

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to recognize and thank a constituent of mine from Patriot, Ohio—Ms. Gail DeGarmo.

Ms. DeGarmo is an employee of Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative, and she recently traveled to Honduras as a volunteer for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation.

While on the island of Roatan, she taught local co-op employees how to install, set up, operate, and maintain their newly-acquired automated metering information system. This will enable them to operate and use the Command Center software, which serves about 13,000 customers.

Ms. DeGarmo's volunteer efforts supported the Smart Grid Alliance for the Americas' goal to provide technical assistance in smart grid technology applications to cooperative, municipal, and other small electric distribution utilities in Latin America.

Ms. DeGarmo's effort will help the alliance's project to improve energy efficiency, integrate renewable generation, and, most importantly, improve access to electricity for underserved communities in Latin America.

Thank you, Ms. DeGarmo, for your hard work.

TOURETTE'S SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the recently completed Tourette's Syndrome Awareness Month, a time when we educate ourselves and our children about Tourette's syndrome.

At a ceremony earlier this year, I had the privilege of meeting and listening to many of the courageous young people—heroes—telling their own Tourette's syndrome story.

Tourette's is a neurological condition that affects millions of Americans every day, mostly young children. For these kids, the involuntary tics can mean strange looks from classmates, bullying, or total alienation.

The simple fact is that most kids and even most parents don't understand TS or its symptoms. That is what makes awareness and education so important.

It is also a time to celebrate the bravery and perseverance of the local heroes nationwide—the heroes telling their own TS stories. The heroes I met ranged from energetic kindergartners to high school students to young college kids sharing an increasing awareness of TS.

The glowing comments from their teachers, friends, and family described how these young people took the obstacles they faced head-on and make a difference in the lives of their community.

It is an honor to stand and recognize Tourette's Syndrome Awareness Month.

MEDIA IGNORES IRS SCANDAL

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the liberal national media continues to downplay the IRS scandal.

Last week, the IRS claimed it lost 2 years of emails of former director Lois Lerner, which likely contained information about the agency's targeting of conservative organizations.

One would think that this would be breaking news, but it took The Washington Post and The New York Times 4 days before they considered the missing emails newsworthy. This may be one reason why consumers are turning to social media for their news.

What a dramatic shift from how these publications covered President Nixon's missing 18 minutes of audio tape. During Watergate, The Post and The Times' front pages and editorials almost daily criticized the Nixon administration's abuse of power.

The liberal national media hasn't changed between Watergate and now. What has changed is the political party of the administration in power.

REBUILDING DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of our work to rebuild the Department of Veterans Affairs. Last week, the VA released the first-ever nationwide comprehensive audit of the VA health care system, and the findings were eye opening, though not surprising. More than 100,000 veterans have either waited more than 90 days to get an appointment, or they never received an appointment at all.

This week, Congressman BILL CASSIDY and I introduced a bipartisan resolution calling on the Attorney General to appoint a special counsel to investigate the evidence disclosed in the course of the internal audit.

If, as the report states, managers at the VA told their subordinates to doctor the books to make wait times appear shorter, then any employees who falsified these Federal records should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The House has already voted to hold the guilty parties responsible and to give VA patients the right to go outside the VA to get the care they need, when they can't get it inside the VA, but these are just the first few steps in a long march to get them the care they have earned.

I urge my colleagues to support our resolution because we owe it to all those who gave us the best years of their lives.

CONGRATULATING ST. CLOUD CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Cloud Cathedral High School in Minnesota for winning the State class 2A baseball championship earlier this week. This really was a remarkable victory.

After making a dramatic comeback, the Crusaders beat Fairmont 5-4. This victory marks the eighth championship for the team since 1977. With 44 seasons and 711 wins under his belt, Cathedral coach and alumnus Bob Karn has won more high school baseball games than any coach in Minnesota State history. Congratulations, Coach Karn. That is quite a record.

Congratulations, Cathedral High School; and congratulations to all of the assistants, administrators, family members, and friends who made such a tremendous accomplishment possible.

This is what America is really about, and we are with you in spirit today.

CONDEMNING KIDNAPPINGS OF ISRAELI BOYS

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it has been nearly a week, and there is still no trace of the three Israeli boys who were kidnapped presumably by Hamas, the terrorist organization.

Our hearts go out to their families, and we hope that they will be found. One of them is an American citizen, Naftali Frenkel. The others, Eyal Yifrach and Gilad Shaar, the whole world is praying for their safe return.

Madam Speaker, this shows the brutality of the terrorists, the brutality of an organization like Hamas which takes three young people—innocent young people—and God only knows what they have done with them.

I think it is important that we keep our vigil. It is important that we keep them in our thoughts and prayers, and it is important that this country continues to lead the fight against the scourge of terrorism around the world.

Let's pray for their safe return.

