

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God, our Creator, we give You thanks for giving us another day. You brought light from darkness and order from chaos. During ongoing contentious debates, lead our lawmakers, using their daily experiences of joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain, victory and defeat, to strive together for Your glory. May the fruits of their labor redound to the benefit of our Nation.

As a community of colleagues, possessed of multiple layers of friendships unknown to the public eye, this assembly takes special notice today of the passing of Howard Coble, the much-loved and respected Member of 30 years from North Carolina. A gentleman to the core, may we all strive to embody his grace, class, and respect for this institution and for those among whom we engage in the work to be done here. May he rest in peace.

And may everything done this day in the people's House 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 California (Ms. CHU) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. JUDY CHU of California 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.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF HOWARD COBLE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today we mourn the loss of Howard Coble, a dedicated public servant and a champion for his constituents in North Carolina's Sixth District for 30 years. He never

backed down from a challenge to do what was right for North Carolina and always pushed Washington to work better for those he represented.

Howard was the essence of what it means to be a Southern gentleman, someone who simply exuded kindness, charm, and compassion. He was a man of integrity and principle, a Representative who stood for what is right and who fought on behalf of what makes America great.

He will be missed, but his legacy of service and devotion to North Carolina will continue to be the standard that current and future leaders follow.

Howard, we miss you.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POWER ACT

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, we depend on immigrant workers to take some of the toughest jobs. They pick our food, clean our houses, and wash our cars. As U.S. workers, they deserve to freely exercise their labor rights; yet when immigrants want to organize for fair pay or decent working conditions, they are often silenced by unscrupulous employers who retaliate through harassment, abuse, and threats of immigration enforcement.

This is unacceptable. When I hear about it, I think of Asuncion Valdivia, who died after 10 hours of grape picking in 105 degree heat. Asuncion did not have the opportunity to report a violation. We cannot allow any voice to be stifled, especially when that voice is speaking out against dangerous or unfair practices.

That is why I am introducing the POWER Act this week. This bill expands U visa eligibility for victims of retaliation, strengthens labor agencies' investigative powers, and allows a stay of removal for workers who filed a workplace claim.

We must protect our workers, no matter who they are.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL'S BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Marian High School boys' soccer team. For the first time in the school's 51-year history, the Knights won a State title. Last weekend, the Knights claimed the Class 1A State boys' soccer championship with a 3-0 victory.

The win also earned Head Coach Ben Householter his first State championship in 18 years as head coach. He was also named the Northern Indiana Conference Coach of the Year. All season long, Marian competed against the best of the best, finishing with 20 wins and only 2 losses.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today a very proud Hoosier. Marian High School is a great school, and the team, the coach, the teachers, and the entire student body should be proud today. I want to recognize the parents, who sacrifice so much for their kids to play in sports programs.

The achievement that this is today is something these students will have for a lifetime. On behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District of the State of Indiana, I applaud Coach Householter and the entire team for their determination and hard work. I congratulate them all on an amazing season.

NEW STARTS AND SMALL STARTS PROGRAM

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts and Small Starts program, which provides critical grant funding for the creation or extension of existing fixed guideway transit systems.

Funding for these projects has facilitated the creation of dozens of new or extended public transportation systems in rural, suburban, and urban communities all across this country.

By creating good-paying construction jobs and connecting job-seeking commuters with employers, New Starts offers significant benefits to communities that are in need of rail expansion.

In New Hampshire and across New England, we have been working collaboratively with our neighboring States to create a unified vision for our region's rail networks.

I was pleased to host a rail summit just a few weeks ago that brought together regional stakeholders and officials from the Federal Railroad Administration, the FTA, and New England States.

As we continue to work on the highway bill this week, I urge my colleagues to support Congressmen LIPINSKI, NADLER, and DOLD's amendment, which will restore much-needed local flexibility for New Start projects.

NORTH CAROLINA HAS LOST A FAVORITE SON

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

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, last night on election day in North Carolina, we lost one of our favorite sons, Howard Coble, a man who served in these Halls for three full decades, yet his heart always belonged to the constituents of The Old North State. I am honored to stand with my colleagues today and others in acknowledging our Congressman.

Howard demonstrated humility and grace, and it was evident that he genuinely loved the people he represented. Howard taught us many things, but most of all, he demonstrated why statesmanship still matters. In a rhetoric-driven political arena, Howard understood why tone and approach continue to make a difference.

He is often remembered by his attire, specifically the madras jacket. No, it didn't match many times, but he was confident enough in who he was, and evidently the ladies seemed to have no problem with it.

