

REMEMBERING WILLIE DAVIS
"BIG WILL" PRINGLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved community leader and friend from Victor Valley College. Willie Davis Pringle, also known as Big Will, was a beloved father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and coach. He died at the age of 62 on Tuesday, January 6, of this year.

Willie began his career at Victor Valley College, where he worked for 33 years. He was an active member of his community, and he advocated for students, the disabled, and the disadvantaged. While at VVC, Willie also met the woman and coworker who later became his wife, Mary.

Willie was a member of the Victor Valley Elementary School Board for 16 years. He assisted the disabled through job opportunities and benefits, served on the Hesperia Truancy Board, and was a member of the City of Victorville Advisory Board and Planning Commission. He also served as a member of the supervisory committee for the Victor Valley Federal Credit Union and was currently serving as president of the board of directors for Excelsior Charter School.

For many years, Willie would help serve meals to the homeless with the Salvation Army. Recently, he was recognized by the Los Angeles County Alliance, the California Alliance, and the National Alliance of Black School Educators for his service as a school board member. In 2009, Victor Valley Community College presented him with the Distinguished Service Award.

Willie was a lot more than that to many of us students. In the 33 years that he spent there, he was a friend; he was a mentor; he would talk to you as you walked through the campus; he would recognize if you weren't in class that day. Many times, he would seek you out in the community to make sure that you were staying out of trouble. This mentor meant so much to so many of us, and he is going to be sorely missed.

In December, Victor Valley College officials hosted a dedication ceremony in honor of the 33-year college employee, naming the college's athletic training room after him. Pringle served as the Rams' head football coach and athletic director, and he later became the director of student services before retiring.

He gave a lot of advice to many of us, encouraging us to seek out other opportunities. For me, I became student body president. And we had many other football players that followed in those same footsteps, at Willie's request. He kept us busy. He mentored us. He got us involved and engaged.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing Willie Davis Pringle for his unwavering leadership

and many accomplishments and contributions.

THE DHS EMPLOYEE
RETROACTIVE PAY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, in 3 short days, absent congressional action, funding for the Department of Homeland Security will lapse and the Department will be forced to shut down. Should this be allowed, the vast majority of the DHS workforce will be required to work without pay until a funding agreement is reached. The remainder—more than 30,000 dedicated individuals—will be furloughed with no guarantee of backpay.

Congress must act immediately to enact legislation that would fully fund the Department and allow these men and women who live and work in every district in every State to continue to carry out the critical message of keeping our Nation healthy, safe, and strong.

But in the absence of such action, with time running dangerously short, DHS employees, at the very least, must be assured that there is an agreement in Congress that they will receive their full pay in a fair and timely manner. That is why I, along with my friend and colleague from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN), have introduced the DHS Employee Retroactive Pay Fairness Act. This bipartisan proposal ensures that all Federal DHS employees receive retroactive pay for the duration of any shutdown, regardless of furlough status.

Madam Speaker, as we wait for Congress to do its job, we should not stop the men and women of DHS from doing theirs. We must guarantee they receive pay and that they not become collateral damage of Congress' refusal to reach an agreement.

RADICAL ISLAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, in traveling throughout the district this past week, people shared with me their frustration at the ambiguous language from this administration in describing the evils of radical Islamist terrorism.

Though I greatly respect the office of the President, I too have grown weary at the timidity. While other world leaders have come to the forefront, our President continues to be defensive, at best.

At first glance, the silence appears to be passive or poor leadership. But I am inclined to believe that the President's posture is not one of weakness but, rather, an intentional directive in both rhetoric and action. It appears that his promise to take our country in a fundamentally new direction is being

played out in realtime. Instead of defending our liberty and our way of life, which is the most charitable in the world, our President seems to scoff at the belief that our country has been uniquely blessed by God.

I would be remiss today if I did not pause and remember our Egyptian Christian brothers in the recent barbaric attacks in Libya. ISIS murdered innocent husbands and fathers who clearly died for their faith and their beliefs.

Just this morning, we hear further reports out of Syria that Islamic State militants have abducted dozens of Christians, including women and children. Weeks prior, the President chastised the Christian community for getting on their judgmental high horses. Yet, in describing our martyred brothers from Egypt, the President refused to even utter the word, "Christian."

The undermining of our beliefs has become an issue with this President. This very week, we face a constitutional crisis that was created solely by this administration. House Republicans have passed legislation to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security, yet this President is now asking me and my colleagues to do something that, for 6 years and on more than 20 occasions, he said was outside the law.

Throughout history, strong leaders have exhibited strength in times of crises. Recently, Tony Blair met with a few of us and gave a great speech on the concerns and the ills of extreme terrorism. He said this, and I haven't forgotten it. He said: America, it is not your job to be loved; it is your job to lead.

Today, I beseech the President to lead by clearly defining this expanding extremism that is ISIS, al Qaeda, Boko Haram, al Shabaab, and other radical Islamic fundamentalists.

