

a weeklong event attended by hundreds of thousands from across the United States and, indeed, around the globe.

Each year more and more riders are using their motorcycles to go to the store, go to work, or just go for a ride.

This growing popularity is good for our Nation. Motorcyclists ease road congestion, reduce overall fuel consumption, and decrease wear and tear on our Nation's infrastructure.

As a cochairman of the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus, I offer my best wishes to the attendees of this year's event. Here is to good weather and safe travels while celebrating the freedom to ride.

BANGLADESH

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss and raise the dire situation of religious minorities in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is a country in turmoil. There are many concerns about the stability of the country, particularly since flawed elections were held last year and the political violence that has ensued.

I am particularly concerned over issues of religious freedom and, specifically, attacks against the minority Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, and others in Bangladesh.

All too often perpetrators of crimes against minorities go unpunished. It is up to the Government of Bangladesh to take action to stop those who incite and commit violence and to protect the rights of these minorities.

I am introducing a resolution today calling on the Government of Bangladesh to protect human rights of all its citizens, particularly its vulnerable minorities, strengthen democratic institutions and rule of law, and prevent the growth of extremist groups.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution to help protect the religious freedoms of all people in Bangladesh.

MILITARY CHAPLAINS

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as did my colleague, the gentleman from South Carolina, to note that today marks the 240th birthday of the military Chaplain Corps, which was originally founded by the Continental Congress.

I stand today to honor the men and women who serve the spiritual needs of those in uniform. The military chaplains who serve and have served bravely go with their fellow soldiers into combat theaters not to fight, but to fill the role of pastor, counselor, and listener for our armed services.

Military chaplains are held in especially high regard within my own of-

fice, with Arkansas National Guard Captain David Wittee serving as an Army chaplain in addition to serving as my military affairs liaison and a field representative in the Fourth District of Arkansas.

I want to thank Captain Wittee and all military chaplains, both current and past, for their service to their fellow soldiers and for their service to our Nation.

RESTORE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this Confederate flag, which is a symbol of systemic oppression and racial subjugation, was recently lowered in the State of South Carolina.

But this same flag, which symbolizes so many inequities in our country, is still flying high in a figurative sense over our country.

When the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the heart of the Voting Rights Act, it signaled that African American voting rights would no longer be protected.

Pretending that the legacy of poll taxes, literacy tests, and blatant discrimination was no longer taking place, the Supreme Court symbolically raised this flag when it gutted the Voting Rights Act.

Now that this flag has come down from the halls of South Carolina, it is time that we lower this flag from its perch over the voting rights of African Americans by passing the legislation in the U.S. Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act.

MORE SECRETS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the IRS targeted, intimidated, and harassed many Americans because of their political philosophy. The people are still waiting for answers about why their government is engaged in this Soviet-style behavior.

First, 2 years of emails were lost. Now we learn that the IRS purposely used an internal messaging system—an office communication server—on the sly. They opted not to archive these messages and kept them secret from the eyes of the citizens and Congress. In one email Lois Lerner apparently was told the messaging system was not archived. Her response? “Perfect.”

So we will never know what was in those messages that were intentionally scrubbed.

There is a pattern here.

The Secretary of State was conducting official business on her own untraceable secret email server, and the taxman used its own “go dark sys-

tem” to evade transparency. It is just another day with the “most transparent administration in history.”

Mr. Speaker, the public has a right to know and get answers to all these scandals. After years of stonewalling, it is painfully obvious that this administration will not investigate this administration.

And that is just the way it is.

MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid.

When President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Medicare and Medicaid into law, he proclaimed that:

“No longer will older Americans be denied the healing miracle of modern medicine. No longer will illness crush and destroy the savings that they have so carefully put away over a lifetime so that they might enjoy dignity in their later years. No longer will young families see their own incomes and their own hopes eaten away simply because they are carrying out their deep moral obligations to their parents.”

We need to continue to keep these promises by protecting and expanding Medicare and Medicaid. Together, these two programs provide health coverage for our Nation's seniors, people with disabilities, and moms and families. We must ensure that these programs are here for now and for future generations.

