

every day to make sure our buildings comply with building and fire codes. Their work, largely unseen and often unnoticed, is critical to keeping the American people safe.

The model building codes adopted by ICC members from all 50 States allow every community to share the advantage of adopting building codes that are adaptable to local conditions but, at the same time, incorporate the very latest research, materials, and building practices.

This is achieved through a public-private partnership, saving local jurisdictions from bearing the large expense of code revision, updating, and coordination. These model codes are produced through the cooperation of thousands of local U.S. code officials working with the building industry to produce codes that represent the consensus on what the minimum safety requirements are and should be for various building types, all without a dime of Federal taxpayer money.

I should mention that the Architect of the Capitol maintains the safety of this building and all House and Senate office buildings by following the requirements in the current International Building Code.

So congratulations and a heartfelt thanks to the hardworking members and leadership of the International Code Council during this Building Safety Month.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, FLOODING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is a continuation of my mission of mercy, a mission that I gladly accept because a great American city has been declared a disaster area: a great American city with 2-plus million people, a great American city where we speak more than 100 different languages, a great American city where we appreciate diversity and we celebrate it. In fact, we have developed a symbiotic relationship, a symbiosis such that we can do together what we could never do apart. A great American city, Houston, Texas, within Harris County, has been declared a disaster area; and it has been declared a disaster area, Mr. Speaker, because of the flooding that takes place in Houston, Texas.

I asked that my staff prepare some intelligence for me to share so as to paint a picture of what this flooding is like in Houston, Texas.

In Houston, Texas, on the tax day flood—so-called because it was the last day to file for taxes this year—we had this tax day flood, and it has caused damages that will approximate \$2 billion. The good news is that that is revised down because the estimate initially was that it would be more.

In Houston, Texas, over 100 neighborhoods experienced some flooding.

In Houston, Texas, a great American city, we had 240 billion—billion with a

B—240 billion gallons of water. A billion is still 1,000 million. So we have had 2,000-million-plus gallons of water in Houston, Texas. And that was on one day. This is enough water to fill the Astrodome 750 times over.

In Houston, Texas, we had more than 1,200 high water rescues, people stranded, lives at risk in Houston, Texas, a major American city, a great American city declared a disaster area.

In Houston, Texas, there was 8.85 inches of rainfall—that broke the previous record from 1976—and, I might add, in some areas, 17 inches of water. That was all a part of the tax day floods. There were 121,000 people without power.

Mr. Speaker, this is significant, but it is also significant to note that this is not the first time. Within the last year, 12 months, we had the Memorial Day flood, with similar circumstances and \$2 billion in damages.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 20 years, we have had at least one day of flooding in Houston, Texas, that has been called to the attention of the people in Washington, D.C., and I'm doing so now.

□ 1100

Mr. Speaker, as bad as these things are, all of these damages that I have called to our attention, there is something more significant, something more meaningful that is happening in Houston, Texas, and that is lives are being lost. In the tax day flood, we lost nine lives, Mr. Speaker—nine lives—people who left home going to work, assuming that they would drive their cars and return home.

Mr. Speaker, we have, in Houston, what are called flash floods. Even people who are judicious and prudent can sometimes find themselves in circumstances from which they cannot extricate themselves because of the way the water comes in so quickly—flash floods, nine lives lost, a great American city declared a disaster area.

Houston needs a lifeline. When you are drowning in water, you need a lifeline. Well, there is a lifeline. The lifeline is H.R. 5025, the 2016 Tax Day Floods Supplemental Funding Act. This is a supplemental funding bill, which means it is not an earmark. It is the kind of thing we do when we have emergencies to contend with. We have done this before when we have had the storms on the East Coast. We have done this before, when we had New Orleans, Louisiana, and Katrina. We have done it when we have had fires. We have done it when we have had the tornadic activities. This is reasonable. It is prudent. It is judicious. It is something we ought to do to rescue, to throw a lifeline to a great American city that has been declared a disaster area.

Well, the good news is, Mr. Speaker, we are recovering; but I hate to say, and I regret to say, I am reluctant to say, we are not out of the woods yet. We are not out of the woods yet, Mr.

Speaker, because today there is an 80 percent chance of precipitation. Tomorrow, there is an 80 percent chance.

I beg that we support H.R. 5025 and extend a lifeline to Houston, Texas, a great American city.

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 2 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Patricia Venegas, Without Spot or Wrinkle Ministries International, La Verne, California, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come before Your throne room of grace today by unmerited favor. We thank You for this great Nation.

Our forefathers faced many trials and tribulations in their days. They relied on You as they sought Your guidance for America, knowing they could not do it without You.

Today, in this room, we humble ourselves before You and pause, asking You once again for Your guidance and perfect will for our Nation, as we pray Your kingdom come and Your will be done in America.

