

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask for support and prayers for our giants still among our midst. Leader Bob Michel is struggling and in ill health. Bob was born and raised in Peoria, Illinois. He is 93 years old, a World War II vet, fought across Europe, and was part of the D-day invasion.

For 38 years, he served in this Chamber being minority leader from the 97th Congress through the 103rd Congress. That is a total of 14 years.

Bob was honored by then-House Speaker Foley when he was asked to take the gavel on November 29, 1994. I would encourage my colleagues to look at that C-SPAN tape.

Bob, we love you. We are thinking about you at this critical time.

NO MORAL EQUIVALENCY

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, I and many Americans watched in horror as our President continued to wax poetic on TV about the bromance with President Vladimir Putin.

When the host noted “But he’s a killer,” our President came back with: “There are a lot of killers. You think our country’s so innocent?”

While our country has made many mistakes, we have not yet seen an authoritarian regime brazenly assassinate its political dissenters.

The same cannot be said for Putin and the growing list of murder victims and dissenters in Russia, including liberal politician Boris Nemtsov, former Press Minister Mikhail Lesin, former KGB agent Alexander Litvinenko, and journalist Anna Politkovskaya, to just name a few.

There is no moral equivalency between the United States and Russia. We are not yet an autocracy. We are not like Russia, and the President needs to stop relying on alternative facts.

NORTH KOREA RESOLUTION

(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, last night, I introduced bipartisan resolution H. Res. 92, condemning North Korea’s development of multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles and calling for an application of all available sanctions. Sadly, the dictatorship in North Korea has been testing nuclear weapons, threatening the people of South Korea.

This resolution clearly outlines the progression of North Korea’s recent aggression—nuclear tests, ballistic missile tests, and their willingness to share weapons technology with state sponsors of terrorism like Iran and

Syria. It is time to stand up to North Korea’s aggression. An ICBM with a nuclear warhead is a direct threat to the United States and our allies, especially South Korea.

Along with Congressman ELIOT ENGEL, we are the only two Members of Congress to have visited North Korea. I believe this resolution is a crucial first step to achieving peace through strength, especially following Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis’ positive visit to South Korea last week.

I am grateful this resolution is bipartisan, cosponsored by colleagues, Representatives MIKE ROGERS, SETH MOULTON, TED YOHO, and BRAD SHERMAN, along with the Korea Caucus co-chair GERRY CONNOLLY.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of our international institutions that allow us to get along with one another; the WTO, the United Nations, the IMF, the World Bank, NAFTA, CAFTA, all of our great international institutions that allow us to amicably resolve our differences.

Let me tell you something, Mr. Speaker, with all the misbehavior and problems of the current occupant of the White House, what I am most worried about is this rise of nationalism. We have seen this play out before throughout our history.

While no one is as proud to be as American as many of us who have the privilege to serve in this body, the world is more interconnected than ever before. And it is more important than ever before that Republicans and Democrats in this body show our commitment to resolving our legitimate disputes and differences amicably through the rule of international law and our international institutions, rather than resorting to violence and warfare.

I call upon my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to renew our commitment to pursuing peaceful, diplomatic ways of resolving our international disputes through international legal bodies.

DIMINISH THE BLIGHT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

(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 bring attention to efforts to diminish the blight of human trafficking on my district, the country, and the world.

Each year, millions of individuals worldwide, most often children and

those living in poverty, fall victim to human trafficking. According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, approximately 550 cases were reported in Florida last year.

In my district, Pasco County law enforcement officials have been hard at work to combat human trafficking and protect victims locally. We have seen it too many times in our own community.

I also wish to highlight the commitment to end human trafficking worldwide by the Greek Orthodox Church. This week, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew hosted a forum in Istanbul, Turkey, alongside religious leaders, scholars, and policymakers to address the issue of modern-day slavery.

I commend their cooperative leadership and stand with them in promoting peace and human dignity internationally.

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LET’S KEEP ALL AMERICANS HEALTHY

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon because I am appalled by President Trump and my Republican colleagues’ attacks on the health of Americans. My Republican colleagues have spent 6 years disparaging the Affordable Care Act from its very inception, describing it as a “death spiral,” “failure,” and “collapsing,” but zero time offering up any viable alternative.

After 6 years of hollow grandstanding, Republicans now face the clear realization that repealing the Affordable Care Act will dump massive costs on families and businesses, blow a hole in the Federal budget, and strip coverage for more than 30 million Americans.

New Jersey has been a positive example of ACA implementation. Since enactment, Medicaid expansion through ACA has insured more than 700,000 middle-income New Jersey residents who couldn’t previously afford it. The uninsured rate in New Jersey dropped from 13.2 percent in 2013 to 8.7 percent in 2015.

Mr. Speaker, these are positive trends, but President Trump and Republicans in Washington callously disregard these facts so they can live up to their reckless promises. I hope that they will see the wisdom in their mistake and make sure that we keep all Americans healthy.

REMEMBERING DANIEL DeLOACH

(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 honor the life of Mr.

