

and make sure babies born opioid-dependent receive quality care.

While this is a step in the right direction, I continue to be impressed by the efforts of community members in my district to help turn the tide against this epidemic.

Townhall meetings have been held across Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District in places such as Bradford, McKean County; and Ridgway, Elk County. Another meeting is planned for this evening in Centre County. These meetings, along with hearings held across the State by the Pennsylvania House Majority Policy Committee, are great steps in the battle against drugs and saving lives.

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, later today on this House floor, we will be considering what I would very accurately describe as an opportunity bill.

We hear the media talk about how in the middle of this campaign election season that Congress really is not productive. I would argue to the contrary, and I point to this bill. It is a bill I am very proud of.

Mr. Speaker, we all know individuals in our communities, perhaps in our own families, who are in need of opportunity. We probably know young people who, as they go off this time of year to school, are not inspired. Maybe their heads are on their desk. They don't learn in the typical fashion that traditional education teaches of lecture and classrooms, but if you put them in an environment where they can use their hands and do applied academics—career and technical education training—they are inspired, they look forward to getting out of bed in the morning, and they excel.

We probably all know people—perhaps we are related to folks—who find themselves this morning stuck in unemployment. As we gathered around the breakfast table, they were gathered around the breakfast table just trying to figure out how to make ends meet since they have lost their job for whatever reasons, probably no fault of their own, and they need a strategy to be able to get back on their feet. They need a strategy to be able to provide for their families. A greater opportunity is what they are seeking.

We probably know folks as well—certainly people who we serve and people in our communities—who have been stuck in the web of poverty for generations, intergenerational poverty, with no exit ramp and with no exit strategy.

This opportunity bill today is one that I encourage all of my colleagues to support. The culture today has so much emphasis on the theory that people need a 4-year degree to be successful in this country. However, we have a huge gap of technical and vocational jobs that are good-paying jobs and family-sustaining jobs that aren't being filled. Job creators cannot find individuals who are qualified and trained to be able to fill those positions. I call that

the skills gap. Today we can take a tremendous step in closing the skills gap.

I have introduced a bill that will be considered on the floor today, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, which, incidentally, is scheduled later today for a vote. This legislation reauthorizes and modernizes—more importantly, modernizes—the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act to help more Americans enter the workforce with the skills necessary to compete and succeed in high-wage, high-demand careers.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. It starts career awareness earlier recognizing that kids have access to technology and will begin to provide career and technical education awareness in the lower middle schools. It brings business and industry to the table so when we invest and do offer career and technical education training, it leads to a job at the end of the day, whether it is a result of a certificate earned, a credential that is provided, or training that is completed, and it serves individuals of all ages.

So I just ask and encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act on this House floor later today.

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

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend Wayne Lomax, The Fountain of New Life, Miami Gardens, Florida, offered the following prayer:

God, we thank You for the men and women who serve as Members of the United States Congress.

Though we have many needs in our Nation—better schools, better jobs, safer streets, fairer laws, better health care, and peaceful relationships with our neighbors at home and our neighbors abroad—today, we pause to pray for each other.

It is easy to forget that back home our Congressmen and -women have daughters who dance, sons who sing, mothers with mild strokes, fathers who slip and fall, siblings who struggle with addiction, and neighbors in homeless shelters, while our spouses and significant others hold down the fort.

We acknowledge that alongside our hopes and dreams are our personal struggles and fears—even our shortcomings and our sins.

So, as Jesus taught us, forgive us our debts and give us our daily bread.

Bless us with good sense and humble hearts as we serve to Your 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 Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANGEVIN 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 WAYNE LOMAX

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to welcome the very gracious and accomplished Pastor Wayne Lomax to the House floor as our guest chaplain.

Pastor Lomax is the founder and senior pastor of the mega church, The Fountain of New Life, located in Miami Gardens, Florida. He is also a proud member of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, a mentoring program for boys of color.

Nearly 20 years ago, in his living room, with just 8 people, Pastor Lomax founded The Fountain of Pembroke Pines, now The Fountain of New Life. Today, it is one of the largest churches in Florida and is an indispensable community partner.

The church's humble beginnings and continuous growth are testaments to Pastor Lomax's unwavering leadership and strong faith. He is truly a man of all seasons—a true man of God who tackles issues, including hunger, poverty, and crime, in the Miami-Dade County community.

Pastor Lomax also served as pastor of the York Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky, and as assistant pastor of the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He graduated from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He is the proud husband of his beautiful wife, Teresa. They have three beautiful children: Christopher, Marcus, and LeReine.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in thanking Pastor Lomax for leading today's opening prayer and to

thank him for his outstanding service to the south Florida community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS AMERICA SAVVY SHIELDS

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize your new Miss America, our very own Miss Arkansas, Savvy Shields.

On Sunday night, Savvy became the third Miss Arkansas—and the second from the Third District of Arkansas—to win this prestigious title, receiving a preliminary talent award as well.

