Abraham

agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

Esty

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 233, noes 159, answered "present" 1, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 129] AYES-233

Meng

Aderholt Farr Messer Allen Amodei Mica Miller (MI) Fattah Fleischmann Ashford Foster Moolenaar Mooney (WV) Babin Barletta Frankel (FL) Franks (AZ) Mullin Frelinghuysen Nadler Barr Beatty Gabbard Napolitano Neugebauer Becerra Gallego Goodlatte Newhouse Beyer Bilirakis Graham Noem Nugent Bishop (GA) Granger Bishop (UT) Graves (LA) Nunes Black Green, Al Olson Blackburn Grothman Pelosi Blum Guinta. Pingree Blumenauer Guthrie Pitts Bonamici Gutiérrez Pocan Boustany Hahn Polis Brady (TX) Hardy Pompeo Harper Heck (WA) Brat Posey Price (NC) Bridenstine Brooks (AL) Hensarling Rangel Reichert Brown (FL) Buchanan Himes Rice (SC) Bustos Huelskamp Richmond Butterfield Huffman Rigell Byrne Hultgren Roby Roe (TN) Calvert Hunter Capps Hurt (VA) Rogers (KY) Carnev Tssa. Rohrabacher Carson (IN) Johnson (GA) Rokita Carter (TX) Jolly Rooney (FL) Kantur Cartwright Ross. Rothfus Castro (TX) Katko Chabot Kelly (PA) Royce Chu, Judy Kennedy Ruiz Cicilline Kildee Ruppersberger Clay King (IA) Russell Ryan (WI) Cleaver King (NY) Cole Kline Salmon Collins (NY) Knight Sanford Scalise Comstock Kuster Conyers LaMalfa Schiff Cook Lamborn Schweikert Larson (CT) Scott (VA) Cooper Sensenbrenner Courtney Latta Cramer Lawrence Serrano Lieu, Ted Crenshaw Sessions Lipinski Crowley Sherman Cuellar Lofgren Shimkus Culberson Long Simpson Curbelo (FL) Loudermilk Smith (NE) Davis (CA) Lowenthal Smith (NJ) Davis, Danny Smith (TX) Lucas Luetkemeyer Delaney Speier Stefanik DeLauro Lujan Grisham DelBene (NM) Stewart DeSaulnier Luján, Ben Ray Stutzman Des Jarlais (NM) Takai Deutch Marino Takano Massie Diaz-Balart Thornberry McCarthy Dingell Titus Doyle, Michael McCaul Tonko McClintock McCollum F. Duncan (SC) TrottTsongas Duncan (TN) McHenry Upton Van Hollen Edwards McMorris Rodgers Wagner Ellison Emmer (MN) McNerney Walden Engel Meadows Walker Meeks Walorski Eshoo

Walters, Mimi Walz Wasserman Schultz Webster (FL) Welch Wenstrup

Adams

Aguilar

Amash

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F.

Buck

Bucshon

Burgess

Chaffetz

Clyburn

Coffman

Conaway

Connolly

DeFazio

DeGette

Denham

DeSantis

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Dold

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Flores

Forbes

Foxx

Fudge

Garrett

Gibson

Gowdy

Griffith

Hartzler

Cohen

Westerman Westmoreland Whitfield Williams Wilson (SC) Womack Yarmuth

Yoho Young (AK) Young (IA) Zeldin Zinke

NOES-159

Hastings Palazzo Heck (NV) Pallone Herrera Beutler Palmer Hice, Jody B. Paulsen Higgins Pearce Holding Peters Bishop (MI) Honda Peterson Hoyer Pittenger Boyle, Brendan Hudson Poe (TX) Huizenga (MI) Poliquin Brady (PA) Hurd (TX) Price, Tom Brooks (IN) Israel Ratcliffe Jackson Lee Brownley (CA) Reed Renacci Jeffries Jenkins (KS) Ribble Rice (NY) Jenkins (WV) Carter (GA) Johnson (OH) Rogers (AL) Castor (FL) Johnson, E. B. Ros-Lehtinen Rouzer Jones Clark (MA) Roybal-Allard Joyce Clarke (NY) Keating Rush Ryan (OH) Clawson (FL) Kelly (IL) Sánchez, Linda Kilmer Kind Т. Kinzinger (IL) Sanchez, Loretta Collins (GA) Kirkpatrick Sarbanes Schakowsky Lance Langevin Schrader Costa Costello (PA) Levin Sewell (AL) Lewis Shuster Cummings LoBiondo Sinema Loebsack Slaughter Smith (MO) Love Lowey Stivers Lynch Swalwell (CA) MacArthur Thompson (CA) Maloney, Thompson (MS) Duckworth Carolyn Thompson (PA) Maloney, Sean Tiberi Ellmers (NC) Matsui Tipton Farenthold McDermott Torres Fitzpatrick McGovern Turner McKinley Valadao McSally Vargas Meehan Veasey Fortenberry Miller (FL) Vela Moore Velázquez Moulton Visclosky Mulvaney Waters, Maxine Murphy (FL) Watson Coleman Murphy (PA) Weber (TX) Green, Gene Neal Wittman Nolan Woodall Norcross

