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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, thank You for giving us another day.

It is Your nature to hold us in Your living presence always. It is our nature to think of You or of others only momentarily or in passing.

Be with each of us that we may be our very best and prove ourselves worthy of Your love and Your grace.

Bless the Members of the people's House in their work and deliberations today that they might merit the trust of the American people and manifest the strength of our republican democracy to the nations of the world.

Without You, O Lord, we can do nothing. With You and in You, we can establish a community of peace, goodness, and justice now and forever.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. QUIGLEY 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.

MODERNIZING 529 SAVINGS PLANS

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

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 529, a bill that Congressman KIND of Wisconsin and I introduced to make sensible enhancements to 529 college savings plans.

The 529 plans enjoy growing popularity, primarily with middle class families who are looking for ways to responsibly prepare for the growing cost of college. The 12 million 529 accountholders across the country are able to choose a plan whose funds will then grow and be withdrawn tax free to pay for college expenses such as tuition or room and board.

H.R. 529 will make several technical changes to 529 plans that will allow students to purchase a computer using their 529 funds, remove the unnecessary distribution aggregation requirements from the accounts, and allow 529 funds to be redeposited if the student withdraws from college. These modernizations will allow 529 plans to help families get the most out of their savings.

I ask my colleagues to join me in this effort.

REMEMBERING ERNIE "MR. CUB" BANKS

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, the Chicago Cubs, baseball, and all sports

has lost a legend. Ernie Banks, "Mr. Cub," passed away last Friday.

From humble beginnings, Ernie won two MVPs as a power-hitting shortstop and became an All-Star and a Hall of Famer. But perhaps more importantly, he overcame the racism he faced to become an amazing ambassador for the Cubs, his beloved Wrigley Field, and the game itself.

You could not have met a more decent, kinder, happier soul on any field of endeavor. It was for these roles that he was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Ernie, thanks for reminding us that baseball is a game that should be watched and played for fun. Indeed, let's play two. You will be missed.

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, and I am pleased that the House is taking up a number of bipartisan measures this week to help eradicate this disturbing crime and assist its victims.

To most Americans, human trafficking is something that happens in faraway lands. Unfortunately, the reality hits much closer to home. Right now, over 300,000 young Americans are in danger of falling victim to this fast-growing criminal enterprise. As both a member of the Human Trafficking Task Force and a representative for anti-trafficking advocates and organizations in my district in Pennsylvania, I am well aware of the devastating impact of this modern-day slavery here in our Nation and in our communities back home.

But 2015 can be the year we take significant steps to end this scourge. The work on the ground in Bucks and

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Montgomery Counties by organizations such as Worthwhile Wear, The Well, Network of Victim Assistance, as well as faith-based groups, law enforcement, and concerned citizens is making an impact and increasing awareness and strengthening our response locally.

The legislation under consideration this week on Capitol Hill allows this Congress to work together to ensure that we can support those impacted by this crime and combat and ultimately defeat human trafficking in our Nation and, hopefully, around the world.

REMEMBERING RONNIE BERLACK AND BRYCE ASTLE

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

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the lives of Ronnie Berlack and Bryce Astle, two members of the United States Ski Team who were taken from us far too soon by a tragic avalanche while training in Austria in early January.

These two young men dedicated themselves to representing our country with skill and dignity as members of the national ski team. They were both very talented. But, sadly, we will never know how high their stars may have risen.

Ronnie and Bryce touched many others with their love of life, their drive to compete, and their commitment to their teammates. Ronnie was a native of Franconia, New Hampshire, the same town that produced skiing great Bode Miller. He started skiing at Cannon Mountain before attending Burke Mountain Academy in Vermont and coming into his own as a talented ski racer. Bryce spent most of his childhood in Utah, where he spent weekends skiing with his family at Alta and Snowbird. They first met while competing against each other in FIS races, before training together last summer and becoming great friends.