EXECUTIVE REGULATORY OVERREACH

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, before my time in Congress, if someone had told me that I would spend 90 percent of my time fighting executive regulatory overreach, nobody would have believed me, but it is the truth.

In the past 7 months, I have found out how out of control the overreach of this administration truly is. With rules such as the Waters of the United States and the Clean Power Plan from EPA, this administration continues to trample on the rights of our citizens and States while hurting our economy along the way.

That is why I was pleased to cosponsor and vote for the REINS Act. This important legislation requires Congress to have 70 legislative days to review any rules with an economic impact over \$100 million and ensures Congress has oversight before any major rule goes to the President for a signature.

By allowing Congress to review these rules, we can restore accountability and the power of legislating to the legislative branch.

I thank my colleagues in the House for passing this important legislation and call on those in the Senate to take swift action to reduce regulatory overreach.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

(Mr. GALLEG0 asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, on August 6, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Mr. Speaker, this landmark law codified protections to guarantee every American's right to vote. For the past five decades, the Voting Rights Act has broken down barriers that discouraged or outright prohibited citizens from voting.

The VRA led to a more inclusive electoral system that increasingly reflected the diversity of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, the right to vote is central to who we are as Americans and to our democracy.

But this cornerstone of American civil rights is unfortunately being threatened today. In too many places across the country, we have seen new measures that create barriers that make it harder to register or vote.

On this 50th anniversary, we must redouble our commitment to strengthening the Voting Rights Act. We can start by restoring the Voting Rights Act to ensure that the rights of all Americans that go to the ballot box and cast a ballot are protected.

HONORING ADOLPH KIEFER OF WADSWORTH

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the "Father of Swimming," Adolph Kiefer, from Wadsworth, Illinois.

At age 17, Adolph became the 100-meter gold medal winner at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. In addition to earning 17 world records, Adolph was the first man in the world to swim the 100-yard backstroke in under a minute and invented a flip turn, still used today.

In 1947, Adolph founded his own company, inventing the first plastic kickboard and the first nylon swimsuit. Yet, he has considered teaching others his greatest success.

Upon joining the Navy, Adolph was shocked to learn many of his comrades couldn't swim. He designed a program to teach millions of recruits what he dubbed the victory backstroke.

As a youth fitness advocate, he served the Red Cross for 25 years, coordinating the learn-to-swim campaign for Chicago and overseeing lessons for thousands of children.

Mr. Kiefer just celebrated his 97th birthday and still swims every day.

I have submitted a letter of support for Mr. Kiefer for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. I urge our country to honor a great man from Illinois' 14th Congressional District.

UNFINISHED WORK

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I am upset that the House is heading to August recess today with so much unfinished work in front of us.

We could be working to find a transportation bill that both we and the Senate can agree on, a bill that would begin to fix our broken roads, bridges, and highways. My district, the Virgin Islands, has been hit by nearly 6 years of substantially reduced Federal highway funding.

We could be working on an appropriations bill to fund important work for this country. In my district, the Virgin Islands, the Interior Appropriations bill is vitally important.

This funding would go toward the children in our schools. Right now the schools are not structurally sound and are decaying. In fact, a new school hasn't been built in my home district on the island of St. Croix or St. Thomas in the last two decades.

It is shameful to leave town without working on a Voting Rights Act. The ability and ease of access to voting must be expanded, not restricted. It must also be further expanded to include the 4 million Americans who do not have the right to vote for their President simply because they live in a territory.

These men and women love their country, they fight for their country, but they are excluded from the most basic democratic function.

We could be working to fix these and a myriad of other things, but, instead, we are leaving with these matters unattended. This is an embarrassment to this body and must not happen again.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1994, VA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3236, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND VETERANS HEALTH CARE CHOICE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 388 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 388

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1994) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for

the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3236) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, to provide resource flexibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs for health care services, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the respective chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, and Veterans' Affairs; and (2) one motion to recommit.

□ 1245

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), my friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.