

our State and local law enforcement, Federal agents, community members, victims' advocates, the faith-based community, and others, but they need our help to make laws to better support their efforts. So I urge all of my colleagues to support the five bills that will be on the floor tonight to help get our criminal justice and victim support systems caught up with a rapidly evolving international crime.

THE INFANT AND TODDLER CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today, as a country, we face many economic challenges: income disparity, stagnant wages, and an alarming rise of children living in poverty. Luckily, all available research points to a solution. High-quality early childhood education and care is as close to a silver bullet as we are going to find. It supports working families, creates economic opportunities for women, and provides a great start for our youngest learners.

But today, hardworking families spend an extraordinary percentage of their income on child care. Even then, they are not always sure it meets the needs of their kids. Mr. Speaker, that is why I am introducing a bill today to help ensure quality care for infants and toddlers. As a mother of three, I understand that parents want nothing more than to make sure their kids are healthy, safe, and thriving.

More than 6 million children under the age of 3 will spend time in child care this week. At this tender age, when brain development is at its peak, when neuropathways are being formed every second by the millions, that is when quality child care matters most.

Today I encourage my colleagues to help these children and their families succeed by supporting the Infant and Toddler Care Improvement Act.

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 26 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

Reverend Charlie Martin, Bethel Baptist Church, Vilas, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, today, Lord, we enter Your gates with thanksgiving and enter Your courts with praise. Thank You for Your blessings for America, our home. I call on You, O Lord, to bless our land again.

In the Bible, we read, "If My people which are called by My name shall humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Father, You know that I trust You and Your holy Word. I call on You this morning to place Your great hand upon this Congress and upon this people.

Please grant Your wisdom in their decisions and leadership on behalf of all Americans. For all of us who love this land and call America home, we call on You together today.

In Jesus' name, 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 gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND CHARLIE MARTIN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Pastor Charlie Martin has preached the Gospel for 45 years.

Charlie Martin attended Trinity College of Florida and continues to serve as vice president of that institution. After college, he began working with youth at his home church in Arkansas.

In 1971, he was called to pastor First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks in Largo, Florida. The Lord blessed the 37 years he spent there, with the church growing from fewer than 100 to over 6,000 members under his care.

Largo is also where Pastor Martin met Stephanie, his wife of 38 years. Together, they have raised five children—Shannon, Christian, Somer, Samara, and Colt. All five children are grown and happily married, and the Martins delight in their 16 grandchildren.

For the past 7 years, Pastor Martin has led the good people of Bethel Baptist Church in Vilas, North Carolina. We are blessed to have this man of God

living and working in our community in the mountains of North Carolina, and I want to thank him for opening the House with a prayer today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

COMMEMORATING THE 239TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 239th anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

This date marks an important moment in our Nation's history, when brave North Carolinians, bound by their common pursuit of freedom, became the first Americans to declare independence from the tyrannical crown of Great Britain. This courageous act of defiance paved the way for our great experiment in democracy.

It is no wonder that, with these type of bold leaders, British commander General Cornwallis was unable to hold his occupation of the city of Charlotte and was, therefore, prompted to write that it was a "hornet's nest of rebellion."

Mr. Speaker, it is also worth noting that, on this very day today, the Charlotte Bobcats—excuse me, the Charlotte Hornets—finally and rightfully get their buzz back.

I am so proud of our heritage and for the leadership that the State of North Carolina continues to provide this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, on this festive day, I want to congratulate the city of Charlotte and all North Carolinians, and I welcome each and every one of my colleagues to join me in celebrating this important moment in our history.

THE EPIDEMIC OF AUTISM

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an epidemic in our country. We have seen rates of autism rising rapidly in the past two decades. Today, 1 in 68 children is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

This weekend, I attended the Autism Speaks walk in Chicago. I was inspired by the stories of young men and women and the realization that there are opportunities for all those living with autism.

We, as a Congress, must come together and pass meaningful policy to understand this condition and find a cure. I remain committed to supporting Federal funding for autism research and helping families obtain appropriate therapies for children living with autism.

I know my colleagues share this passion with me.

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES CONCEALING OBAMACARE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, according to a recent article in The Wall Street Journal:

The Obama administration said Friday it would let States decide whether to implement a key part of the health care law's small business exchanges next year, extending an earlier delay.