In the wake of this horrible tragedy, everyone who knew these two young men has spoken to their integrity, their adventurous spirits, and their big, big hearts. They spent their lives working hard at the thing they loved the most. My heart goes out to their family, their many, many friends, and the entire ski racing community.

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, it is shocking: human trafficking is the fastest growing business of organized crime and the third largest criminal enterprise in the world. In my home State of Ohio, the most common age a child becomes victimized by trafficking is 13 years old. At 13, a child should be looking forward to their first days of

high school, not living in fear. In 2014 alone, in Ohio, 98 arrests were made in human trafficking investigations, involving 181 potential victims.

Today, the House is fighting back.

The anti-trafficking bills this week will take aim at modern trafficking networks and the criminals who seek to abuse the lives of their victims. These bills encourage States to adopt safe harbor laws, enhance services for homeless youth, and further protect children in our Nation's foster system. We must help survivors reclaim their lives through heightened public awareness and increased collaboration among governments.

Our Founders declared inherent and inalienable the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Human trafficking violates these core rights. A strong commitment to every human life will help the millions who suffer in the dark shadows of this heinous crime.

CONGRATULATIONS, COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI!

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, to congratulate Coach Mike Krzyzewski of Duke University on becoming the first coach in the history of Division I NCAA basketball to win 1,000 games. Blue Devils everywhere are proud of this remarkable feat, the crowning achievement of a career that has seen Coach K win four national titles and two Olympic gold medals.

As fellow Duke fans will note with relish, many of these 1,000 wins came against other storied ACC programs such as Carolina, NC State, and Wake Forest. That makes Coach K's historic achievement all the more impressive.

I taught at Duke and then represented the campus for a number of years. I know firsthand of Mike Krzyzewski's character and integrity. He is not only a world-class coach; he is also a committed educator who has trained and inspired his players to succeed in whatever they undertake in life.

The Emily Krzyzewski Center in Durham, behind which Mike was the driving force, stands as a memorial to his mother and as a sign of his dedication to at-risk youth as they aspire to a college education.

So on behalf of the Duke community, whose core values Coach K exemplifies, and on behalf of the House of Representatives, congratulations! We look forward to watching you build on your winning tradition for many years to come.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to ad-

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, earlier this month the United States Department of Agriculture announced \$370 million for 115 conservation projects in 50 States. These dollars are a result of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program which was recently created in the 2014 farm bill by the consolidation of numerous regional conservation programs previously authorized under the 2008 law.

This RCPP funding will also leverage an additional \$400 million through non-Federal matching funds. Roughly 40 percent of these total dollars are going towards national or multistate projects, and about 35 percent towards "critical conservation areas," which include the Great Lakes region, the Chesapeake Bay watershed, as well as other high priority agricultural regions.

As chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, the committee will be closely watching how USDA administers this critical program through oversight of the conservation title in the coming year.

I strongly support commonsense, voluntary agriculture conservation. I look forward to working with USDA and the various stakeholders on how to make these programs as effective and results driven as possible.

CONGRATULATIONS, COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise with Congressman PRICE to recognize the head coach of Duke University men's basketball team on becoming the winningest Division I men's basketball coach in our Nation's history.

Coach Mike Krzyzewski's 1,000th career victory came Sunday afternoon in New York City at Madison Square Garden against the Red Storm of St. John's University, a thrilling second half game.

Over his 35 years as their head coach, he has led the Blue Devils to four NCAA Division I championships, 13 ACC tournament championships, and 12 ACC regular season championships. People like Grant Hill, Johnny Dawkins, Shane Battier, and even my son-in-law, Dahntay Jones, all honed their skills under the watchful eye of Coach K and went on to successful careers in the NBA.

Coach K is a four-time Olympic gold medal winner—in 1984 and 1992 as Team USA's assistant coach, and in 2008 and 2012 as its head coach. In his most recent book, entitled, "The Gold Standard: Building a World-Class Team," Coach K has said leading Team USA to gold was one of the "most gratifying experiences" of his life.