

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.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, well, there are only 4 days left until the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, so I urge all my GOP colleagues to please take up a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security and take away the threat of another government shutdown. Take that threat off the table.

If you won't listen to us on the Democratic side of the aisle, listen to some of your own colleagues. Listen to Senator RON JOHNSON who said: "The political impasse on DHS funding must end."

Or listen to Representative MIKE MCCAUL, who is chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security. He said: "We should not be playing politics with the national security agency like DHS, particularly given the high threat environment we're in right now."

Let's stop the gamesmanship. Let's get back to governing the way the American people want us to. Bring a clean DHS funding bill to the floor.

IT IS TIME TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE, NOT OBSTRUCTIVE

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

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, as we saw from the horrific terrorist attack in Paris, now is not the time to be cutting funding for programs that protect Americans from enemies intent on doing us harm.

I am dismayed that some lawmakers are supporting punitive and ill-informed legislation to defund the Department of Homeland Security because they disagree with President Obama's recent executive action on the deportation of undocumented immigrants.

It is wrong to play political football with something as sacred as our national security. Even if you disagree with the President's immigration policy, it is irresponsible to withhold funding from the agencies that protect Americans from terrorists.

I know from my experience as ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee that this is a dangerous world. We must fully fund Homeland Security priorities—including Secret Service, the Coast Guard, and border security—through a Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill, while separately debating comprehensive immigration reform.

Let's stop the ideological partisan politics and do what the American people want us to do: protect our homeland, our communities, and our families. It is time to be constructive, not obstructive.

LET'S FUND DHS

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I think just about every one of us in Congress went through security at an airport in our home State this week, and like millions of Americans who fly every day, we are protected by 40,000 TSA officers that we depend on to keep us safe.

But now, we are on the verge of stopping paychecks to all of those officers and 50,000 Border Patrol agents and 40,000 Active-Duty Coast Guard members who are needed to protect our shores. In my State and many others this winter, they are being called upon to break up the ice and keep our harbors open.

It is not just the people who keep us safe. It is FEMA. Just like much of the country, we have suffered from one of the hardest winters in memory in Maine, but if the Department of Homeland Security is shut down, then FEMA will not be able to process any new disaster relief applications from our States.

This winter has created a crisis for my State and for many local governments. Let's not add to that with a manufactured crisis of our own by forcing the Department of Homeland Security to shut down, just because some people don't like President Obama's immigration policies.

We have the votes right here in the House to pass a bill to fund DHS. Just let's take a vote on it.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MURRAY KALISH

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Murray Kalish, a dear friend and constituent who, last week, celebrated his 97th birthday.

Through a lifetime of hard work and dedication to public service, Murray established himself as one of the most committed community leaders in south Florida. He has served on the boards of the county planning and zoning commission, his synagogue board, and the Lake Worth Drainage District Board.

Murray has shown a strong political acumen throughout his career, founding the important United South County Democratic Club, and possessing an uncanny ability to spot up-and-coming leaders and direct them into elected office.

A mentor to many, Murray has been the gatekeeper of the Palm Beach County political landscape. As an aspiring politician, you simply cannot hope to succeed without the guidance and insight that only Murray could provide.

It is a privilege, Mr. Speaker, to represent a district with so many citizens who work tirelessly to make a difference every day, and Florida's public servants have Murray Kalish to thank for their inspiration.

Thank you, Murray, for your friendship. To you and your dear late wife,

Roz, you have been a blessing to me, and I am so pleased to stand here representing our community on the House floor to say thank you for your remarkable achievements and our community that has been strengthened as a result.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 18, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for documents, issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

ED CASSIDY,
Chief Administrative Officer.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 23, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 23, 2015 at 4:44 p.m.:

Appointments:
Commission on Care.
Senate National Security Working Group for the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1603

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 4 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.