

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 ROD CANNON

THE SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Rod Cannon of Zolfo Springs, Florida.

This afternoon, Reverend Cannon offered the opening prayer as the guest chaplain for the House of Representatives. I would like to thank Reverend Cannon for traveling to Washington for this honor and House Chaplain Father Conroy for providing this opportunity to a pastor from the 17th District of Florida.

Reverend Rod Cannon is the senior pastor at New Vision Worship Center in Zolfo Springs, Florida. He comes from a family devoted to the Church of God, where both his father and his son have been influential pastors in that community.

Reverend Cannon has been a leader in his church and the Zolfo Springs community since he arrived at the New Vision Worship Center in 2009. He has offered prayers across the State of Florida, and I am happy that he can add the House of Representatives to his extensive ministry.

I commend Reverend Cannon's commitment to his ministry and wish to thank him for offering the opening prayer today. It was my honor to invite him to Washington as guest chaplain.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

BLOCKING EPA REGULATION

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, the EPA is at it again. A few weeks ago, this runaway agency released its most expensive regulation in history. The new ozone rule joins a number of other costly, expansive, and crippling regulations put out by the EPA during the Obama administration. According to the EPA's own estimates, this new regulation will be one of the most crippling in history, at a cost of \$1.4 billion a year.

While no one disagrees that the protection of air quality is an essential responsibility, Hoosiers have a proven track record of being good stewards of the environment and good stewards of the economy. Yet the EPA continues to issue rules that overwhelm Hoosier companies and threaten job creation.

We should focus on policies that grow the economy, protect our environment, and not burying job creators under red tape and mandates.

It is time to end the EPA's assault on business. That is why, today, I am introducing a resolution of disapproval that would block this harmful regulation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I recently joined my colleagues on the Great Lakes Task Force to ask the White House to support funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative next year.

The Great Lakes is the world's largest system of fresh surface water. It supports 1.5 million American jobs and \$62 billion in wages.

In western New York, Lake Erie is the focus of an amazing transformation of Buffalo's waterfront. Keeping the lake clean for recreation and fishing is essential to sustaining that economic growth.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has also been instrumental in the next phase of Buffalo's waterfront renaissance, the Buffalo River. \$30 million in funding to clean up the river has leveraged \$20 million in private investment. Now the river that the Federal Government declared biologically dead in 1968 will be swimmable and fishable in 5 years.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is creating jobs and improving environmental quality in my community, and it is producing returns for the national economy.

I encourage my colleagues to support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding in the upcoming budget negotiations and to support the passage of the Great Lakes Restoration Act, which would authorize this program through 2020.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, defending the American people is the chief responsibility of our government, and it is a constitutional obligation that the House and the Senate take seriously.

This week, Congress put the National Defense Authorization Act on the President's desk. It is an important example of how Congress should work together to get the job done for the American people. This is bipartisan. We do it every year to fund our military. For 53 years, Congresses have passed and Presidents have signed this legislation.

Later today, President Obama will veto.

My district is home to Fairchild Air Force Base, and I know firsthand the importance of our defense funding. The National Defense Authorization Act funds vital military operations and equipment. Military families rely on it for salaries, medical care, and transitional resources.

Our Nation was built on service before self. We have an obligation—and the Commander in Chief has an obligation—to ensure military and defense remains our top priority. Mr. Speaker, the President must act. Stop playing politics. Support our troops. Keep America safe.

POTENTIAL DEFAULT

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose any potential default on our Nation's fiscal obligations.

Treasury Secretary Lew stated that we must act before November 3 to avoid a default. If we default, we can't pay our obligations at home, and that means our veterans and seniors go without the benefits that they have earned.

There is no doubt that we must rein in spending, and we must work together—and I know we can—to do so. At the same time, we must keep the promises that we have made to our veterans, to our seniors, and to our Nation's bondholders.

President Ronald Reagan agreed that sacrificing our credit rating in the name of fiscal responsibility is not responsibility at all. He said of a potential default: "Brinkmanship threatens . . . those who rely on Social Security and veterans benefits. Interest rates would skyrocket, instability would occur in financial markets, and the Federal deficit would soar."

Colleagues, let's not bring the government again to the edge of a default. Rather, let's find a bipartisan pathway, which I know we can do, that will control our spending and prevent the devastating effects of default on our economy and our veterans.

RESTORING AMERICANS' HEALTHCARE FREEDOM RECONCILIATION ACT

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3762, the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act.

Over the past 10 months, the House has passed a budget, acted to defund Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers, and repealed ObamaCare; yet these actions by the House have been stonewalled in the Senate by its failure to garner the 60 votes necessary to deliver these important pieces of legislation to the President's desk. Now is our chance.

This bill provides an avenue for the Senate to pass what the House has already done. This bill prohibits Federal funding to entities like Planned Parenthood that engage in the practice of elective abortions. In turn, it provides funding to community health centers for improving women's health care.