Savvy will spend her year of service traveling across the Nation as an advocate for not only her charitable platform of “Eat Better, Live Better,” but also the Children’s Miracle Network. In this way, Savvy will continue her work as an advocate for healthy eating as a way to dramatically change health outcomes in our communities.

I speak on behalf of the Third District and the State of Arkansas in congratulating Savvy on representing her hometown of Fayetteville, the University of Arkansas, and the entire “Natural State” so well on the national stage. I would like to also congratulate Savvy’s parents, Todd and Karen Shields, on the beginning of what will truly be a remarkable year.

Savvy will represent all of us with the grace, poise, and confidence that earned her this crown. Congratulations, Savvy, Miss America 2017.

PERKINS CONSIDERATION

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, in July, the Education and the Workforce Committee unanimously reported H.R. 5587, Strengthening CTE—or, its full name, Career and Technical Education—for the 21st Century Act. Later today, the full House will consider it here on the floor.

I am so proud to be an original cosponsor of this bipartisan bill that reauthorizes important career and technical education programs to reflect the demands of the modern economy. I particularly want to salute and recognize my colleague and partner in this effort, G.T. THOMPSON from Pennsylvania, and also KATHERINE CLARK from Massachusetts, for their efforts. This bill makes important investments in skills, training, and career exploration.

H.R. 5587 expands two of my long-standing priorities: the role of school

counselors in helping students find a career path that best fits their skill and access to work-based learning to bridge the gap between the classroom and the workplace. Students will be able to tailor their classes to learn the skills that they know employers are looking for. It is time to close the skills gap and give students the tools to succeed.

I want to also commend the chairman and ranking member of the full committee and all those who had a hand in bringing the bill to the floor that we will be voting on later today.

THE OBAMA LEGACY: A HEROIN AND OPIOIDS CRISIS

(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, The Washington Examiner has released the newest part of a series: “The Obama legacy—A raging problem with heroin and opioids.”

Last year, the President announced a new effort to address the new public health crisis. This week, The Washington Examiner revealed:

“... the crisis had been building for five years at that point, and critics say Obama’s reactions were too little and too late. Some say his government even contributed to the crisis by approving painkillers liable to abuse. . . .

“Prescription painkiller and heroin overdose deaths have risen to all-time highs. From 2009–2014, the rate of overdose deaths from heroin abuse increased by 240 percent. . . .

“When you add painkiller overdose deaths to the heroin numbers, the rate of overall deaths increased 25 percent from 2009. . . .

“In 2014, more than 14,000 people died of overdoses, the biggest total since the CDC began collecting data in 1999.”

This is a failing legacy of destruction of families.

I am grateful that Congress acted to address the opioid crisis, passing the bipartisan Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, enabling local communities to develop local solutions.

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

Congratulations, Miss South Carolina, Rachel Wyatt of Clemson, first runner-up for Miss America.

WE NEED ACTION

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, the water crisis in my hometown of Flint continues: a population of 100,000 people who, a year after this crisis, became well known, became public, and still can’t drink their water.

In Flint—just so my colleagues understand—a year later, people are still

drinking from bottled water because of callous actions by the State government that led to the poisoning of a population of 100,000 people.

Flint is a community in absolute crisis, facing a disaster, and you would expect there would have been immediate action, despite the fact that I have come to this podium time and time again. I have filed legislation. I have spoken to Members. I have spoken to leadership. And what do we get? A couple of hearings, and a lot of sympathy.

We need action. The people of Flint deserve a response to this crisis that is equal to the gravity of the crisis. We have a way to get it done. A bipartisan bill that is moving through the Senate includes help for Flint. We need to take up this legislation, just like we need to take up legislation to deal with Zika and opioids and everything else. It is beyond my comprehension that this crisis could continue and we have yet to take action in the House of Representatives to address it.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH BROOM, GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Savannah, Georgia’s Specialist Joseph Broom of the Georgia National Guard and a student at Armstrong State University.

Specialist Broom was chosen to represent the entire Army National Guard at the U.S. Army Best Warrior Competition.

I am incredibly proud of Specialist Broom’s accomplishment and could not be more enthusiastic for his final competition, starting September 26. To qualify for the championship competition, Specialist Broom completed and succeeded at the brigade, State, regional, and national levels. Each competition was extremely physically and mentally straining.

During the national competition, participants ran more than 4 miles over rough terrain, completed a demanding obstacle course, and navigated land during day and night.

I rise today to congratulate Specialist Joseph Broom for his accomplishment, and I wish him the best of luck on September 26.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF STEWART LEVY

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and legacy of Stewart Levy, a wonderful and warm humanitarian, a Buffalo civic leader, and my friend. Stewart Levy’s love of family, friends, and community was always on display—clearly evident—and always inspiring.

Mr. Levy first came to Buffalo to work in a local recording industry. He