

For instance, bonds issued by the central government received priority payment under the Puerto Rico Constitution, which was authorized and approved by Congress. Accordingly, when the Governor asserted that Puerto Rico cannot pay its debts, the sweeping nature of his comments raised many practical and legal questions and generated considerable anxiety.

Mr. Speaker, the crisis in Puerto Rico is real, and it must be confronted with composure, competence, and candor. To this end, I want to articulate a simple truth, but one that is often overlooked: namely, the challenges we face are structural in nature and, therefore, require structural solutions, at both the Puerto Rico and the Federal level.

Within Puerto Rico, more discipline by the territory government is imperative. We must learn to live within our means. Puerto Rico's political leaders have shown the capacity to develop sound strategies, but have not always demonstrated the same ability to effectively execute those strategies. Performance, not planning, is the problem. We can do better, and for the sake of our constituents, we must do better.

Mr. Speaker, honest self-appraisal and self-criticism are essential, but cannot be limited to Puerto Rico. If the American public is under the impression that Puerto Rico is solely to blame for this crisis, it is profoundly mistaken.

The source of the problem in Puerto Rico is not its people, who are talented and hard-working, nor is it our political leaders, who are no better or worse than their counterparts in other U.S. jurisdictions who at times also overpromise and underdeliver; instead, the root cause of the problem is our political status, which has given rise to a system of severe and entrenched inequality that makes it exceptionally difficult to succeed and exceptionally easy to fail.

The direct link between Puerto Rico's political status and its economic problems was explored at a recent congressional hearing. The hearing served to underscore that there are more American citizens in Puerto Rico than in 21 States, that they serve in the U.S. military in large numbers, but that they cannot vote for President or Senators and have only one nonvoting Delegate in this House.

The hearing highlighted that, as a territory, Puerto Rico can be and often is treated worse than the States under Federal laws, from Medicaid to the earned income tax credit to chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code. To compensate for the deficiency in Federal economic support, the Puerto Rico Government has borrowed heavily, which explains the excessive debt.

In recent years, 250,000 island residents have moved to the States, and these numbers are only growing. Once in the States, they are entitled to full voting rights and equal treatment under the law, rights they were denied in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, this is an intolerable situation. My constituents have tolerated it for too long, and they will tolerate it no longer. They voted for statehood in a local referendum in 2012, and they will vote for statehood again in even greater numbers in a Federal referendum in 2017.

My message to my colleagues is simple. If you give us the same rights and responsibilities as our fellow American citizens and let us rise or fall on our merits, we will rise; but, if you continue to treat us like second-class citizens, don't profess to be surprised when we fall.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Shane Hall, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Oklahoma, offered the following prayer:

Holy and awesome God,

We give You thanks today for every good gift, for we know that every good gift comes from You.

We give You thanks today for the United States of America and the freedoms found within her borders.

We give You thanks today for the men and women of this Congress whom You have placed in positions of leadership in our Nation

May You give them wisdom, which can only come from You, to legislate in such a way that the laws of this Nation might conform to Your will.

Impart within each of us a desire to seek You in all things pertaining to life and eternal life. May we love You, our God, with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind; and may we love our neighbor as ourselves.

For it is in the name of Jesus we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND SHANE HALL

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege today to have with us to provide the opening prayer my pastor and good friend, Shane Hall, from Del City, Oklahoma.

Although Shane was born in Brook, Indiana, he actually grew up in Burns Flat, Oklahoma. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, with a secondary in education. He also got a master's of divinity with biblical languages from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He has pastored a half-dozen churches in Oklahoma and Louisiana, and he is currently the pastor of my home church, First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Oklahoma.

He also serves on the executive committee of the entire Southern Baptist Convention, and he is a member of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma board of directors.

His wife, Misty, and his two daughters, Macy and Mallory, are wonderful people that, if you are ever in Oklahoma, I encourage you to attend services and get to know them.

Thank you for allowing us to make his introduction this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TINO TRUJILLO

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life of Tino Trujillo. Tino was a well-known community leader in Plano and Dallas. My wife, Shirley, and I had the privilege of calling him and his late wife, Janie, friends.

Tino was a special person in our hometown. He immigrated to California in 1952 and became a proud American citizen, serving in the United States Army at Fort Hood. In 1975, he found his way to North Texas where he opened his first restaurant.

He loved to serve people, not only with good Mexican food, but giving back to the community that he loved. In fact, he was a founding trustee of Collin College, and he served for nearly 30 years.

Tino was soft-spoken, kindhearted, and he will be greatly missed in Plano and Texas.