It repeals the individual and employer mandates in ObamaCare. It repeals the medical device tax and the excise tax on high-cost health insurance plans. It achieves all of this and more, while saving almost \$79 billion in taxpayer dollars.

This bill finally provides a pathway to the President's desk for reforms that we in the House have long fought for.

HONORING ORTIZ FAMILY SERVICE IN U.S. ARMED FORCES

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable family of American heroes, men and women who since World War II have served in our Armed Forces to keep all of us and our way of life safe and secure.

The story begins with Mr. Esabel Parga Ortiz and his wife, Maria Montoya Ortiz, who migrated to the United States from Mexico in 1912 and, in 1915, moved to the Coachella Valley.

In the heart of our southern California desert, they put down roots—resilient roots, mind you—and raised their children to value the American Dream. It was those teachings that inspired and drove their sons, Pete and Joseph, to enlist in the U.S. armed services and defend our Nation. Ever since World War II, every generation of the Ortiz family, totaling over 50 family members, have bravely served in America's Armed Forces, putting their lives on the line to protect our freedoms.

For their selfless and honorable service, I am proud to recognize the valor and sacrifices of the Ortiz family.

Thank you for your service.

RECOGNIZING DEBBIE NYE SEMBLER

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of one of the longest serving trustees of the University of South Florida, Mrs. Debbie Nye Sembler. For 12 years, Mrs. Sembler served on the USF board of trustees; and, for 10 years, she served as chair of the campus board of USF St. Petersburg.

As Mrs. Sembler's term of service ends, I pay tribute to her many accomplishments, in particular, her contributions to excellence in higher education, not just for students from Pinellas County and the Tampa Bay area, but

for students across the State of Florida and, indeed, around the world.

When Mrs. Sembler became a trustee in 2003, USF St. Petersburg was just earning a reputation as a student-centric research institution. Today, it has over 7,000 students in 37 undergraduate and graduate programs.

As a trustee, Mrs. Sembler has led USF St. Petersburg through this remarkable growth, ensuring the USF system is recognized today as one of our Nation's leading higher education institutions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking Debbie Sembler for her hard work and dedication to USF, for her commitment to higher education, and, most importantly, for her passion for student success.

REAL SCHOOL GARDENS' 100TH LEARNING GARDEN

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize REAL School Gardens, an organization that works in over 40 elementary schools in my district, building gardens that engage the curiosity of students through STEM education.

As a member of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I am proud of the work that REAL School Gardens has done in creating a pipeline, a STEM pipeline, in Texas that increases hands-on learning for all the students, including more than 100,000 students as of this year.

Additionally, REAL School Gardens has become a great equalizer for many students in the Grand Prairie, Dallas, Arlington, and Fort Worth Independent School Districts who have limited access to learning resources.

On November 14, 2015, REAL School Gardens will break ground to create its 100th garden in partnership with Sprouts Farmers Market.

I congratulate REAL School Gardens on this achievement and for their work in engaging the minds of our youngest members in the community.

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NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, each year since 1960, the third week in October has been proclaimed National Forest Products Week. It is a week in which we celebrate all of the ways that paper and wood products enhance our daily lives.

This industry is particularly important to the economic success of North Carolina, where nearly 60 percent of the total land area is forest and more than 18 million acres are dedicated to growing timber.

With nearly 250 manufacturing facilities, the State's forest products industry employs more than 40,000 men and women at a payroll of approximately \$2 billion per year. The value of the products produced in and shipped from North Carolina is more than \$10 billion.

America's forests keep our air and water clean while providing renewable energy, wildlife habitat, and recreation. They are also an economic generator, especially in the Nation's rural communities, delivering the paper and manufactured products we rely on every day.

We are grateful for this industry in North Carolina.

WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

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

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, this week the White House Fellows Association is honoring the 50th anniversary of the creation of the White House Fellows Program, established by President Lyndon Johnson back in 1964.

Since its inception, there have been 738 young men and young women who have served the President and the Vice President of the United States and the Cabinet officers in various capacities in all the Federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored in 1981 to be selected in the first class of President Reagan's White House Fellows Program. I served with the former Governor of South Carolina, James B. Edwards, the Secretary of Energy, in the Department of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent program open to all young Americans early in their careers who want to spend some time in Washington and then go back to their former careers with a better understanding of how our Federal Government works.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced H. Con. Res. 82 to recognize the White House fellows and their many contributions to our country. I urge Members to support this resolution if and when it comes to the floor.

HONORING INDIANA'S BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor two southern Indiana schools for their distinguished success. Farmersville Elementary School in Mt. Vernon and North Elementary School in Poseyville were recently selected as 2015 National Blue Ribbon schools by the U.S. Department of Education for their academic excellence.

Each school will be honored in November, along with 333 other schools from across the country, at a ceremony here in Washington, D.C. Both schools