

PRAYER

Rabbi Eytan Hammerman, Temple Beth Shalom, Mahopac, New York, offered the following prayer:

Our God and God of our ancestors, we rise in prayer in one of the world's most sacred spaces. This hallowed Hall combines enormous power with awesome responsibility. We pray that You, O God, inspire those who stand before You today—mere mortals—women and men, young and old, the many races, colors, and ancestries that make up our blessed country.

In the Jewish calendar, we have just concluded the Feast of Weeks, marking, we are taught, the receipt of the Bible at Mount Sinai. This was the culmination of a march from bondage and slavery toward freedom and responsibility. We ask that You bless the Members of this august body as they work to guarantee freedom in our day so that we may all live long lives; peaceful lives of goodness and blessing; lives free from shame; lives filled with abundance and honor; and lives in which our hearts' desire for goodness—for one and all—will be fulfilled.

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 Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MEEHAN 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 RABBI EYTAN HAMMERMAN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I welcome Rabbi Eytan Hammerman of Temple Beth Shalom to the House of Representatives and thank him for serving as today's guest chaplain.

Rabbi Hammerman leads the congregation at Temple Beth Shalom and is passionate about serving his neighbors in Mahopac, New York.

A distinguished scholar, Rabbi Hammerman holds a B.A. and a master's degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City and a degree in political science from Co-

lumbia University. Before he joined Temple Beth Shalom in 2010, he served small and large congregations in Baltimore, Maryland; White Plains, New York; and northern New Jersey, in addition to serving as director of the Jewish Youth Philanthropy Institute here in Washington, D.C.

Rabbi Hammerman has served the Mahopac community since he was ordained in 2010, and his leadership has united people all throughout the community—no matter what their beliefs or what their background.

Not only a religious leader, he has long been a political advocate for justice and equality, and especially for a reduction in the horrible plague of gun violence we see in our country.

He is joined here today by his wife, Rebecca, and his three beautiful daughters, Ary, Rena, and Ilana, as well as his mother- and father-in-law, Marjorie and Dr. Steven Hoffman.

Not only a religious leader, he is also my friend, and I am proud to call him my friend. I hope you will join me in welcoming Rabbi Hammerman.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING THE LEGACY OF JAMES F. KILCUR OF WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, last week, I attended the Transportation Management Association of Chester County for its annual legislative breakfast. At the breakfast, the association posthumously honored James F. Kilcur as its executive director emeritus. It is a very special recognition by his colleagues within the transportation industry. I can't think of anybody more deserving of this distinction than Jim, and I join the association in honoring Jim's service to southeastern Pennsylvania.

Jim Kilcur, of West Chester, Pennsylvania, died on Wednesday, February 19, 2014. Born in northeast Philadelphia, Jim was a proud Philadelphia native and a pillar of his community. He was a labor lawyer admired for his trusted counsel and respected by all for his ability to get to a fair resolution of any matter. Jim stood out at Saul Ewing as a partner and at Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority as general counsel for nearly a decade. Then, just as now, everybody respected Jim.

I had the pleasure to work with Jim during his time at SEPTA. He was a confident, intelligent man, and while tolerant of other positions, was steadfast in his own. He was decisive, and there was no waffling or ambiguity in his thinking.

Jim was the chairman of the board of trustees of his alma mater, DeSales University in Center Valley, and a proud alumni of Cardinal Dougherty High School.

I would like to commend Jim on his devoted service to his community, to his church, and his impressive career history, and his life of love and devotion to his family, especially his wife. Let me remember Jim with this legacy.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that yesterday the House adopted my amendment to prevent communities that have experienced recent population loss from being excluded from the Community Development Block Grant program.

Since the creation of the Community Development Block Grant program in 1974, HUD has designated "entitlement communities," which included cities with a population of at least 50,000. For 40 years, HUD has allowed cities that have had their populations fall below 50,000 to continue to participate in the program.

Unfortunately, HUD signaled a desire to change course and to remove these cities from the program. This would have devastated 127 cities in 31 States, including the city of Niagara Falls in my congressional district.

The Community Development Block Grant program has become a foundation for community and economic development across the Nation and in western New York.

I am pleased that communities who rely on this funding will continue to have access to this critical resource.

WOMEN'S HEART HEALTH RESOLUTION

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with my colleague, Congresswoman DONNA EDWARDS, who is here with me today, am introducing an important bipartisan resolution targeting heart disease in women.

Dubbed "the silent killer," this disease is the number one killer of women in the United States. Since 1984, more women have died of heart disease than men. It is the leading cause of death in West Virginia, claiming more than 4,800 lives in the year 2010.

Preventative screenings can make a huge difference in helping women learn the risk of heart disease and how to reduce that risk. Women often rely on their OB/GYNs and community health centers for primary care, and our resolution seeks to educate women of all ages on the need to make heart health an important part of their screening

wherever they receive care and from whoever they are seeing.

Women spend so much time taking care of others—spouses, children, aging parents, and the responsibilities of work. It is time to encourage all women to take better care of themselves.