ANSWERED "PRESENT"-1

Gohmert

NOT VOTING-39

Grijalva Barton Pavne Capuano Hanna Perlmutter Perry Cárdenas Harris Quigley Crawford Hinojosa Davis, Rodney Johnson, Sam Roskam Doggett Jordan Schock Labrador Scott, Austin Fincher Scott, David Garamendi Larsen (WA) Gibbs Lee Sires Smith (WA) Gosar Lummis Walberg Wilson (FL) Graves (GA) Marchant Graves (MO) O'Rourke Young (IN) Grayson Pascrell

□ 1215

So the Journal was approved. The result of the vote was announced

as above recorded.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 976

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 976.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON WEDNES-DAY, MARCH 25, 2015, FOR THE ofPURPOSE RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING HIS EXCEL-LENCY MOHAMMAD ASHRAF GHANI. PRESIDENT OF THE IS-LAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANI-

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting His Excellency Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-TIVES IN THE 114TH CONGRESS

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 152, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 132) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolu-

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 152, the amendment printed in House Report 114-45 is adopted, and the resolution, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the resolution, as amended, is as follows:

H. RES. 132

Resolved.

SECTION 1. COMMITTEE EXPENSES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS.

- (a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives, in accordance with this primary expense resolution, not more than the amount specified in subsection (b) for the expenses (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of each committee named in such subsection.
- (b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture,

\$10,173,096; Committee on Armed Services, \$14,208,340; Committee on the Budget, \$10,380,424; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$14,044,580; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$19,531,442; Committee on Ethics, \$6,201,326; Committee on Financial Services, \$15,086,852; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$14,923,986; Committee on Homeland Security, \$14,407,846; Committee on House Administration, \$9,293,130; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$9,197,310; Committee on the Judiciary, \$14,395,572; Committee on Natural Resources, \$13,422,774; Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, \$18,059,682; Committee on Rules, \$5,846,964; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$10,671,164; Committee on Small Business, \$6,045,228; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$16,728,260; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$6,958,062; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$17,515,290.

SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATIONS.

- (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2015, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2016.
- (b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$5,086,548; Committee on Armed Services, \$7,104,170; Committee on the Budget, \$5,190,212; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$7,022,290; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$9,765,721; Committee on Ethics, \$3,100,663; Committee on Financial Services. \$7.543.426: Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$7,461,993; Committee on Homeland Security, \$7,203,923; Committee on House Administration \$4,646,565; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$4,598,655; Committee on the Judiciary, \$7,197,786; Committee on Natural Resources, \$6.711.387; Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, \$9,029,841; Committee on Rules, \$2.960.982; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$5,335,582; Committee on Small Business, \$3.022.614; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$8,364,130; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$3,479,031; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$8,757,645.

SEC. 3. SECOND SESSION LIMITATIONS.

- (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2016, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2017
- (b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$5,086,548; Committee on Armed Services, \$7.104.170: Committee on the Budget, \$5.190.212: Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$7,022,290; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$9.765.721; Committee on Ethics, \$3,100,663; Committee on Financial Services, \$7,543,426; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$7,461,993; Committee on Homeland Security, \$7,203,923; Committee on House Administration, \$4,646,565; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$4,598,655; Committee on the Judiciary, \$7,197,786; Committee on Natural Resources, \$6,711,387; Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, \$9,029,841; Committee on Rules, \$2,885,982; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$5,335,582; Committee on Small Business, \$3,022,614; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$8,364,130; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$3,479,031; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$8,757,645.