CELEBRATING WILD AND WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 151st anniversary of West Virginia statehood. On June 20, 1863, West Virginia became the 35th State. From those early years, our State has grown to become a significant contributor to America's economy.

West Virginia is rich in natural resources. It is the largest producer of oil and gas east of the Mississippi. In addition, West Virginia is a national leader in providing statewide access to preschool and is ranked first in the Nation for pay equity between college-educated men and women.

West Virginia is home to nationally recognized centers for research and learning, has produced countless veterans, historical figures, scholars, athletes, and many more for whom we are eternally proud.

Like all West Virginians and as a seventh generation West Virginia native, we take special pride in our wild and wonderful State.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we wish a happy birthday to West Virginia.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, more than 200 girls in Nigeria are still missing. They were brutally kidnapped by the terrorist organization Boko Haram more than 60 days ago. We pray for their return, and we pray for their parents.

We will tweet and tweet and tweet until they are returned. We must put pressure on the Nigerian Government and President Goodluck Jonathan to bring back our girls. I am asking everyone to join our tweet war.

Every morning, at 9 a.m., please tweet a message of support for the rescue of the girls: #bringbackourgirls. We will join the Bring Back Our Girls organization in Nigeria in a tweet war during their tweet time, which is 2 p.m. Nigerian time.

At 9 a.m., every morning, tweet. Let's show the girls that we love them, and we will do all within our power to make sure that they return safely to their families.

Let us show President Jonathan that the entire international community is watching, and we will keep the pressure there. We will not forget them, and we will not rest until they are returned.

Remember, #bringbackourgirls, 9 a.m.

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLORIDA CITY

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

Mr. GARCIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Florida City. Over the past century, Florida City has grown from a small stop on the road to become the official gateway to paradise.

I would like to recognize the city commission, including Mayor Otis Wallace, who has served as mayor for over 30 years, managing the redevelopment

of the city after Hurricane Andrew in 1992; R.S. Shiver, the longest serving municipal elected official in Florida; Avis Brown; Sharon Butler; and Eugene Berry.

These dedicated public servants are just a few of the many lifelong citizens who have tirelessly worked to improve and grow our community.

As we look forward, I know the next 100 years will be filled with success and growth due to the commitment and service of so many over the last 100 years.

□ 0915

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on further consideration of H.R. 4870, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 628 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4870.

Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) kindly take the chair?

□ 0916

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, June 19, 2014, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) had been disposed of, and the bill had been read through page 141, line 4.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, as we move towards the finish line and consider the last amendments to our Defense Appropriations bill, large thanks should be extended to the remarkable staff that make up the Defense Subcommittee. I know I join with my ranking member, Mr. VISCLOSKY, and wanted to take time to thank the bipartisan staff of our committee: our

clerk, Tom McLemore, whose counterpart is Paul Juola on the minority side. Recognition and thanks go to all of our staff: Tim Prince, Sherry Young, Jennifer Miller, Walter Hearne, Paul Terry, B G Wright, Brook Boyer, Adrienne Ramsay, Megan Rosenbusch, Maureen Holohan, Collin Lee, and Becky Leggiere; from my personal office: Nancy Fox, Steve Wilson, Katie Hazzlett; from Mr. VISCLOSKY's office: Joe DeVot and Jake Whiteside; and all the Appropriations staff and House staff that have made this bill move so smoothly.

I also want to thank all of the Members of the House for their active participation and patience over the last few days. We do not always agree on the substantive issues, but I appreciate the spirit in which all of us debated a variety of issues.

In this regard, I know Mr. VISCLOSKY and I would like to extend our thanks to three members of the Defense Subcommittee who are working on their final bill with us: Mr. OWENS of New York, Mr. KINGSTON of Georgia, Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Their service and contributions have been enormous and their assistance has been deeply appreciated.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the gentleman taking the time and would also join him in thanking all of the staff of the subcommittee as well as the full committee. People ought to appreciate the discerning judgment that they bring to their work, their knowledge, their tireless work ethic, and the fact that they are fun to be around. They also are very selfless as far as providing for the protection of our Nation, to ensure also that it is done in as cost-effective a manner as possible.

I appreciate that the chairman enunciated the names of all of our staff because on this subcommittee it is a very seamless and indistinguishable process. The staff understand they are here to help every member of the subcommittee, the full committee, and of this House, whether we agree or not, to ensure that our legislative process and product is as good as it can be.

The final thing I will note is to thank personally the chairman for his leadership on this issue, for his dedication to public service. My father always told me it took a very strong man to be a gentleman. Mr. Chairman, you are the consummate gentleman, and I thank you for that and for your friendship.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Well, sir, you indeed are a gentleman, too, and it has been a pleasure to work with you. We are blessed with a remarkable staff that has met the needs of every Member of Congress, regardless of political party. We have considered their amendments, and to the extent that we could, we have acted upon them. Thank you so much for your support and all of us. We appreciate the work of our great staff.