Learn your risk factors. Learn how to be healthier. Learn how to live longer and healthier for yourself and for those that you love.

SEVENTY-FOUR SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, there have been 74 school shootings since the Sandy Hook tragedy:

Apostolic Revival Center Christian School; Taft Union High School; Stevens Institute of Business; Hazard Community College; Chicago State University; Lone Star College; Price Middle School; Morehouse College; Indian River State College; Hillside Elementary School; Henry Grady High School; the University of Central Florida; Davidson Middle School; New River Community College; Elizabeth City State University; Grambling State University; Stillman College; La Salle High School; Santa Monica College; Alexander Dreyfoos School of the Arts; Northwest High School; Ronald McNair Learning Academy; Westside Elementary School; North Panola High School; Carver High School; Savannah State University; New Gloucester High School; Agape Christian Academy; Lanier High School; Sparks Middle School; Algona High School and Middle School; North Carolina A&T; Stephenson High School; South Dakota School of Technology; West Orange High School; Arapahoe High School; Edison High School; Liberty Technology High School; Berrendo Middle School; Martin Luther King Elementary School; Delaware Valley Charter High School; Widener University; Purdue University; South Carolina Staten University; Tennessee State University; Eastern Florida State College; Cesar Chavez High School; North High School; Bend High School; Salisbury High School; Brush High School; Union University; Raytown Success Academy; McDaniel College; Madison High School; University of Wisconsin; University of Delaware; Savannah State University; Kent State University; Eastern New Mexico University; East English Prep Academy; St. Mary Catholic School; Provo High School; Iowa Western Community College; Marquette University; Horizon Elementary School; Paine College; Georgetown College; Georgia Gwinnett College; Clark Street School; Seattle Pacific University; and Reynolds High School.

CELEBRATING THE NEWLY LAUNCHED DFW-HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI FLIGHTS

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launch of two new flagship routes at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, which I represent. Today, American Airlines opens direct service from DFW to both Hong Kong and Shanghai.

These new flights are the latest additions to the growing international hub at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport. Hong Kong and Shanghai join an impressive list of other newly launched international flights from DFW, including Bogota, Dubai, Lima, Seoul, and Sydney.

Many businesses have operations in my district because of the easy access to direct flights from DFW. These new flights will promote further business development and make it easier for my constituents to travel to Asia and across the world. More good news will come next month as DFW will soon add a direct flight to Doha.

My sincere congratulations to everyone at the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

THE IMPORTANCE OF 6-DAY MAIL DELIVERY

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the United States Postal Service 6-day mail delivery.

The most recent proposal offered by the Republican leadership to pay for the highway trust fund by reducing mail service is unprecedented and irresponsible. The elimination of 6-day mail delivery would have a negative effect on the Postal Service and could result in the loss of up to 80,000 jobs.

For decades, the Postal Service has sustained and created American jobs in every corner of the country. Eliminating 6-day delivery service would not only slow the delivery of mail and harm small businesses across America, but it will impose a hardship on the elderly and rural citizens who rely most on mail delivery for medical prescriptions and critical correspondence.

The Republican leadership's proposal to eliminate 6-day mail service will take 10 years to generate enough money to fund the highway spending for just 1 year.

Proposals like these are illogical, short-term fixes for serious problems facing our Nation's transportation infrastructure. Come on, guys. Put on your thinking caps, and come up with a better proposal for America.

□ 1215

PROTECTING OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my Republican colleagues to focus on the things that the American people sent us here to do. Today, I want to talk about protecting our veterans.

We owe it to our veterans to do everything we can to restore their confidence in the VA health care system. The plan announced Monday by the VA is a step in the right direction, but we must do much more.

I stand on behalf of the veterans in my district. They are still waiting too long and driving too far to see a doctor and waiting far too long for their claims and appeals to be processed. We need to see Congress spend its time getting to the bottom of the VA's dysfunction and giving the VA leadership the tools they need to fix these problems.

This is something we should do right now, instead of spending time on yet another series of politically motivated hearings on Benghazi. I call on the Republican leadership to use our House resources to investigate the real causes of the delays and work to find real solutions that will serve our veterans. That is a plan the whole House could get behind.

OCEANS AND FISHERIES

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of smart and sustainable use of our precious ocean resources. We depend on a healthy ocean for so much—for food, livelihoods, recreation, and more. That is why scientists, managers, and entrepreneurs from across the country are currently in Washington, D.C., to discuss critical marine policy issues as part of Capitol Hill Ocean Week.

A key issue on the agenda is the responsible management of our Nation's fisheries. America's fisheries are rich, both economically and culturally, because we have smart laws that prioritize sustainable resource use.

Under these laws, our fishing industry alone contributed \$199 billion in sales and 1.7 million jobs in 2012 alone. These laws, however, are being threatened by partisan legislation recently passed by the Natural Resources Committee.

This bill—which I call the “Empty Oceans Act”—would override key environmental laws, erode fisheries, and hurt our coastal economies. It is no way to manage our ocean resources.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the “Empty Oceans Act” and find a better path forward.

MANAGING OUR FEDERAL FISHERIES

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