

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 20, 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 December 20, 2017, at 1:18 a.m.:

That the Senate recede from its amendment with a further amendment H.R. 1.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 695.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

COMMENDING JARROD DAVIS FOR HIS EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Jarrod Davis, of Blossburg, Pennsylvania, for his Eagle Scout project in honor of our Nation's veterans.

Jarrod, the grandson of a World War II veteran, wanted his Eagle Scout project to benefit veterans, so he began working in the spring on a reflection project outside the Veterans Center in Charleston Township, in Tioga County.

He collected donations to assist with establishing a flagpole, black metal benches, and a monument. At the project's completion, he donated the remaining funds to the Veterans Affairs Outreach Fund.

Jarrod worked with 10 volunteers on the project for 3 months, and he spent about 80 hours working on his Eagle Scout project. The flagpole and the reflection area were finished on April 21.

Jarrod, who graduated from North Penn-Liberty High School in June, now works at Sullivan Farms in Mainesburg. His project was dedicated earlier this month, on the 76th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day on December 7.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of Jarrod, his patriotism, and his respect for those who serve. I wholeheartedly commend Jarrod Davis on this outstanding project.

CONFRONTING THE GUN VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been 5 years since 20 children were senselessly murdered in the Sandy Hook massacre. And while we will never forget the young lives we lost that day, we must also remember that this tragic, life-altering and life-robbing epidemic continues to impact thousands of other families across the country.

Two weeks ago, I had the honor of meeting the parents of Alexandria Burgos. On October 19, 2014, Alexandria was picking up her brother from a friend's house when her life was cut short by a stray bullet shot through an apartment window. She was 18 years old. She worked with kids at the local YMCA and hoped to be a social worker after graduating from college.

Like her parents, I am telling her story to push the conversation forward, the conversation that includes thoughts and prayers, but also must lead to action.

Alexandria's story and the pain felt by her loved ones is something that far too many have had to endure in this country. Let 2018 be the year that we do more than reflect on the lives we have lost and finally step up to find the courage to confront gun violence.

OBSTRUCTION OF A DEA INVESTIGATION INTO HEZBOLLAH

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

Mr. PITTINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my outrage at a detailed report by Politico which included testimony that President Obama and his administration obstructed a major DEA investigation into Hezbollah when they wanted to secure the Iran deal. These revelations are shocking and infuriating but, regrettably, not surprising. This is the same administration that sent \$1.7 billion in cash ransom to Iran.

According to the DEA, Hezbollah was operating a global criminal enterprise worth over \$1 billion, annually. They were selling drugs and running arms as a means of funding their terrorist activities.

A major DEA-led task force called Cassandra had procured mounting and incriminating evidence against them. Yet, according to senior Treasury and Defense officials, the Obama administration consistently obstructed and stonewalled the investigation in order to protect the Iran deal.

In essence, it seems President Obama and his administration were so focused on striking a deal with Iran that they let a major global terror group off the hook, even though the terror group was involved in global drug trafficking and sent massive amounts of cocaine and other drugs to our American communities.

I have sent this letter to Chairman Gowdy, urging an immediate investigation into this matter.

THIS IS THE WRONG DIRECTION AND THE WRONG BILL

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on the floor of this House and, I guess, again today, there will be a vote on this massive tax cut targeted to people at the very top, targeting big cuts for corporations.

Like many Members on this side of the aisle, I welcome the opportunity to do comprehensive, real tax reform. And for a long time, the discussion in this body and around the country was about the need to lower the rates and broaden the base and eliminate some of those loopholes that allow some corporations to get away with paying literally no taxes at all. But instead of doing that, what we saw was a massive shift of the responsibility to fund the government away from people at the top to people who work hard every day.

There are many examples of how we could have done this better. There was a lot of discussion on the Senate side about the child tax credit. But why did we end up with a child tax credit that rewards a minimum wage family with about \$75 a year, when somebody making \$400,000 would get \$4,000? I mean, is the life of a child of a family making a half a million dollars worth that much more?

This is the wrong direction. This is the wrong bill. We should reject it.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF DORIS JACKSON

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the career of Doris Jackson, who will be retiring after more than 33 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives. Doris began working as a cashier in the Cannon Cafe in 1980 and eventually became a supervisor.

After more than three decades, there have been many changes as Members and staff have come and gone, but Doris' smile has remained ever present. I know that I speak for every Member, staffer, and intern who has had the privilege of knowing Doris when I say that we will miss her witty sense of humor and her willingness to give encouragement to everyone she meets.

