

WELCOMING REVEREND JEFF PARISH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce to my colleagues and to this House our guest chaplain for the day, Pastor Jeff Parish.

Pastor Jeff serves as the senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks, Florida. Pastor Jeff first entered the ministry in 1986, sharing with others the message of Christian salvation and of the redeeming love and grace of the God in whom we put our trust, and counseling fellow believers along their personal faith journey.

Pastor Jeff is joined in his ministry by his wife, Martha, and by the congregation and community of believers at First Baptist Indian Rocks, a church family that, for 50 years, has shared its message of faith with the Pinellas County community but also in remote lands around the globe.

I welcome Pastor Jeff today, and I thank him personally for the ministry he leads every day that has had an impact on the life of this Member but, likewise, on many thousands of others he has touched during his career of service to our loving God.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

ACA FAILURES

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, over half of Americans view the President's health care law unfavorably, according to a new Rasmussen report. But this is no surprise. What started only as a failed Web site has turned into even more logistical failures: problems about applications, questions about subsidies, and lots of confusion.

But the policy behind ObamaCare is equally flawed. Premiums are rising. Americans are losing the coverage they liked. They are unable to see the doctors they were previously visiting. And they are finding that many of the services or drugs that they need are not covered. President Obama promised the opposite of this, and Americans should not be misled by their leaders.

House Republicans will continue to pursue patient-centered reforms so Americans can get the care they need and want, the care they were promised.

LAWSUIT AGAINST PRESIDENT OBAMA

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, so there are just 3 legislative days left before we go on recess, and the most pressing issue that the House Republican leadership has decided that we need to devote our legislative time to is a resolution to sue the President of the United States.

Not to bring up a jobs bill, not to deal with comprehensive immigration reform, not to extend emergency unemployment benefits for the millions of people who have lost their benefits, but to debate a dangerous and unprecedented lawsuit with the House of Representatives suing the President. What is next—the Senate suing the House? I mean, this is really ridiculous.

And after all that is done, what we are going to do is recess for 5 weeks. Instead of taking up the issues that the people have sent us here to deal with, we are going to leave for 5 weeks after taking action—presumably, the majority will vote to sue the President of the United States.

It is a waste of our time. It is a horrible waste of money. It is unconscionable. We ought to stay here and do the work of the American people that we were sent here to do.

DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, the President has taken the oath of office two times. Twice he has sworn to faithfully execute the laws. Twice he has sworn to protect and defend the Constitution. Yet he has unilaterally delayed the employer mandate of his own health care law twice. On topic after topic, this President has violated the law through overreaching executive action, often not even bothering to issue an executive order.

Our former constitutional law professor-turned President should know that it is Congress' job to make the laws, and it is his job to carry them out, not make them up.

That is why the House is asking the judicial branch to step in and referee this dispute. Champions of the President's choices today may regret when future Presidents are empowered to run roughshod over the people's representatives. Let's defend the Constitution and support the House lawsuit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from improper references toward the President.

RESOLUTION TO SUE THE PRESIDENT

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, 9.5 million Americans are unemployed. America's roads and rails are crumbling. College graduates are saddled with \$1 trillion in debt that they can't refinance. Ukraine and the Middle East

are on fire. And what does the Speaker have lined up for us in the final 3 days before his 5-week recess for August? He wants us to pass a resolution to sue the President for actions he doesn't like. Mainstream legal experts have said repeatedly this lawsuit is both ludicrous and dangerous, but what it mostly is is wasteful.

The Speaker's shutdown cost the American economy \$24 billion. The 50 ACA repeal votes have cost \$79 million. The DOMA lawsuit lined pockets of lawyers at \$500 an hour, billable hours.

We should cancel the recess. We should go to work in terms of addressing the issues of jobs in this country. We should stop lining the pockets of politically connected lawyers. Let's stand up for the middle class. Let's fix America's infrastructure, and let's get this country moving again and skip the lawsuit.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PRIORITIZATION ACT

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act, H.R. 2283, and commend my friend and colleague from New Jersey, Representative CHRIS SMITH, for introducing it.

The State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, or J/TIP, does a fantastic job of maintaining U.S. leadership and accountability in the worldwide effort to combat human trafficking.

More than 130 countries have created or strengthened their antitrafficking laws largely due to J/TIP's work. Among other provisions, this bill raises the status of the J/TIP office to that of a bureau, preventing countries and other bureaus from gaming the tier ranking system. It also achieves this without any additional bureaucracy or cost to the taxpayers.

As a member of the Congressional Human Trafficking Task Force, working with the congressional leadership, J/TIP, and antitrafficking groups, I know it is crucial to keep this fight from being consumed in a bureaucratic shuffle.

I thank Congressman SMITH for his leadership and look forward to Senate passage of H.R. 2283.

HALTING THE GOP MARCH TOWARD IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, this week House Republicans will be considering a resolution that would authorize the Speaker of the House to sue President Obama. This lawsuit is frivolous. It is also wasteful and without merit.

We must focus on critical legislative priorities instead of political lawsuits that will do nothing but waste millions

of the taxpayers' dollars. There are critical issues that need action now. How about creating some jobs, raising the minimum wage, or maybe fixing our broken immigration system before we leave here?

