

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HIGGINS 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WE MUST PASS THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

(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, today, the House of Representatives will consider the National Defense Authorization Act. Under the leadership of Armed Services Committee Chairman MAC THORNBERRY, the committee voted favorably, 60-2, with almost unanimous bipartisan support. Our national security depends on it.

While our Nation faces a complex and threatening environment at home and abroad, this year, the NDAA provides necessary resources to establish a strong national defense, protect American families, and support our brave servicemembers.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, working with Ranking Member JIM LANGEVIN, I am especially pleased this bill addresses the growing threats posed by cyber attacks and our enemies' use of advanced technologies and unconventional warfare.

This bill also preserves means to train and equip special operations and cyber forces to defend America now and in the future. The NDAA has always been widely supported. It should not be held hostage to other legislation.

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

Our sympathy to the family of Midshipman Justin Zemser.

IT IS TIME TO INVEST IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, every year, our economy loses \$33 billion to air traffic delays, \$121 billion to highway congestion, and \$200 billion to freight bottlenecks. Unless we increase spending on waterways, America will lose \$270 billion in exports over the next 5 years.

According to the Chamber of Commerce, our declining infrastructure costs \$1 trillion a year in lost economic growth. Ignoring these facts is economically irrational and governmentally negligent, but that is exactly what Congress has done.

We just spent \$50 billion on our roads and bridges and transit, and only 8 percent, or \$46 billion, in 2009 economic stimulus went to infrastructure; yet we spent over \$150 billion rebuilding the infrastructure of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The American Society of Civil Engineers has identified an enormous deficit between the projected spending and what is needed to bring our infrastructure to a state of good repair.

Today, I introduced the Nation Building Here at Home Act to close this gap. It is time for Congress to make the investments we need and reject the pathetically weak policies that we can no longer afford.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(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 in recognition of National Police Week and to honor the memory of law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. All Americans are grateful for these brave men and women and the ultimate sacrifice they made.

During my time as deputy mayor of Indianapolis and U.S. attorney, I witnessed firsthand the burdens and challenges faced by our law enforcement officers and their amazing families. Even more importantly, I witnessed men and women in blue who have overcome these challenges while displaying so much compassion and commitment to duty. Our Nation must embrace them and be forever mindful of their integrity and service.

Sadly, we have learned it is estimated that, every 3½ days in this country, we lose an officer in the line of duty. This week, we will remember 117 officers killed in 2014, including four officers from Indiana: Jeffrey Westerfield of Gary, Perry Renn of Indianapolis, Nickolaus Schultz of Merrillville, and Jacob Calvin of Tip-ton County.

We are thankful for their service and send our thoughts and prayers to their loved ones. Without hesitation, we renew our appreciation and steadfast commitment to our heroic women and men in blue.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH AND OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my unqualified support for those struggling with mental health issues.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and an opportune time to reach

out to those battling with this issue, including this country's veterans and their families.

Many of our veterans endured trauma during their time of service and, as a result, are now forced to face the negative perceptions and stigma associated with mental health care. I want to lend my voice to a national program designed to reducing those negative views.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is encouraging veterans, along with their families and friends, to visit the Web site maketheconnection.net. Make the Connection allows veterans to tell their personal stories of mental health treatment and recovery.

Through the Web site, veterans and their loved ones hear from hundreds of other veterans who may be experiencing similar challenges and learn strategies for support and recovery. This is truly an excellent source of strength for veterans in need of hope.

USA FREEDOM ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the USA FREEDOM Act, a bipartisan bill to reform the controversial domestic surveillance programs.

The passage of this legislation is the result of strong bipartisan negotiations to strike a balance in order to protect American citizens' rights without dealing a blow to lawful and warranted surveillance efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Congress did not intend for any law to authorize the indiscriminate collection of personal information from Americans. The USA FREEDOM Act will help end government overreach, while ensuring intelligence agencies have the tools at their disposal to lawfully pursue suspected terrorists in efforts to protect all Americans.

As a member of the bipartisan Congressional Privacy Caucus, I applaud the Judiciary Committee and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for working together to write a bill that strikes a balance to protect our constitutional rights without compromising our national security.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND EXPIRATION

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in just 5 legislative days, the highway trust fund authorization will expire. Transportation projects all across the country will come to a screeching halt. Thousands of workers will be unnecessarily laid off.

Despite the Republicans now having a majority in both House and Senate,

we continue to find ourselves legislating by crisis.

Today, 65 percent of our Nation's roads are rated as less than good condition. Twenty-five percent are in poor condition. In Texas alone, we have over 300,000 miles of public roads, almost 10 percent of which are rated poorly.

I urge my colleagues to commit to a long-term plan that will provide certainty, increase transit revenues, and keep workers in our construction industries on the job, especially during this upcoming construction season.

