already had insurance. The White House won't admit this, even though they know exactly how many previously insured are part of the 4.2 million.

Mr. Speaker, this law was designed to insure the uninsured, but it is failing in every single way. It is not helping those it was supposed to help, and it is hurting those with coverage they wanted to keep in the first place. The President needs to put the will of Americans ahead of his own agenda and fix this mess he has created.

ObamaCare has turned into ObamaScare.

May God bless America, and in God we trust.

WOMEN'S UNEMPLOYMENT

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, this Women's History Month, we learned that women continue to struggle with long-term unemployment. In fact, long-term unemployment among women increased from 34.8 percent in January to 37.7 percent in February.

According to a recent Pew Research Center study, women are the sole or primary breadwinner in 4 in every 10

American households with children. When women who have jobs only receive 77 cents to every dollar a man makes, when 70 percent of Americans in poverty are women and children, in a country where women, out of the gate, start out behind, refusing to extend long-term unemployment compensation to those who have looked for a job but cannot find one is particularly hurtful.

For all these reasons, we must renew emergency unemployment compensation—because when women succeed, then Ventura County succeeds; and when Ventura County succeeds, America succeeds.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, I am here this morning to acknowledge the Wichita State University men's basketball team and its unparalleled success this year. The number 2 ranked Shockers are the only team in the Nation that remains undefeated. At 34-0, the Wichita State Shockers are taking more wins into the NCAA basketball tournament than any team in the history of Division I basketball in the NCAA.

Our Shockers' head coach this year, Gregg Marshall, was just named the National Coach of the Year. The players on the court say proudly they have not played a single game that is tougher than any of their practices, and their play proves that team trumps individual every time.

It is said that some of these players were not five-star recruits, and that may be true, but I know them, and I can tell you they are five-star human beings. They come from places like Rockford, Illinois; Scott City, Kansas; Middletown, New York; and right in Wichita, Kansas. They come with no silver spoons. They are grinders; they are hard workers; they are scrappy; and they are fighters with big hearts.

They reflect our town and the best of America, and we love them. Godspeed to them.

Go Shocks.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, as our economy continues to experience high levels of unemployment and a flat labor participation rate, now is not the time to further decimate vital assistance to those who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. I will not abandon 2 million Americans, including 200,000 veterans. We must give them a hand up.

Yesterday, I signed a discharge petition to force action on extending un-

employment insurance benefits, a move supported by more than three-fourths of the American people.

Additionally, nationally, there are three unemployed people for each job created. For the long-term unemployed, there is just a 12 percent chance of finding a new job in any given month.

Congress must extend unemployment benefits to help keep American families out of poverty as they seek jobs. Each week we fail to act, another 72,000 people lose their benefits. We must act now.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION MEANS FREEDOM TO PRACTICE YOUR FAITH

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, when a family runs a business by the principles of their faith—which used to be protected in America—can a President step in and say: I disagree with your faith, so I will pass a regulation that says you can no longer practice your faith at work—you can at home, but not at work?

Hobby Lobby is a family-owned business that doesn't want Washington to be their boss. They believe that abortion takes the life of a child and that every child deserves a chance at life. What is wrong with that?

If a Federal employee disagrees with the faith practice of someone in a company, does that business have to change to the faith of the Federal employee, or can they keep their own faith?

It is now the rule that to open a company, work in a job, or get health care, you have to have the same religious convictions as the President of the United States. If you don't, you will be fined until you change your faith practice.

Just days ago, the President spoke at the National Prayer Breakfast about the cornerstone right of the free expression of religion. Does that include Americans who believe that children are a gift of God and they should be nurtured and cared for, not discarded as tissue?

Washington is not the boss of every American. Our Constitution matters; freedom of religion matters; and, quite frankly, children matter.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on December 28, emergency unemployment benefits for Americans were cut off; and since then, 2 million Americans have lost their essential lifeline and have been missing their rent payments, missing their mortgage payments, trying to keep the house warm and put