

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 26 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. JOYCE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Lead us this day in Your ways, that our Nation might be guided along the roads of peace, justice, and goodwill.

Grant strength and wisdom to our Speaker, leaders, and Members of both the people's House and the Senate, to our President and his Cabinet, and to our Supreme Court.

Bless as well the moral and military leaders of our country, and may those who are the captains of business, industry, and unions learn to work together toward the mutual benefit of all, walking in the ways of righteousness and working for the highest good of our beloved land.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO J.F. KRUSE JEWELERS

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jim Kruse and Melissa Kelley of J.F. Kruse Jewelers in St. Cloud, Minnesota. They

have been named the Minnesota Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Last year, the St. Cloud Area Chamber honored them as the Small Business of the Year.

Jim Kruse opened J.F. Kruse 15 years ago. From humble beginnings, using secondhand jewelry cases, to a newly built facility and a team of 17 people, the father-daughter duo built a dynamic business that has seen steady growth year after year.

Family-run businesses like J.F. Kruse are the backbone of central Minnesota, and I know I speak for everyone when I say congratulations and good luck in competing for the national title.

THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE NEW REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, the contrast between Democratic and Republican priorities in Congress could not be more clear after the first 100 days here.

Instead of passing legislation that would help American families buy a home or put away money to save for their kids' college or save even for a secure retirement, we have seen again and again tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. That is the priority that supersedes the needs of the American family.

Instead of focusing on growing paychecks and improving our infrastructure, a vital need, one that should be a bipartisan effort, we just continue to vote for more tax giveaways to the wealthiest special interests.

Mr. Speaker, it is long past time that this Congress work on the priorities of hard-working, middle class Americans, priorities that are simple: Own a home, help your kids prepare for their future, have something set aside for retirement, take care of our crumbling infrastructure, reinvest in our future.

I know we stand ready to work together on these big questions. It is time Congress set aside the needs of the few and focused on what we were sent here to do, and that is take care of the American family.

APPLAUDING THE PASSAGE OF H.R. 1105

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House of Representatives for passing H.R. 1105, the Death Tax Repeal Act, last week, and to call for its swift consideration and passage in the Senate.

This devastating tax, which requires families to pay as much as 40 percent of the value of an estate they inherit above a certain threshold, has damaged our economy, hurt small businesses,

and forced many families out of a legacy they worked hard to build.

In my district of Georgia, many of those hit hardest by the death tax are our family farms; hard-working Americans who have paid taxes on their property all their lives, only to have it taxed again when they try to pass it on to the next generation. In some cases, children are often forced to sell the land, ending a family business, costing real jobs, and destroying a family legacy. Unfortunately, this is not a rare occurrence.

As a proud cosponsor of this bill, I applaud my colleagues in the House for passage of this legislation to repeal the death tax and urge quick consideration and approval in the Senate.

NATIONAL LEARN TO SWIM MONTH

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

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, April is the month when pools, beaches, streams, and lakes across the United States open up for the spring and summer months.

As a former collegiate swimmer, I feel compelled to ensure that everyone is safe in the water during the upcoming months.

I am proud to introduce bipartisan H. Res. 205 with another former college swimmer, Representative JIM BRIDENSTINE, on behalf of USA Masters Swimming Association and their president, Nadine Day, to declare April as National Learn to Swim Month.

Last year, 3,335 Americans unintentionally drowned. The number of American adults and children that are unable to swim can be reduced, and we are in a position to speak out and prevent this.

Swimming proficiency is a problem that we can solve together, and with the help of State governments we can highlight this so that we are able to make water activities safe for everyone.

Please join me, Mr. Speaker, in declaring April as National Learn to Swim Month.

FORT HOOD VICTIMS RECEIVE PURPLE HEARTS AND FULL BENEFITS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 5 years since the 2009 shooting in Fort Hood, Texas. The whole country was shocked by this senseless activity. Finally, earlier this month, the 47 soldiers and surviving family members of this tragic event did receive Purple Heart medals for their sacrifice, and they will be provided with every benefit that this commendation obliges.

