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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: Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House as they anticipate returning to their home districts. Once they return home, may they find rest and renewal during their time with family and friends.

Bless our Nation as the holy days of the religious traditions for so many of our citizens approach and as the year comes to a close. Help us to look to the future with hope, committed to a renewed effort to work together as citizens of a united America.

Help us all to be truly grateful for the blessings of this past year.

As always, we pray that whatever is done 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. WOODALL. 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. WOODALL. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GABBARD 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.

RECOGNIZING JOANN VAN TASSEL OF LAKE ORION

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

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize JoAnn Van Tassel of Lake Orion. She has devoted her life to selfless acts to benefit others and is being recognized as 2016 Citizen of the Year by the Orion Area Parade Group.

JoAnn has been a champion in the community by always supporting local events and important causes. She is active with many agencies, including the North Oakland Community Coalition and the Downtown Development Authority. Among her many charitable acts, JoAnn has organized fundraising events to help those in need and cleans up our roadways to ensure that our community stays beautiful.

While serving as Orion Township supervisor for 13 years, JoAnn has dedi-

cated countless hours to improving the Lake Orion community. Her generosity has touched the lives of many, and her efforts will have a profound impact on generations to come.

So, thank you to JoAnn Van Tassel for making the Lake Orion community a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Your generous contributions have not gone unnoticed.

DRAIN THE SWAMP

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the Drain the Swamp Act. My bill would make violations of President-elect Trump's recently announced revolving door lobby ban punishable by law. He said that he will bar political appointees from lobbying for 5 years after they serve in his administration and permanently from lobbying for foreign governments.

Unfortunately, his proposal lacks any enforcement mechanism. I want this to be more than a press release. I want to help him in this effort. Just look at the Office of Special Trade Representative. Why is our trade policy so bad? Because those people worked for industry and then come back to work for the government and go work for industry and promote their own interests. That goes on in many agencies.

This would be a good thing for America.

So I would extend the existing penalties which apply to very few people over a shorter period of time with penalties up to \$50,000 and 1 year in jail to cover all of the 3,648 executive branch political appointees.

I am introducing it today knowing it is the end of the Congress, but I am going to provide it to the Trump transition team in the hope that they will endorse this bill, which I will introduce

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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on the first day of the next Congress and hope to have President-elect Trump's support to keep the law behind his promise.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent several Texas colleges and universities in my Texas 25th Congressional District, but it is Austin's first institution of higher education that I would like to speak about today.

Huston-Tillotson University is referred to by many as the jewel of the east Austin community. I have had the pleasure of meeting the school's president, Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette. She is only the second female president in the institution's rich history. I can tell you, Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette is an experienced leader who is committed to the success of her students.

Huston-Tillotson College was chartered by the State of Texas in 1952 and was renamed to Huston-Tillotson University in 2005. Its name derives from the merger of Tillotson College and Samuel Huston College.

The school's focus is on liberal arts. It offers associate and master's degrees, in addition to bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees, in more than 19 areas of study.

I would like to thank President Colette Pierce-Burnette, the faculty, and the administration for their devotion to higher education, and I expect they will keep up the good work for many years to follow.

In God we trust.

RECOGNIZING AIRBORNE FIRST CLASS IRVING MUNROE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Airborne First Class Irving Munroe, a veteran of the United States Air Force from my district in Rhode Island.

On June 1, 1951, just few days shy of his 20th birthday, Airman Munroe went missing in action after his aircraft was shot down over Kwaksan, North Korea.

Airman Munroe was a devoted son and brother, and our Nation will never be able to fully repay his family for their loss. Airman Munroe was finally laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on October 13, 2016, in a ceremony attended by those closest to him.

His family, which has accumulated more than 100 years of total military service over two generations, truly understands the meaning of service to our country.

Americans are fortunate to live in a free and safe country because of the extraordinary sacrifices of those who have served in our Armed Forces. We owe all who serve and their families our genuine gratitude and deep respect.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I want to sincerely thank the Munroe family for their service.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JAMES "J.H." LANGDON

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, it was 16 years ago when I was embarking on a run for North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture that my uncle told me there was a man I needed to meet. That man was James H. Langdon, whom we all call J.H. Today I rise to honor his service in the North Carolina House, which will soon officially come to a close.

A former ag education teacher, J.H. has served six terms in the North Carolina House and has either taught or represented practically every citizen in Johnston County and beyond. As chairman of the house agriculture committee, J.H. has been a tireless advocate for agriculture and our farm families.

I know of no one who talks less but does more, which I attribute to his great and abiding love for and faith in our Creator. J.H.'s legacy will be felt across the State of North Carolina for generations to come.

On behalf of the citizens of Johnston County and the countless individuals he has touched, I wish him and his wife, Lena, much happiness as they continue their wonderful journey together.

EVERYONE MUST BEAR THE COST OF OUR MILITARY

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, those who have truly borne the cost of the wars that we have waged since 9/11 have been the men and women who wear the uniform and their families—fewer than 1 percent of the people in this country. For the rest of us, we have deferred our obligations and our payments to future generations.

Harvard's Linda Bilmes estimates that the wars that we are waging since 9/11 will cost this country nearly \$1 trillion in healthcare costs and support costs for the veterans who have fought those wars. That is why I am asking my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in sponsoring the Veterans Health Care Trust Fund Act, which would create a surtax on each and every American who has not served to ensure that we pay for our wars as we wage them and have the resources to take care of the veterans who fight them. It is going to ensure transparency in the cost of these wars; it is going to ensure that everyone bears their fair share of the burden; and it is going to ensure that we always have the resources to always take care of the veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that everyone join me in this important effort.

FAREWELL ADDRESS

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, on one of the last days to be able to come and address the House before the end of this Congress, I want to take this opportunity, really, to thank the people that work here in the House.

We up here talk about our constituents back at home, and Congresses will come and go, but it is the staff here that make this institution run. I want to thank them for the great work that they do. Frankly, there are far too few of us that actually recognize the work that happens.

From the folks down in the wood shop, to the people who are working behind the rostrum, to our Capitol police officers, to Father Conroy, who keeps us on the straight and narrow, we thank you for your service.

I do want to take this opportunity, as we are about to embark on the holidays, to thank them for the great work that they do for each and every one of us and for our Nation, because they are the ones that truly keep this institution running and make sure that we have a sense of history and that, again, this august body is one that will be represented well for years and, hopefully, centuries to come.

PENTAGON'S WASTEFUL BACK OFFICE BUREAUCRACY

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon this body to protect our national security by ensuring that the billions we spend through the Pentagon are, in fact, well spent.

We are currently embarking on enacting a CR that is inadequate for education, health care, and economic and job development. It contains a bloated Defense Department with even more money, despite documentation of \$125 billion in waste and inefficiencies that their own investigation showed.

This does not relate to our servicemen and -women who do a great job for our country protecting freedom around the world. This is money that we could use to fund all the war spending and drive down the costs of the Pentagon and Department of Defense almost 20 percent without affecting existing programs.

I think we need to declassify the Department of Defense study and use that money for the taxpayers to drive down our debt and deficit and make this country great again.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF KJIL AND GREAT PLAINS CHRISTIAN RADIO

(Mr. HUELSKAMP asked and was given permission to address the House