I can tell you that the constituents in my district could use a raise in the minimum wage. There are also people out there that are hurting, that need their unemployment benefits extended.

This lawsuit disregards the priorities of the American people. I do not support this lawsuit. It is frivolous. And I suggest that we use our time to address critical issues that will positively impact Americans.

I will be voting "no" on this lawsuit and urge the House leadership to use their time wisely this week—like we are taught early in elementary school—to bring up bills that will put hardworking Americans back to work.

CONGRATULATING GENERAL WILLIAM L. SHELTON ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE AIR FORCE

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize General William L. Shelton on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Air Force.

Over the course of his career, General Shelton has served with great distinction and made countless sacrifices for our country. We commend his service and the sacrifices of his wife, Linda, and their two children, Sara and Joel, in support of his service.

General Shelton has been a vigilant advocate for national security space programs. As the commander of Air Force Space Command, he was responsible for more than 40,000 military and civilian personnel who assure space and cyberspace protection for our Nation. He established an unmatched level of success during a time of increasing challenges. His frank and informed discussions on space systems have helped leaders and citizens around the world appreciate the value of our Nation's space capabilities.

General Shelton deserves our most heartfelt gratitude and praise. Thank you, General Shelton, and best wishes to you and your family.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, while the House Republicans are busy wasting taxpayer dollars on conspiracy theories and a lawsuit to nowhere, Democrats have unveiled an agenda to put working families and the middle class first.

For millions of Americans struggling to make ends meet on the current minimum wage, times have gotten harder and harder as the cost of living rises and wages stagnate. Our plan puts fam-

ilies first and expands opportunity for all Americans by fighting to create good-paying jobs here at home, supporting equality for women, both in their workplaces and in their doctors' offices, and creating a sustainable future for students by helping to slow down the ballooning costs of college.

Now is the time to empower our workforce by showing them that they can make ends meet and provide for their families by working hard. Now is the time to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, to ensure that women finally receive equal pay for equal work. Now is not the time to be suing the President. Now is the time for action and dedication to making our country stronger.

□ 1215

DAY THREE, WASHINGTON UNDER SIEGE

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

Mr. MASSIE. Day three, Washington under siege—3 days ago, a Federal judge struck down D.C.'s unconstitutional ban on the right to bear arms. D.C. went from having the most restrictive gun laws in the country to having virtually no restrictions on carrying a handgun in public.

Did gun-toting tourists commence to shoot-outs? Did residents cower in their homes? Did vigilante posses maraud about the city? Did politicians revert to dueling at 10 paces? No, none of these things are happening. History will show the streets are safer today as more law-abiding residents and visitors are armed.

Contrary to apocryphal warnings from D.C. leaders, no one is panicked—except for the city's leaders. Why are the city's leaders apoplectic, and why are they asking for an immediate stay from the judge's ruling? Because the emperor has no clothes and all of the lies about gun control are being exposed right here in the District of Columbia on day three.

CORRECTING THE CRISIS AT THE VA

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's obligation to our veterans should go far beyond simply thanking them for their service. We must also make sure that they are being properly cared for and supported when they return home. That is why I—like so many others—was outraged by the news that the VA health system had broken down.

I am pleased that the House and Senate leaders have come together and drafted legislation to address some of the most fundamental issues to this crisis, like access to timely medical care, upgraded facilities, and consequences for misconduct and poor performance.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that future reforms to our VA medical system will include a unified electronic health records system between the VA and the Department of Defense. In today's hyperconnected world, we ought to be doing much better than shuffling large paper files between facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to put partisanship aside and take action to correct this crisis at the VA now.

CONGRATULATING MOOSE LODGE NO. 1568 IN ANGOLA, INDIANA

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Moose Lodge No. 1568 in Angola, Indiana, for its 100th anniversary celebration.

Mr. Speaker, on August 26, 1914, the Loyal Order of Moose Supreme Council officially issued a charter for the Angola Lodge, and over the past 100 years, the lodge has grown in membership and has become a recognized service and volunteer organization in the Angola community.

Importantly, the organization's robust community service program has been engaged in countless humanitarian efforts through the lodge's own work, as well as annual donations to other community groups, health support organizations, and local services, such as food banks and homeless shelters.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize, for the record, Mr. Ed Palmer, Angola Lodge's first governor.

In addition, I would like to recognize Tony Culver, Eric Henion, Ron Nusbaum, and Richard Gens for their recent leadership of the organization, as well as the rest of the Moose Lodge's membership as they begin their next 100 years of service to the Angola community.

Congratulations and happy 100th anniversary.

REPUBLICANS IGNORE AMERICA'S PROBLEMS

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, in 2 days, we will go home, leaving behind a long list of unfinished business, but it is not for lack of trying on the part of Democrats.

We have introduced bills, signed discharge petitions, protested on the steps of the Capitol, and fasted on the Mall, all to try to prompt or at least shame the Republicans into some kind of action, but they are shameless.

Apparently, they just don't care. They don't care if women get paid less, as long as CEOs get record salaries. They don't care if children stack up at the border and families are divided, as long as they can sue the President.