Daniel DeLoach of Savannah, Georgia, who passed away on Sunday, January 29, from complications of Proteus disease. He was 30 years old.

Mr. DeLoach was born in Savannah to Mike and Julia DeLoach. His parents and his siblings, Michael and Kathleen, were his greatest source of support as he battled his disease.

Though his debilitating condition required more than 100 surgeries in his lifetime, Mr. DeLoach wasn't known for his disease; he was known for his zest for life. Mr. DeLoach never regretted having the disease. Instead, he brightened every room he entered and never ceased to have a positive outlook on life. This outlook led him to accomplish some amazing feats while battling the illness.

In 2005, he graduated from the Benedictine Military School in Savannah and went on to attend the Savannah College of Art and Design, where he earned a degree in industrial design. With his education and personal experience, it was Mr. DeLoach's goal to improve the care of patients and teach others how to best interact with them.

Daniel continues to be an inspiration to all of us who were lucky enough to meet him, and his story bears repeating so it may inspire many others for years to come.

CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICANS ARE PLAYING CHICKEN WITH HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Americans have too much to lose for Congressional Republicans to play chicken with their health insurance.

Take a family in my district, Kevin and Kim Filiatraut. Kevin and Kim are young parents of two beautiful children, ages 7 and 5. As an attorney in Cleveland, the family uses insurance through Kevin's employment. Kim's job of 15 years at KeyBank was outsourced to India in 2014. They own a home, and their children go to public schools in Bay Village.

In 2015, at age 39, Kim was diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer. When it was found, it had already spread to her liver, and she has been on chemotherapy ever since and will be evermore. There is only hope and medicine, indefinitely.

She is covered now, but with this pre-existing condition, a repeal of the ACA is daunting. The ACA establishes that she can never be denied enrollment, but congressional Republicans could take this surety away with their brash, nearsighted objective of full repeal of the ACA.

Why would we get rid of something that does so much good for Ohioans, for Americans, with nothing and no plan to replace it?

Kim's treatment costs over \$500,000 a year. Repeal of the ACA could very well bankrupt this family.

And according to The Washington Post, repealing the Affordable Care Act will kill more than 43,000 people in our country, annually. Repeal of the ACA would be the most anti-life measure ever considered or passed by this Congress.

Please vote against repeal now.

WELCOME HOME, ALYSSA

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with hope, thanks, and renewed faith. I am joyful because of a young lady from home, Alyssa Ferguson. She was born on January 7, 2002.

Two days after her 12th birthday, Alyssa was told that she had a tumor the size of a baseball in her brain. She did not flinch; she fought—six brain surgeries, three rounds of radiation, and nine rounds of chemotherapy.

On January 26, our angel used her wings to fly to God. She always had those wings the entire time she was with us here on Earth. She used her dying wish to have a water well dug in a small town in Africa. Extraordinary.

If you close your eyes, you can feel Alyssa's spirit.

Welcome home, Alyssa.

IN MEMORY OF TOWNSEND WOLFE

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I had the opportunity to visit the exceptional exhibit of Ansel Adams' photography, from his early years, at the Arkansas Arts Center, and it made me reflect on the life of Townsend Wolfe, the ultimate southern gentleman and truly a cultural visionary. Townsend passed away earlier this month at the age of 81.

Townsend served as the director and chief curator of the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock for 34 years, until his retirement in 2002. That year, he was honored with the Governor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement by the Arkansas Arts Council. During his tenure, the Arts Center experienced unparalleled growth in numbers of annual visitors and in its exceptional collection.

Townsend's love of art extended beyond the walls of the galleries, bringing beauty into the lives of countless Arkansans. Townsend leaves behind a legacy of warmth and passion, and his contributions to "The Natural State" will continue to live on at the Arkansas Arts Center.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia) laid before the

House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 7, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 7, 2017, at 8:51 a.m.:

Appointments:

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki).

Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China.

Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HENRY "HANK" ADAMS

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of an exemplary leader in our community, in the Turlock area, and the Assyrian community, Henry "Hank" Adams. The beloved husband, brother, father, and grandfather died at the age of 92 on Friday.

He was born and raised in Turlock, California, to Reverend Isaac and Sarah Adams. His father is known as the patriarch of Turlock's Assyrian community. Isaac encouraged his fellow Assyrians to join him in the Central Valley and farm in the rich soils of the region.

In 1943, at the age of 18, Henry graduated from Turlock High School and enlisted in the Army Air Corps. Henry completed over 20 bombing missions in Japan on the Lucky Lady B-29 bomber. He was discharged at the rank of lieutenant in 1947. Henry moved to San Francisco, where he married his wife, Joanne, eventually settling down in Turlock.

Henry had a genuine love for his country and his community. He is known for his service and contributions to the Assyrian community, where he continued the legacy that his father left behind.

Henry leaves behind the love of his life and his wife of 62 years, Joanne, and their two daughters, Nora Adams and Nellie Adams-Morse.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing the tremendous life of Henry "Hank" Adams for his service to his country, and his unwavering leadership and many accomplishments and contributions to the Turlock Assyrian community.

God bless him always.