America would be a better place with more folks like him.

SONS OF ITALY

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of Forum Lodge 391 of the Order Sons of Italy, which later this month is celebrating its centennial anniversary as a civic organization in Newport, Rhode Island.

Originally known to members by the name La Loggia Progresso e Civiltà, Forum Lodge 391 has worked to promote and celebrate Italian heritage and culture on Aquidneck Island since it was founded on July 4, 1915. Over the years, it has established itself as a Rhode Island institution by hosting numerous community and cultural events for all to enjoy.

Most notably, Lodge 391's Anna M. Ripa Memorial Scholarship opens doorways to opportunity each year for Italian American high school seniors in Rhode Island who demonstrate success in the classroom and prepare a written essay on their cultural heritage.

I congratulate President Shirley Ripa and the men and women of Forum Lodge 391 of the Order Sons of Italy on this important milestone, and I extend my best wishes on their centennial celebration on July 23.

CRAFT BREWERS ARE CREATING AMERICAN JOBS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, over the past few years, we have seen small brewers in Minnesota and around the country continue to meet the needs of a public that is growing in its appreciation for craft beverages.

At the same time, these brewers are burdened by out-of-date regulations

and high taxes that make it difficult for them to grow their businesses and play an increasingly greater role in their local economy.

That is why I have introduced the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act with my colleague, RON KIND from Wisconsin, to modernize the Tax Code and streamline regulations for these small businesses.

These small breweries are a true example of the American dream. Many start out as hobbyists in the basement or in the garage, and they grow to be successful while, at the same time, creating jobs and creating a quality product.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make sure we embrace the potential this industry has, and that means modernizing our tax rules and our Tax Code to ensure that these small employers continue to grow.

SYMBOLS OF HATE IN OUR NATION

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, many of us have not spoken on the floor of the House on the horrific tragedy that occurred in Mother Emanuel Baptist church, our respect for our colleague from South Carolina; our respect for our assistant leader, JIM CLYBURN; and our respect for the families that have buried their dead over the last week. Many of us joined the President in Charleston, South Carolina, for the funeral of Reverend Dr. Pinckney.

Today, I rise to ask this body, reflecting on two amendments that were offered last night regarding the Confederate flag that were voted on by voice vote in the Interior bill, but I ask today the leadership to allow this House to look at three legislative initiatives that have been offered by Members based upon the Walker III v. Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans case.

I want my colleagues to know that the Supreme Court, including Justice Clarence Thomas, ruled that government speech did not warrant the utilization of the rebel flag.

Finally, let me read to you the words about senator Pinckney. This is warranted. The President said:

My liberty depends on you being free, too. History must be a manual for how to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past, how to break the cycle, a roadway toward a better world. He knew that the path of grace involves an open mind but, more importantly, an open heart.

We need to debate on the floor of the House the symbols of hate in this Nation, and we need to do it now. I ask my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to join us in the legislative initiatives we have for this to be placed on the floor of the House for all of us to stand and debate what is positive about America.

FAMILY, CAREER AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA

(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, today, I introduced a bipartisan resolution with my friend and colleague from Rhode Island, Mr. JIM LANGEVIN, to recognize the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America on their 70th anniversary.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America is a national career and technical student organization that promotes personal growth, leadership development, and career preparation opportunities for students in family and consumer science education.

Since the program was launched 70 years ago to this day, more than 10 million students have participated and gained the knowledge, skills, and credentials needed to secure careers in growing, high-demand fields. I was pleased to welcome FCCL students from Forest County, Pennsylvania, today.

Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus, I ask my friends to get behind this bipartisan resolution to support the goals and ideals of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

Now, more than ever, our young people need assurances that the skills they attain will lead to good-paying, family-sustaining jobs, and career and technical education programming can make those assurances.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, Republicans in Congress have kept our Nation stuck in neutral, while our highways, bridges, and transit systems crumble around us. They keep riding the clutch with these short-term patches to keep the highway trust fund solvent for another couple of months.

You could say that we are in a big race and the road ahead is long. We can't keep stopping for gas every 5 minutes, and we have got to stop scrounging under the seats and the floor mats for enough change to buy a gallon here and a gallon there.

America's been in the lead, but now, we are just inching along. If we don't get back on track soon, we are going to be left in the dust by our foreign competitors. In the next few months alone, more than 600,000 American jobs are at risk.

Mr. Speaker, congressional Republicans are in the driver's seat, so they need to start driving like pros. It is time for Congress to do their job and pass a long-term plan to pay for much-