Following the shooting back in 2009, I went to Fort Hood. I met with the families of loved ones of this attack's victims. I saw firsthand the devastation and the sacrifice. None of them—none of them—should have had to wait this long for the recognition. Although the delay can never be made right, I am relieved that these families and victims have finally received the recognition for their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, Senator CORNYN from my State of Texas, Representative CARTER, and Representative ROGER WILLIAMS put a lot of effort into this, but I also need to recognize the thousands of constituents—not just in Texas, but across the country—who phoned, emailed, and sent letters asking that this omission be made right.

I am happy to say and acknowledge that through their efforts, it finally has been.

IN RECOGNITION OF ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. In recognition of the Oncology Nursing Society's 40th anniversary, I want to congratulate ONS for their legacy of excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care.

ONS is a professional organization of over 37,000 registered nurses and other healthcare providers dedicated to providing care to patients in one of the most difficult stages of their lives.

Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society has worked tirelessly to lead the transformation of cancer care. ONS is the primary source of education for all nurses providing care to people with cancer, regardless of the setting.

In my State of Illinois alone, there are 10 chapters of ONS, with more than 1,600 members. In addition, the ONS Chicago chapter is the oldest chapter in the country.

Oncology nurses are there for patients through one of the most challenging times in their lives. They help patients and their loved ones by caring, teaching, listening, and simply being present.

As Congress continues to work to increase access to quality care, I praise the commitment of ONS in fostering excellence in oncology nursing and the care of cancer patients.

I would like to congratulate all the members of ONS on the occasion of its 40th anniversary and wish them many more years of dedicated service to the country.

IN MEMORY OF JUN CHINO, M.D.

(Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, the recent passing of Dr. Jun Chino has left many in his south-

ern California community with heavy hearts, including my family and myself, who were blessed to have had a close personal relationship with him.

Dr. Chino was the eldest son in a farming family who were moved from an internment camp during World War II, losing their land in the process.

Despite their difficult financial circumstances in the post-war years, Jun managed to obtain a pre-med degree at Stanford and go on to graduate from the university's medical school. Following residency at Los Angeles County USC General Hospital, and having achieved board certification as an orthopedic surgeon, he practiced for 52 years in Orange County.

He served in leadership positions on countless medical organizations and was esteemed by his peers for his skills and for dedicating himself to staying on the cutting edge of developments in his field. Dr. Chino is survived by his wife, Kazuko, and his daughter, Lisa.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION TO THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, in less than 40 days, the highway trust fund runs out of money, which means 90 percent of the surface transportation projects in this country will stop.

To help Congress appreciate the magnitude of this looming crisis, I reached out to my constituents and asked them to give me their stories about our infrastructure. We received hundreds of responses. One of them was from Magnus in Hagerstown, Maryland, who talks about a major highway, Route I-81, that runs through Hagerstown, which he describes as "Death Valley" because he feels like he reads a story in the local newspaper about someone dying there almost every other week. He also commented about how it hurts economic growth for the region, and the region has not been able to attract the businesses it needs to grow its economy.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve a bipartisan solution to fund the highway trust fund, and we should be working on it now.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL R. MARTIN UMBARGER

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true patriot and public servant, Major General R. Martin Umbarger. After serving over four decades in the Indiana National Guard, including the past 10 as our adjutant general, I extend congratulations to him on the occasion of his retirement.

As commander of the fourth largest National Guard contingent in the United States, Major General Umbarger impacted the lives of countless Hoosiers and Americans. When communities in southern Indiana were torn apart by tornadoes, it was General Umbarger and the National Guard who came to their rescue. When the global war on terrorism began, it was General Umbarger and our 21,000 National Guardsmen who supported our most critical military operations.

General Umbarger is truly an extraordinary leader who has displayed a steadfast commitment to protecting Americans' freedoms at home and abroad. He also started the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy in Knightsville, which works to give so many kids a brighter future.

Major General Umbarger is a hero in every sense of the word. It is with pride that I recognize his tremendous legacy, and I wish him and his wife, Rowanna, the very best as they celebrate a well-deserved retirement.

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, April 21, 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 April 21, 2015 at 10:56 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 34.

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 3:30 today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1531

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK) at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Neiman, one of his secretaries.