Howard did more than just simply make noise in this place; he made a difference. It is an honor to follow him. May our Lord comfort his brother Ray and the entire Coble family.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS HORRIGAN

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, Catholic Medical Partners is one of western New York's largest physician networks. In recent years, it has evolved from a negotiating entity to a national model for clinical integration.

In the first year of the Shared Savings Program, Catholic was one of the best performing accountable care organizations in the country, saving Medicare more than \$27 million, while delivering quality care.

At the helm has been president and CEO, Dennis Horrigan. In a career spanning four decades as a mental health professional, a physician network executive, and a managed care administrator, Dennis has been focused on improving patient experience and outcomes.

It is my honor to recognize Dennis Horrigan for his commitment to using information technology, evidence-based medicine, and physician coordination to improve quality care in western New York and throughout the Nation.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

(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, our Nation is recognizing National Apprenticeship Week, which is dedicated to highlighting the critical role of employers in training and educating workers for fulfilling jobs.

At their plant in Graniteville, South Carolina, MTU America, led by Director of Operations Jens Baumeister, has built a world-class apprenticeship program, recognized by the Department of Labor, by hiring and training high school students to work at MTU or share their skills with any similar manufacturing company.

The Savannah River Site has a dynamic apprenticeship program, led by Carol Johnson, president of Savannah

River Nuclear Solutions, and Stuart MacVean, president of Savannah River Remediation, training students at Aiken Technical College, with President Susan Winsor, for the radiation protection technology program.

I am grateful for Apprenticeship Carolina, led by Director Brad Neese, a program that pairs students in our technical college systems with employers to train the students for well-paying jobs.

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

South Carolina extends its sympathy to the family and many friends of our beloved former colleague and neighbor, Howard Coble, who passed away last night. We appreciate Uncle Howard.

THE HOUSE NEEDS LESS PARTISANSHIP AND MORE SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, during his first speech, our new Speaker made a commitment to return the U.S. House of Representatives to regular order. What does that mean? Think "Schoolhouse Rock," an orderly process where bills are introduced, debated in a bipartisan committee process, amendments are allowed, and legislation is actually brought up for a vote.

I could not agree with the Speaker more. This Congress, this country would benefit from a more open debate, where voices from both parties are heard, where every Member is empowered to fully be a part of the legislative process, to do the work that they were sent here to do on behalf of the people they work for.

I know I have introduced many bills that have not been brought up in committee, have never seen the light of day on the floor, and I know other Members share that frustration. That needs to end. We need to have a more open process.

Just last week, 313 Members of this body voted to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. Almost every Democrat and a majority of Republicans came together, and the legislative process worked.

Mr. Speaker, I do call on you to continue to keep that promise. Keep this an open process. This is what the Framers imagined, and it is what the American people expect.

HONORING GARETT LONG AND JESSICA CHIARTAS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the honor of meeting with Garrett Long and Jessica Chiartas, two very bright graduate students from UC Davis in northern California who were

invited to D.C. to present their work on soil science.

Their research in the area of soils and biogeochemistry focuses on understanding the physical, chemical, and biological aspects of our soils, as well as the processes of mass and energy flows that control our agricultural and natural ecosystem functions.

Now, the average layman might not find that too exciting, but it is exciting for agriculture to advance these technologies and get more and better production and quality of crops out of our lands.

In particular, one area of research highlighted was their work in the wine growing region and the data and research collected on how soil impacts our vineyards and the wine that is enjoyed by people all across the world. That is something people can relate to with California wine.

I have no doubt that their work will improve our agricultural industry for the better. I thank them for stopping by and sharing more about the work they are doing as well as their colleagues at UC Davis, and also congratulate the pair on their recent recognition.

□ 1215

VETERAN PAYDAY PREDATORY LOANS IN TEXAS

(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, as we prepare to honor the service of our men and women in uniform this Veterans Day, we must come together to stop one of the most egregious practices that is preying upon them: predator payday loan companies are targeting our veterans at an alarming rate.

In North Texas alone, a fast cash payday advance of \$500 that is rolled over five or more times could wind up costing \$1,200 or more. As a result, many borrowers are trapped in a cycle of debt when these short-term loans are not repaid on time, usually within a required 2 to 4 weeks.

Mr. Speaker, these companies have targeted our vulnerable veterans with limited financial options, digging them deeper and deeper into debt. We in Congress must work to cap these interest rates and require all lenders to follow the same standards as our local banks, mortgage companies, and other for-profit lenders.

As a Nation, we have a long way to go to make sure that those who have protected and defended our homeland are, themselves, protected and defended when they return home to rebuild their lives.

RECOGNIZING MRS. NELL MAHONEY

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