The Department of Health and Human Services said, in rules released Friday, that it will be up to State insurance commissioners to decide whether employers and employees at small businesses using health exchanges for workers in 2015, if they can show it would be in the best interest of the insurance market of the State.

The lengthy list of implemented ObamaCare delays confirms the President knows his signature health care law is unworkable and destroys jobs. Changing the law without congressional approval also shows the President wants to conceal the true consequences of this failed law until after the midterm elections in November.

We must put politics aside and do what is best for the American people and repeal ObamaCare to promote jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL TOURETTE SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. Sires. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month. I commend advocates like the New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome and the National Tourette Syndrome Association for their untiring pursuit to improve the life of those individuals impacted by Tourette syndrome.

Tourette syndrome is an often misunderstood and stigmatized disorder that affects as many as 1 in 100 Americans.

While symptoms can be suppressed over time, too many individuals, particularly children, face the everyday challenge of trying to manage tics, whether at school or in various social settings. Once diagnosed, many families are at a loss for how to manage this disorder.

Organizations like the New Jersey Center and the National Association provide answers through referrals to an array of services and training for families and peers. Through extended research, we can learn more about the cause and treatment of the disorder.

I have introduced the CARE for Tourette Syndrome Act to assist individuals living with Tourette syndrome by expanding and coordinating efforts towards research for the disorder.

By collecting more data and increasing research efforts, we can better understand the cause of Tourette syndrome. It is my hope that, through a better understanding of Tourette syndrome, we can lift the veil of this disorder and enhance the lives of so many.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING FOR MERIAM IBRAHIM IN SUDAN

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking for Meriam Ibrahim in Sudan.

It is 7 p.m. now in Khartoum, and a young, frightened Sudanese woman is shackled in a prison cell for refusing to renounce her Christian faith. Her husband, an American citizen, is seeking to draw attention to her plight and that of her 18-month-old son who languishes in jail with her.

Meriam Ibrahim is 8 months pregnant, and her draconian sentence of death by hanging is being delayed until she gives birth. The clock is ticking.

Congressman TRENT FRANKS has sought to shine a bright light on this injustice, and today, Senators BLUNT and AYOTTE of New Hampshire are urging the Secretary of State, John Kerry, to provide political asylum to Meriam.

The administration should urgently act to save this innocent woman's life. President Obama should immediately appeal for her release and offer her safe haven here in the United States.

MILITARY HAZING FOR FY 2015 NDAA

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, my nephew, Lance Corporal Marine Harry Lew, was a victim of military hazing while stationed in Afghanistan. After 3½ hours of a brutal beating and torment by fellow soldiers, he took his own life. Since then, I have dedicated myself to ensuring that the Department of Defense addresses hazing within its ranks.

Because of my bill, the Harry Lew Military Hazing Accountability Act, the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, required each military branch to submit a report to Congress on what they are doing to address hazing.

The reports were inconsistent. We learned that most branches don't track

allegations and incidents of hazing and that substandard tracking results in unreliable data.

That is why I urge support for my amendment to this year's NDAA. It requires the Government Accountability Office to provide Congress with a much more thorough and, most importantly, independent report.

We must protect the young people that we send off to war from abuse by their own soldiers.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR WILLIAM E. HIGH, JR.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Sergeant Major William E. High, Jr., of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, or JIEDDO, who will retire from the United States Army on May 22, 2014, after 32 years of distinguished service.

Today, one of the greatest threats faced by our servicemen and -women is the IED. While serving at JIEDDO, Command Sergeant Major High worked tirelessly to ensure our men and women serving in harm's way have the necessary capabilities and training to protect them from this lethal threat.

His contributions made a profound difference and enabled the organization to achieve tremendous success in countering the IED threat.

Command Sergeant Major High's numerous awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation, and Army Commendation Medal, among others; and he also served as a drill sergeant during his 32-year career.

I am proud to share in the celebration of Command Sergeant Major High's military career. I would also like to congratulate his wife, Ingrid, and his children—Brant, Jared, Nathaniel, and Gabriel—whose love and support has aided and strengthened Command Sergeant Major High as he served our great Nation.

I wish him all the best in his retirement.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the wildfires that have ravaged southern California over the past week. Thanks to our brave first responders, these blazes are nearly contained, but not before destroying dozens of homes and forcing thousands to evacuate.

The sight of brush fires burning across the county has become all too