- (c) Review of Use of Funds in First Session.—
- (1) REVIEW.—None of the amounts provided for in section 1 for a committee named in subsection (b) may be available for expenses of the committee after March 15, 2016, unless the chair or ranking minority member of the committee appears and presents testimony at a hearing of the Committee on House Administration held prior to such date to review the committee's use of the amounts provided for in section 1 during the first session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress and to determine whether the amount specified in subsection (b) with respect to the committee should be updated on the basis of the review.
- (2) WAIVER.—The Committee on House Administration may waive the application of paragraph (1) to any or all of the committees named in subsection (b).

SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the committee involved, signed by the chairman of such committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 6. RESERVE FUND FOR UNANTICIPATED EXPENSES.

- (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a reserve fund for unanticipated expenses of committees for the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.
- (b) AMOUNT.—The reserve fund under this section shall have a balance of \$1,000,000, of which—
- (1) \$500,000 shall be available for unanticipated expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2015, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2016: and
- (2) \$500,000 shall be available for unanticipated expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2016, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2017.
- (c) ALLOCATION TO COMMITTEES.—Amounts in the reserve fund under this section shall be paid to a committee pursuant to an allocation approved by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 7. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.

The Committee on House Administration shall have authority to make adjustments in amounts under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 251A or 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any change in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 132.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 132, which is a resolution setting the funding levels for each House committee.

Every Congress, it is the responsibility of the Committee on House Administration to establish funding levels for committees in the House so that they may budget appropriately and prepare their oversight and operational responsibilities for the rest of Congress with a full knowledge of the resources available.

The Committee on House Administration started the consideration process out of this committee funding resolution by holding hearings to receive input from the chair and ranking members of each of our House committees. These were very productive, very informative hearings, and I am certain that my partner in this effort, the ranking member of our committee. Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, certainly will share that belief. Each chair and ranking member worked together in the development of their committee's budget requests and in their advocacy for those requests before our committee. It was a true example of bipartisanship.

This funding resolution that is a product of the information developed by our hearings is also a bipartisan product, which was favorably reported out of our committee by unanimous voice vote. I am very pleased that each committee reaffirmed their commitment to uphold the equitable two-thirds/one-third allocation between the majority and the minority sides.

The Committee on House Administration has taken really great care, Mr. Speaker, in examining the funding levels authorized for each committee in this resolution so that the priorities of the House and the priorities of the American people are put front and center.

I think it is important to note that, over the past few Congresses, the House has not only asked for fiscal responsibility across the Federal Government, but has led by example in showing fiscal responsibility by making reductions in our own budgets, both in individual Member office budgets as well as the committee budgets.

Since the 110th Congress, for example, Mr. Speaker, the House has had actually a 15 percent reduction in our committee budgets. At the same time, our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol did not actually reduce the funding for their committees other than what was mandated by "sequestration." In fact, the other body actually increased their committee spending while the House was reducing spending, until making some modest reductions in the committee budgets recently at the start of the 114th. I just point that out. We were leading by example here

Additionally, the Executive Office actually had a 30 percent increase in

their spending since 2008, and, given that it is the role of the Congress to conduct effective and needed oversight over the entire executive and judicial branches, I think it is very vital that we make certain that our committees have the resources they need to meet this important duty.

So that brings us here today, Mr. Speaker, to the consideration of House Resolution 152.

After hearing from each chair and each ranking member, the committee was able, really, to better ascertain the needs of each committee and to ensure that they did have adequate and proper funding. Many committees, including the Committee on House Administration, received no increase in funding in this resolution from what we were allocated in the 113th Congress. Many committees received flat funding. Because of the increased oversight or legislative priorities, other committees required a very modest or targeted increase in their resources.

The overall proposed increase in authorized funding for the committees is 1.63 percent for 2015 and 1.57 percent for 2016. Again, though, there are about half of the committees that received no increase in funding, got level funding.

The committee funding resolution also takes into account that there might be unforeseen circumstances that will pop up during the course of this Congress that might require some additional resources. For instance, in the case of the Judiciary Committee, it was testified by the chair and the ranking member that there is a possibility of a judicial impeachment proceeding. They may have to conduct that: they may not. So to prepare for that kind of unanticipated need, the Committee on House Administration has actually allocated \$500,000 for each session in the 114th into a reserve fund which could be allocated for something like that or, if there is another committee that demonstrates a real need for it, an emerging priority that perhaps they couldn't see at this point in time.

I just think that that is a very fiscally prudent way to budget, not just giving money on the "if come," but if we really do see that we need it, of course then we can protect that money; if we don't need to spend it, it won't be spent.