As our roads erode and our transit system decays, it is imperative that we do our jobs and be responsible legislators. I urge my colleagues to enact a long-term bill as soon as possible.

WILLIAMS SYNDROME

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, Williams syndrome is a rare neurological disease. May is Williams Syndrome Awareness Month.

According to the Williams Syndrome Association, there are between 25,000 and 30,000 individuals living with this rare disease, at least one of whom is a constituent of mine. His name is Brian Weaver. I had the pleasure of meeting him.

My bill, the OPEN Act, would provide an incentive for companies to test their drugs on a rare disease population. Over 150 rare diseases organizations wrote to us saying the OPEN Act "promises to improve the quality of life for the nearly 30 million Americans suffering from rare diseases."

Research into Williams syndrome could lead to advances in treating Americans with high blood pressure, diabetes, autism, and anxiety disorders. We must continue to fight for millions of Americans who suffer from rare diseases like Williams syndrome.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I appear here today filled with a sense of great pride but also deeply troubled.

I am proud of the work done by women every day in America, women like my grandmother, who raised family, put food on the table, and ensured that their children received the education and care that they deserved.

I am offended that, as I stand here today, more than 50 years after President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law, as a country, we are still, as women, seeking pay equality. Women are only earning 78 cents to every dollar earned by a man. For women of color, that gap is even greater.

I am deeply troubled by the lack of retirement security for women, American women, and all older Americans.

Today, I am alarmed at our failure to provide women who work hard with basic benefits like paid sick leave and paid family and medical leave.

I am not intimidated, as a Member of Congress, by these problems. I and my Democratic colleagues are energized and united to correct this page in American history because we know, when women succeed, America succeeds.

SUPPORTING THE PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the passage of H.R. 36, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. This legislation, which I cosponsored and voted for yesterday, will help protect unborn children by limiting abortion after 5 months, the point at which they can experience pain.

This is not a divisive concept. In fact, the majority of Americans support limiting abortion after 5 months. It is a fundamental issue of human rights and dignity.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass the House Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act and join us in protecting the right of life, without which all other rights are impossible.

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FY 2016 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the important hard work of Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH of Washington and all of the members of the Armed Services Committee, as well as the committee staff, on the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act. I am particularly proud of the work of the Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee, and I am particularly proud of working with Chairman JOE WILSON of South Carolina on critical national security priorities such as things like cybersecurity, one of the chief threats facing our Nation today, and also the work we have done on R&D, special operations, and counterterrorism. I also applaud the bill's investment in important undersea capabilities, such as the Virginia class submarines, the Virginia Payload Module, as well as the Ohio replacement program.

However, I am deeply concerned that the NDAA reflects a budget approach that locks in sequestration and severs that critical link between our national security and our economic security. It is unfortunate that a measure that has historically represented such strong bipartisanship and regular order has been

taken hostage by a refusal to address the Budget Control Act.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better. We need to avoid sequestration, properly fund our national defense, and I hope that these concerns will be addressed as we continue working to support the brave men and women who defend this great Nation every day.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEVADA APPEAL

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

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, New York Times, get out of the way. Chicago Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, not good enough; keep trying harder.

May 16 marks the 150th anniversary of the publishing of Nevada's oldest daily newspaper, the Nevada Appeal, published in its capital city, Carson City.

I am here to say happy sesquicentennial birthday to the Nevada Appeal, which, by the way, was one of the first newspapers in the land that was owned by a woman, from 1878 to 1880.

The paper has been a mainstay of Nevada journalistic enterprise. Forget it, Las Vegas Review-Journal, Las Vegas Sun, Reno Evening Gazette. These are the folks that have been there for 150 years.

I couldn't be prouder because, as a matter of fact, in my more productive years, at the age of about 9 and 10, I was a paperboy for the Nevada Appeal and have a picture to prove it, with the paper bag with "Nevada Appeal" blazoned across it on the front of my Columbia Stingray bicycle that I delivered the papers on.

Go, Nevada Appeal. Happy birthday to the publisher, Mark Raymond, and the editor, Adam Trumble. Way to go.

IN MEMORY OF ED LYNCH

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

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable philanthropist, family man, businessman, and friend from southwest Washington who has made a lasting impact on our region. He passed away this week at the age of 94.

Ed Lynch was a cornerstone of our community. Known by all as caring and humble, Mr. LYNCH was truly a representation of a servant leader. He was a neighbor and a friend.

In 1957, Ed and his wife, Dollie, moved to Washington State to make Vancouver their home. After serving as president of Kiewit Pacific, Ed dedicated the remaining years of his life to making our region, the region that he loved, a better place.

During his retirement, Ed poured his heart and soul into southwest Washington and taught us all that transforming one's community starts with a