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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious and merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

This House gathers once again to consider matters of great importance to America's citizens and many beyond our borders as well. We recall the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 by which we committed ourselves to advocate and act, where possible, on behalf of any who are persecuted worldwide for their adherence to religious faith. Bless the Members today in their resolve to act consistently with this policy, and empower them to faithfully protect people of faith in danger of persecution.

Bless, also, America's Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom within the Department of State, the Commission on International Religious Freedom, and the Special Adviser on International Religious Freedom within the National Security Council as they labor to secure religious freedoms at home and around the world.

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.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. WALORSKI 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of National Police Week and the courageous law enforcement personnel who serve Tennessee day in and day out.

Police Week occurs every year, but this year demands special attention because recently we have seen some corners of society offer a negative portrayal of our police. We have heard instances of strained relationships between communities and the police offi-

cers that patrol them, and we have seen activists and agitators who cast our police as villains when they should be lifted up every day as heroes.

So, Mr. Speaker, let us in Congress speak clearly on this issue today: We honor and respect the brave men and women of our police force. We pray for their safety and the safety of their families, and we reject the angry voices who seek to tarnish the most noble of professions.

Mr. Speaker, on National Police Week and throughout the year, let us remember—police lives matter.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER CORAL WALKER OF OMAHA, NEBRASKA

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an Omaha police officer whose heroic actions, while putting his own life on the line, saved the lives of countless innocent bystanders.

I am honored to note that Officer Coral Walker is the recipient of the U.S. Justice Department's Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor.

On June 15, 2013, Officer Walker was on patrol when a 911 call alerted him that a gunman was randomly shooting people. Two died, and two others were critically wounded. When he pulled up on the scene, Officer Walker ordered the shooter to stop and drop his weapon, a .45 caliber handgun. Ignoring Officer Walker, the gunman opened fire on the brave patrolman. As several shots were fired at Officer Walker, two hitting his police car, he fired back, killing the man and protecting those nearby.

Officer Walker's selfless actions came as other innocent lives stood in the balance. The gunman, in the country illegally and carrying two additional loaded magazines, was walking toward a busy business area when Officer

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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Walker stepped in. Only Officer Walker's exceptional courage, disregarding his own safety, brought this deadly shooting spree to an end.

The Omaha community, the State of Nebraska, and our Nation are grateful for the heroic actions of Officer Coral Walker.

REMEMBERING GLEN NELSON

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a Minnesota legend, Glen Nelson, who passed away last week.

Glen was a medical pioneer whose work has transformed the lives of many thousands and thousands of people. From performing surgeries to creating medical devices to leading several healthcare companies, Glen did it all. Health care was his career, and that is because he recognized the power of medicine and innovation and how it could be used to make a difference in the lives of his neighbors.

Glen put it best when he said: "As a surgeon, you save one life at a time, but with medical devices, you know you are saving so many more."

Glen did what he did not to make money or gain fame. Glen was a leading doctor, inventor, philanthropist, and great family man because he cared about people, and he valued giving back to others.

Mr. Speaker, the loss of Glen Nelson is something that all Minnesota is feeling. Our State, our country, and our medical community are better off because of the leadership and passionate spirit of Glen Nelson.

FLORIDA'S GUN LAWS

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, my home State of Florida has some of the absolute worst gun laws in the country.

Much like Congress, Florida's Legislature has done nothing to prevent violent criminals from getting guns. According to a report in the south Florida Sun-Sentinel, in just 1 year, Florida granted permits to 1,400 people who pled guilty or no contest to crimes including homicide, assaults, and child molestation.

There are Members of this Congress who want to burden the entire country with Florida's shamefully weak gun laws in a race to the bottom for gun permit standards. Even the current reciprocity agreements between States are strained by how easy Florida makes it to get a permit.

In 2010, the Philadelphia Daily News found that 2,500 Pennsylvanians applied for gun permits in Florida. Non-residents apply for Florida permits to take advantage of Florida's shocking

failure to protect its own residents from gun violence.

This Congress must reject legislation that would force States across the country to abide by Florida's or any other State's weak gun safety standards. Passing this reckless legislation would, unfortunately, make gun violence Florida's most shameful export.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of the brave police officers who put their lives on the line each day to keep our communities safe.

This week is National Police Week, and communities all across America are showing their appreciation for the law enforcement officers who dedicate themselves to serving and protecting the public and bringing criminals to justice.

We also remember the heroes who gave their lives in the line of duty, and we think of the families they left behind. It is our duty to make sure that those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Americans to take the time this week to simply say "thank you" to a police officer in their city or town. We are grateful for their service, we are humbled by their courage, and we are indebted to them for their sacrifice.

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Infrastructure Week.

Our national infrastructure is in dire need of repair. The American Society of Civil Engineers' most recent report card gave American infrastructure a D-plus.

Many of us here are parents. If your child came home with a D-plus, you would work with them on their homework, find a tutor, or maybe punish them. Yet our response to a near failing infrastructure grade is neglect.

In the short term, investments in our national infrastructure create jobs. In the long term, they help communities grow and expand opportunity.

I recently met with Transportation Secretary Foxx to discuss the proposed South Suburban Airport. With the national spotlight on the long lines at O'Hare and Midway, it is clear that the Chicago region needs an investment in a new airport to expand the region's air traffic capacity.

Investing in infrastructure is a win in both the short term and the long term. So this week, I urge my col-

leagues to stand with me and work together to invest in our future by improving and strengthening our Nation's infrastructure.

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the California High-Speed Rail Authority admitted that it needs an additional 4 years to build its first segment of track.

Despite claiming that the project was shovel ready back in 2010 in order to receive Federal funds, the Rail Authority has only recently started minor construction. Now the Obama administration has extended the lifeline 4 more years to use up the so-called stimulus dollars.

The project's costs are now more than double what the Rail Authority had claimed in the beginning. It has a funding gap of over \$55 billion, has changed its route repeatedly and still hasn't settled on a route, has failed to attract a single private investment, and fails to comply with State and Federal law on the prescription of its construction.

Mr. Speaker, the California High-Speed Rail Authority has broken every promise it has made to the people of California. It is time to pull the plug on a project that will not only never be completed, but is diverting billions of dollars from other infrastructure needs that people actually want, such as for our highways and needed water storage for California.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our Nation's incredible law enforcement officers.

During National Police Week, we are reminded of the important work our local law enforcement officers do each and every day. They put their lives on the line to keep us safe. They are incredible.

I am especially grateful for the life and service of Tarpon Springs Police Officer Charlie K. Kondek who made the ultimate sacrifice on December 21, 2014, protecting the citizens of Tarpon Springs, Florida, and Hillsborough County Sheriff's Deputy John Kotfila, Jr., whom we tragically lost earlier this year.

Let us never forget the sacrifice of these local officers—they are terrific—and others who have fallen in the line of duty, and let us be thankful for those who keep our communities safe. They are true American heroes, Mr. Speaker.

I thank all who protect us. God bless them all. God bless the officers, and God bless America.