I also pray for every Representative in this room today, who shoulders the immense responsibility to make decisions for the people they represent, give each one wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and discernment on every decision they make. I pray You will bless them and their families for the sacrifice they make for the American people.

In Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BERA 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 DR.
PATRICIA VENEGAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to welcome Dr. Patricia Venegas of Without Spot Or Wrinkle Ministries International. I thank her and her husband for coming from La Verne, one of my cities.

She started the church in 1998 with her husband, Reverend Benjamin Venegas, who is up in the gallery somewhere. From 1977 to the present, she serves as a chaplain to the Covina Police Department. She was ordained as a minister of the Gospel in December 2006.

She published one book, "The Bride of Christ Without Spot Or Wrinkle." She develops and writes curricula for conferences and seminars.

Thanks for the work that you do, Reverend, to spread the Gospel throughout the San Gabriel Valley and beyond. May God bless you and God bless our country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the incredibly brave men and women in blue who serve and protect our communities.

For example, Sergeant P.J. Wilson of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department is a third shift supervisor. He and his team work the wee hours of the morning to make sure that we can sleep in peace.

Officer K.S. Kodak works every weekend and most holidays because he knows that criminals don't always work business hours.

Officer Tim Purdy recently sat down in a school parking lot to calm and reassure a potentially suicidal autistic student.

Detective McKee recently helped solve a homicide from last summer, with all five suspects now in custody.

Mr. Speaker, these are just four of the thousands of police officers who should be recognized for their important work. Today and every day, we should take time to say thank you to the police officers we encounter in our communities.

RECOGNIZING DR. EPHRAIM
WILLIAMS

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ephraim Williams, Pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Sacramento. Pastor Williams has epitomized the importance of community and faith for the past 45 years.

This past Sunday, my wife and I had a chance to worship with Pastor Williams and his congregation.

He will be retiring this coming Sunday, but his legacy of service and leadership will live on through his congregation, which has grown from 100 worshippers to over 2,500.

Pastor Williams led the efforts to finance and build an edifice and family life center, which now serves the surrounding community. His church offers employment fairs, home buyer workshops, financial literacy courses, and much more to the community.

Pastor Williams also serves as a mentor and adviser to younger pastors and has helped develop the next generation of leaders in the faith community.

On behalf of the Sacramento community and the region, I thank him for his 45 years of work and service, which has made our community a much better place to live in.

Thank you, Pastor Williams.

CONGRATULATING 2016 GRADUATING CLASS OF ELITE YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2016 graduating class of the ELITE Youth Outreach program.

ELITE is a wonderful program that teaches at-risk youth in our local communities in central Illinois on how to gain employment, communicate effectively, behave responsibly, and dress appropriately. The program was founded by Carl Cannon, a Peoria-born native who served his country as a military officer and drill instructor. Now he is dedicated to training and inspiring youth to overcome barriers to success, as he did himself.

In 2013, Carl Cannon received the FBI's Director's Community Leadership Award. This week, FBI Director James Comey will travel from Washington, D.C., to Peoria to address this year's ELITE graduating class.

I would like to commend Carl Cannon and his staff for their dedication to these students and recognize the transformative effect his program has had on youth in our Peoria area.

I would also like to thank FBI Director Comey for supporting this worthy program with his presence this week in Peoria.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the students who have completed this

program. You should feel proud of your accomplishments. You have a community and national and local leaders who believe in you, and we support you.

INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of infrastructure week, which is a joint effort by business and labor to highlight the dangerous conditions of America's roads and bridges.

There are currently 69,000 structurally deficient bridges in America. Every second of every day, seven cars drive on a bridge that is structurally deficient.

Congress said that we couldn't afford to rebuild the roads and bridges of America, so we only spent \$50 billion a year in the last decade to rebuild America's roads and bridges—pathetically weak. We were told we couldn't afford it.

But American taxpayers spent \$87 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Afghanistan. We spent \$73 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Iraq—off budget and unpaid for.

Congress needs to get its priorities straight. We need to put American workers back to work and invest in our infrastructure to unleash the great potential of American businesses to grow the American economy.

CONGRATULATING PRAIRIE GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 46

(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 congratulate the Prairie Grove School District 46 in Crystal Lake, Illinois, for being selected as a finalist for the 2016 Secretary of Defense Freedom Award, the first ever from Illinois.

This is the Department of Defense's highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of their National Guard and Reserve employees.

This year, more than 2,400 nominations were submitted by National Guard and Reserve servicemembers. Prairie Grove is one of only nine public sector employer finalists.

Among servicemembers at the school district who support the nomination is Lieutenant Colonel Patty Klop, a Marine reservist, a physical education teacher, and a part-time teacher for students who have disabilities.

In her nomination, she speaks highly of District 46 when she says: "It's been a real source of stability and comfort for me over the years. I've been on several deployments, and District 46 has always been there."

Prairie Grove is invited to the Freedom Award ceremony this August at the Pentagon. I look forward to the school district representing Illinois