□ 1245

There are times when riding the high horse of justice is our only option. The American people are demanding strength. It is time to speak out. Defend our inalienable rights of liberty and life, be courageous, be a leader, Mr. President. The world is watching.

MIRACLE ON ICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK) for 5 minutes.

Ms. STEFANIK. "Do you believe in miracles?"

Madam Speaker, these were the iconic words uttered by legendary sportscaster Al Michaels with just 3 seconds left in the historic match between Team USA and the Soviet national hockey team in the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid. With the eyes of the world on the Lake Placid games, through sheer grit and determination, an amateur Team USA proudly did what many thought would be impossible by defeating the favored Soviet team.

Decades of cold war politics made this event more than just an ordinary hockey game. For many, it was one more proud reminder of what a determined and united America can accomplish. I grew up hearing this story firsthand from my dad, who was in Lake Placid with his best friend, Doug Brownell, when the underdog Team USA won and the crowds erupted in cheers. It was an awe-inspiring moment for our entire country and the world.

Our community in Lake Placid and the North Country still celebrate this incredible occasion. This past weekend Lake Placid was proud to host a reunion celebrating the 35th anniversary of this game and hosting the players from the 1980 Team USA men's hockey team. Our North Country community is proud to be a home for this historic and inspiring event, and I am proud to stand on the House floor today to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the "miracle on ice."

THE STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, soon the House of Representatives is expected to vote on H.R. 5, the Student Success Act. H.R. 5 represents a long overdue rewrite of the current No Child Left Behind with new policies that aim to ensure that every student in this country has access to a quality public education.

For years our Federal education policy has been failing our Nation's students—the statistics do not lie. Today only 38 percent of seniors in high school can read at grade level, and just 26 percent are proficient in math.

While I do not believe that any Member can be in total agreement with every aspect of the proposed bill, it is important to recognize the underlying goal of reducing the Federal Government's role in education while empowering States and especially local school districts with discretion over academic standards and testing.

While truly well intentioned, the current law places undue pressures upon young learners and has turned hardworking, compassionate teachers into test proctors. This is not fair to those who have worked tirelessly to ensure our children are receiving a quality education, nor is it fair to our children, who are not receiving a well-rounded education but memorizing answers to specific test questions.

It has become overwhelmingly clear that the Washington bureaucrats don't know how to educate our children. I can assure you that parents, administrators, and local school boards understand what is best for their children. It is time for our Federal Government to take a backseat and give power over education back to the States, the true laboratories of innovation.

Mr. Speaker, we are not going to agree upon every issue when it comes to education. However, now is the time to act. Our children deserve as much, and our Nation's future depends on it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALKER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As we meditate on all the blessing of life, we especially pray for the blessing of peace in our lives and in our world. Our fervent prayer, O God, is that people will learn to live together in reconciliation and respect, so that the terrors of war now raging in Ukraine, Syria, and threatening to spread will be no more.

May Your special blessings be upon the Members of this assembly in the important, often difficult work they do. Give them wisdom and charity that they might work together for the common good when issues on so many fronts present seemingly impossible roads to cooperation.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE 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.

WORLD LEADERS FOCUSED ON TERRORISM

(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, during the Presidents' Day break, I was grateful to chair a delegation to visit with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan, King Abdullah II of Jordan, and President Fuad Masum of Iraq, along with Defense Minister Khaled al-Obaidi of Iraq. Each leader clearly wants to protect their citizens from terrorism.

I was joined by the dynamic ELISE STEFANIK of New York, four-tour Iraq veteran SETH MOULTON of Massachusetts, and hardworking BRAD ASHFORD of Nebraska.

It is more clear than ever that Daesh, the Arab interpretation of ISIL, is a growing threat to the American people, and we must forcefully defeat the barbarian murderers with our courageous allies abroad.

Radical Islam has declared war on Americans and targets fellow Muslims, as evidenced during our visit. We have seen in the last 10 days the slaughter of 40 worshippers at a mosque in Pakistan, the burning of over 30 innocent civilians in Iraq, the beheadings of 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians in Libya, and Jews murdered in Copenhagen.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

WE MUST PASS A CLEAN DHS BILL IMMEDIATELY

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, Minnesota's Mall of America was the subject of threats from the terrorist organization, al Shabaab.

The Department of Homeland Security is a vital partner with State and local law enforcement in protecting our Nation from terroristic threats; yet, in 72 hours, funding for the Department of Homeland Security will run out.

The Republicans' decision to use the DHS budget to pick a fight with the President is jeopardizing our national security. The Department of Homeland Security must have certainty in their budget to plan, prepare, and protect our country from threats like the one made against the Mall of America.

My Democratic colleagues and I have proposed a clean budget for DHS that would provide the tools they need to protect the American people from very real harm. We must pass a DHS bill immediately.

Then Congress can focus on our efforts on good jobs and strong wages to create even more economic growth for the American people.

FUND DHS IMMEDIATELY

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