Before authorizing any increase in funding, the Committee on House Administration really dove into why the increase was needed, such as a specific new priority, emerging challenges that some of our committees will face this Congress. Some of the committees requested additional funds for urgent equipment needs.

Part of our responsibilities, of course, are to ensure smooth operations of this institution, because a breakdown of equipment that we rely on every day to assist with the daily function of the House may lead to proceedings being severely delayed or halted, and we thought that was an unacceptable possibility. So, as an exam-

ple, some of the equipment that, as I say, that some of the committees are looking for, we wanted to make sure we had resources there.

Another example is the need for additional specialized staff members to assist in the oversight functions that the committee is charged with. For instance, the Armed Services Committee, a good example, had great needs for additional staff to help with conducting vigorous oversight in the pursuit of major overdue reforms at the Pentagon which could save the Nation, literally, tens of billions of dollars. We thought that was a fiscally prudent use of additional resources.

The Veterans' Affairs Committee has immense new challenges in conducting their oversight needed to get to the bottom of the scandalous treatment of our veterans at the VA hospitals across the Nation. Again, we thought that that was an appropriate expenditure as we ensure that those who have served the cause of freedom get the care and the benefits that they have earned. Again, not only do we believe that it is a prudent use of additional resources, but an imperative duty.

Other committees have expressed a desire for more field hearings across the country, and our committee was very supportive of this because we really believe that getting out of Washington, if you will, and conducting these field hearings, talking to the American people, really allowing Members and committees to gather first-hand knowledge of how the Federal programs are functioning and their impact on our Nation, was a very important thing.

So I would say this. I think it is important to note that, while there is a very small overall increase in authorized committee spending, this funding resolution does not require any new spending, does not require any new spending within the House's overall budget. This funding resolution only redirects already appropriated resources to new priorities.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, we are proposing modest, targeted increases to meet the House committees' oversight and operational needs, and I would hope that each Member of the House will concur with the priorities that we have set forth in this funding resolution to allow each of our committees to continue with their important work.

Producing this resolution, I think, was important work for our committee, and I certainly want to thank all of our members, both Republican and Democrat, particularly the distinguished ranking member, Mr. Brady from Pennsylvania, for his cooperation, their participation in the process, and the ideas that everybody brought to the table that helped produce this resolution that we bring to the full House today, which I will note as well, Mr. Speaker, was passed out of our committee unanimously.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 132.

After several days of testimony by committee chairs and ranking members and careful review by the Committee on House Administration, we determined what we believe to be appropriate committee funding levels for the 114th Congress.

I want to thank Chairman MILLER and her staff for their diligence throughout this process. We have worked closely and cooperatively. While we would have liked to have done more, I believe that these levels will allow committees to perform their oversight responsibilities. It is my hope that we continue to explore ways to ensure congressional committees are equipped with the proper amount of resources needed to operate fully, while still maximizing the value of their committee funding.

I urge a "yes" vote on this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would add that, for the 114th Congress—and I think this is a very important point, actually—the House remained below the amount authorized back in 2008. We are below the amount authorized in 2008. So the House has been making significant strides to take a very hard look at the way that we utilize our individual budgets, both in our Member offices as well as in our committees, and we are absolutely committed to being fiscally responsible stewards of the taxpayer dollar.

This funding resolution highlights those priorities to remain guardians of the taxpayer dollar, and as such, each committee must operate responsibly, using their budget to set priorities to carry out their important work.

Even after the adoption of the resolution, the Committee on House Administration will continue to work with each committee to assist them in finding solutions which deliver savings and allow every committee to stretch the valuable resources allocated so that they can continue to carry out their important duties.

At the Committee on House administration, we understand, Mr. Speaker, that it is our responsibility to ensure that the House operates in a fiscally responsible manner, an effective and efficient manner, and that is a responsibility that we take very, very seriously. I believe strongly that we have found the appropriate balance in funding this resolution that will keep in place fiscal responsibility and, at the same time, ensure that the important work of the House is carried out.

Mr. Speaker, I would mention to the ranking member that I don't think I have any other speakers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

 \sqcap 1230

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER). It is no secret that she won't be returning in the next Congress, but this will be the last time that I will be with her managing the committees' funding.

I know she is here 21 months more, but I want her to know that every chance I get, with this microphone, I will thank her.