In retirement, Doris plans to spend more time with family, especially her grandchildren, and to stay active in her community by volunteering at her church.

Mr. Speaker, Doris has dedicated her life to serving us as we strive to serve our constituents. On behalf of our congressional family, I wish Doris the best of luck in the next exciting chapter in her life.

Congratulations, Doris.

LAYING DOWN A MARKER

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I witnessed, as did all of us, the jubilation of my friends, the Republican majority, in passing the tax cut measure that had been advocated as tax reform for a substantial period of time, but, finally, they did admit that it was a tax cut.

I rise here today just to lay down a marker. I have said, as have many of my colleagues, that what we witnessed is the beginning of what ultimately will allow for us to address the entitlements in this country.

Many of us know that the deficit that the tax cuts create are going to allow, some time during the course of next year or shortly after the election, us to begin discussing Medicare and Medicaid. I think that is a mistake, and I want that to be recognized.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the North Carolina A&T State University football team, winner of the 2017 Celebration Bowl and the HBCU national championship. This win capped off a historic year for the undefeated Aggies, a first in Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference history, and marks their second championship in 3 years.

In the final minutes, the Aggies marched 56 yards in seven plays. The drive was capped off with a fake spike and a quarterback sneak on the goal line for the game-winning touchdown by Lamar Raynard.

MVP Marquell Cartwright, who followed the great Tarik Cohen, rushed for 110 yards and two touchdowns. With the guidance of Coach Broadway on the field and the leadership of Chancellor Harold Martin in the classroom, North Carolina A&T is leading the way in showing the great value and the importance of our Nation's HBCUs.

I am proud to represent this distinguished school of academic and athletic excellence, leaving only one question remaining. Mr. Speaker: Can I get an "Aggie Pride"?

HONORING THE LIFE OF EVELYN WRIGHT MOORE

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 15, Brazoria County lost one of its great community leaders, Ms. Evelyn Wright Moore.

Evelyn dedicated her entire life to early childhood development and edu-

cation. In 1975, in fact, she started her career as the Brazoria County Head Start coordinator; and, after a very short 8 years with that organization, she was running the show and continued running that show for the rest of her life. Evelyn made sure her students were receiving the support that would allow them to thrive in that community.

Brazoria County Head Start now enrolls just over 490 students, thanks to her. That program was championed by Evelyn's passion and her devout dedication to those same students.

She and I met many times over the years, both in Brazoria and here in Washington, D.C., and I will greatly miss our conversations. The legacy of Evelyn's servant heart will long be remembered and cherished.

Evelyn, my dear friend, you are now safe in the arms of Jesus.

□ 1015

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1, TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 668 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 668

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to titles II and V of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Ways and Means or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to adoption without intervening motion. Clause 5(b) of rule XXI shall not apply to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), my friend, the ranking member of the Rules Committee, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in support of this rule and the underlying legislation. The rule provides for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1, an act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to titles II and V of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, also known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Mr. Speaker, last evening, the Senate, on a vote of 51–48, passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which I believe is in the interest of the American people.

This is a bold, pro-growth plan that will overhaul our Tax Code and unleash the free enterprise system. It lowers tax rates on businesses of all sizes so that job creators can focus more on bringing not only more work to their workers, but also hiring more workers, increasing paychecks, and growing a competitive marketplace all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, we are trying to expand our economy, and there is nothing more important for any Member of this body than to know that the things that are happening in their own local communities are about the ability for people, whether they are just graduating from high school, whether they are graduating from a technical school, whether they are graduating from college, or whether they are looking for a second job or a longer career, to be successful in the marketplace in their own area, in their own home—not having to move somewhere to find a job, but in their own community. That is what we are trying to do.

We are trying to increase wages for every single community across this country. My home of Dallas, Texas, has been home to so many people who have moved there as a result of the, really, unlimited opportunities that we see right now in Texas, and that comes because Texas has found itself to be their home because so many other companies have literally been run out of their States because of high taxes—high taxes that are placed on those companies and the employees to where it makes living and being competitive more difficult.

During consideration of this legislation in the Senate, a few, relatively small provisions were removed through points of order in the Senate under what is called the Byrd rule, a parliamentary tool used during reconciliation.

The first change made by the Senate under the Byrd rule strikes the language that allowed 529 accounts to be used for homeschool expenses.

The second change modifies a provision that imposes an excise tax on the investment income of certain educational institutions. The change strikes a reference to "tuition-paying" students, making the exception to the excise tax available only if the institution has less than 500 students or if 50 percent or less of the students are located in the United States.