She is, without question, one of the classiest ladies I know in this House. She is fair. I enjoy going to the committee meetings. We smile and we shake hands before the meeting, and we smile and we shake hands after the meeting. She is a pleasure to work with. I wish her well. And again, for the next 21 months, any chance I get, I just hope that I do have the opportunity to keep on thanking her.

I only hope that this House will take note of the way our committee works. We work together. We compromise together. And because of that, things get done.

So, again, I wish her well, and I will have more opportunity to wish her well.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let me just sincerely, sincerely thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Brady), my ranking member.

If I am going to miss anything in this House, it is the great friendships that I have made with many people, both Republicans and Democrats. Certainly he has been right at the top of the list. He has been nothing but professional in our committee deliberations, in the way that we handle all of these different challenges that come before our committee.

I do think it is a very good thing that he points out that our committee does operate in a very bipartisan way. We are all about making sure that this institution is able to do what the American people expect from us, and we both share that passion. So I look forward to working with him for another year and a half here.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member to support the passage of this resolution so that each committee can plan appropriately with the full knowledge of their available resources.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 152, the previous question is ordered on the resolution, as amended.

The resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

A TRIBUTE TO RUTH ELLEN DAILEY HELM

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

Ms. McSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ruth Ellen Dailey Helm, who passed away at the age of 98 recently in Tucson.

Ruth was a pilot during World War II, one of the first female pilots to serve in our military and a trailblazer.

Unlike many of the male pilots who served at the time, Ruth was qualified to fly multiple aircraft as a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASPs; and she ferried bomber, transport, and pursuit aircraft all over the country during World War II.

She was inducted into the Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame in 1999 and awarded the Congressional Gold Medal with her WASP colleagues in 2010.

In addition to serving our country, Ruth and the WASPs were pioneers who inspired an entire generation of women to pursue their dreams of serving as pilots in our military, and that includes me.

When I was going through the challenges of becoming a fighter pilot in the first wave, there were no mentors in front of us to see us through. But when I needed encouragement or when I wanted to quit, Ruth and her fellow WASPs, starting 20 years ago, would be there for me, to inspire me and to encourage me and to give me what I needed to fight for another day.

They were more than role models who broke down gender barriers to serve in our military. They were my personal wingmen—or wingwomen, and I will be forever grateful to Ruth and all the WASP women for paving the way for me, for serving as my friends and my mentors, and for proving that women could be exceptional pilots too.

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative, which recently won the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Leadership Award for Innovative Partnerships. This award recognizes organizations across the country working on cutting-edge climate initiatives that address greenhouse gas reduction goals, adaptation, and resilience.

As a member-based network that supports public agencies in the San Diego region, the Climate Collaborative works to advance comprehensive solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare our region for climate impacts.

In San Diego, climate change is not a partisan issue. While there is debate in Congress about the science of climate

change, there is not debate amongst scientists

As I see every day, San Diegans aren't waiting for Washington to act to address climate change. The collaborative has built partnerships with business, academia, nonprofits, and philanthropic entities to share expertise, leverage resources, and advance actions that benefit San Diego's communities, economy, and natural resources.

The San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative serves as a model for other regions as we seek to address the harmful effects of climate change as a nation and as a planet. I congratulate them.

GENDER EQUALITY AT ABBOTT LABORATORIES

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 10th District's very own Abbott Laboratories in North Chicago and their commitment to gender equality.

The National Association for Female Executives recently released their list of the top 50 companies for executive women. For the sixth consecutive year, Abbott Laboratories placed in the top 10. The association recognized Abbott for their commitment to promoting and empowering women.

I am extremely proud of Abbott's commitment and accomplishments. But it is also a sign, Mr. Speaker, of how much progress we still have to make as a country. We must continue to ensure that our young women have all the same opportunities available to them as young men. We must be sure that women are not at a disadvantage simply due to their gender. It is our duty not just as Members of this House but also as human beings to ensure that women and men are equals in the workplace, and increasing the number of female executives is crucial to that goal.

Mr. Speaker, companies like Abbott have made tremendous strides, but there is still work to be done. I applaud their example and urge others to follow

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise during National Agriculture Week, with yesterday being National Agriculture Day, to recognize the contributions of farmers, ranchers, and producers to our economy and wellbeing.

Agriculture supports one in four Nebraska jobs and contributes more than \$23 billion to our State's economy. I am very proud to represent Nebraska's Third District, now the number one agriculture district in the Nation.