

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913 and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China:

Mr. WALZ, Minnesota
Ms. KAPTUR, Ohio

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. HIGGINS, New York
Ms. SLAUGHTER, New York
Mr. MEEKS, New York
Mr. LARSEN, Washington
Mr. DEFAZIO, Oregon

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

MARCH 1, 2017.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, I am pleased to reappoint Mr. John A. Lawrence of Washington, D.C. to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

SALUTE TO MEALS ON WHEELS

(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, today commemorates the 15th anniversary of March for Meals. This month-long grassroots campaign seeks to raise awareness about senior hunger and isolation. It also celebrates the proven private-public partnership of government, local community organizations, businesses, and compassionate individuals coming together to ensure that America's seniors are not forgotten.

As chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition, I know how important this program is to seniors across America. One in six seniors might not know where their next meal is coming from.

But on March 22, 1972, President Nixon signed into law a measure that

establishes a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older.

For nearly 45 years, these critical programs—commonly referred to as Meals on Wheels—have delivered more than just nutritious meals to homebound seniors in virtually every community across the country.

Meals on Wheels programs have come together each March since 2002, to celebrate this proven collaboration of local community organizations, businesses, all levels of government, and compassionate individuals to ensure their seniors are not forgotten.

Thank you to everyone who works to help our seniors live healthy lives.

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ATTACK ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, today begins Women's History Month, and I am proud to use this occasion to lift up our achievements, our perseverance and dedication to a more equal and balanced world. That is why it is so unfortunate that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and President Trump's White House insist on harming women through their stubborn adherence to antiwomen policies.

One prime example is their assault on the Affordable Care Act. The facts are clear: ACA prohibits charging women more than men for insurance; ACA establishes preventive services to be provided at no extra cost to women, including annual well-women exams, breastfeeding support, supplies for new moms, birth control, and screening and counseling for domestic and intimate partner violence; 9.5 million previously uninsured women now have coverage through ACA; 55 million now have access to vital preventive care at no cost.

These are not alternative facts or fake news. If this is the Trump Republicans' gift to us in celebration of Women's History Month, I hope they keep the receipt.

CONGRATS EDINA GIRLS HOCKEY CHAMPS

(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 want to offer a big congratulations to the Edina Girls hockey team for winning its very first Minnesota high school State championship.

The Hornets dominated in the championship game just last weekend, winning 4-0. Senior forward Lolita Fidler led the way with an early goal in the first period, finishing with two goals. On the other end, senior goalie Anna Goldstein stood on her head throughout the tournament, allowing just one goal in three games.

The girls squad finished with an impressive 28-1-1 record under head coach Sami Reber, who is a former Edina hockey player herself, bringing the title to her alma mater.

Edina's run of excellence is a testament to their program's serious dedication on the ice, in the classroom, and in their community. On top of giving their all in their sport, these students also strive academically and contribute in positive ways at home and among their peers.

Mr. Speaker, we are so proud of these student athletes, and it is fun to see Edina bringing their very first State high school hockey championship home.

Go Hornets.

REACTION TO PRESIDENT TRUMP'S ADDRESS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, last night President Trump delivered a speech that was long on campaign themes but short on specifics. It seems the President is more interested in political theater than leadership, and it showed. He was very vague on every topic he discussed, from health care to trade, to tax reform.

The campaign is over, but it is clear President Trump hasn't moved on. Where is his interest in governing and in leading this Nation? I don't see it. Just the day before, in his speech, he discovered that health care is unbelievably complex.

Every day since the inauguration President Trump has shown that he is ill-prepared, ill-tempered, and ill-informed, and he does not understand what governing is about. His speech did not change that.

It is time for President Trump to stop talking about bringing this country together and actually make an effort to do so. He needs to engage Congress, including the Congressional Black Caucus. He needs to move from platitudes to plans, and he also needs to act on the priorities of the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

REDDING VA LEASE APPROVAL

(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, my district is home to nearly 60,000 men and women who have served in our Nation's Armed Forces, and many more are still serving today. Yet for too long, veterans have had trouble receiving veterans medical care in our area, instead being forced to travel to Sacramento or farther from places like Redding, Chico, or Yreka.

So I am proud to announce that the Transportation Infrastructure Committee will authorize the VA to lease a new facility in Redding, California. This new lease will consolidate two buildings into one and will expand the regional VA square footage by over 50 percent in that consolidation, which will house an additional 17 mental health providers, a mammography division, and a second X-ray unit, significantly increasing the types of care available in Redding and in the north State.

Taxpayers will put up the money for the facility. Now it is time for the VA to ensure that this facility is properly staffed and these tax dollars are not wasted and instead respected, and, most importantly, that our veterans are respected with timely care.

THE UNSUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF STUDENT DEBT

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of millions of students and graduates in this country that are struggling to finance their higher education and pay off student loans.

Yesterday I invited Izeah Garcia to the President's address. Izeah is an advocate for increasing accessibility and lowering the cost of a higher education. Izeah and I share a similar story: sons of hardworking immigrant parents, and the first in our families to attend a university, both at UC Santa Barbara, located in my district.

Like many students today struggling to afford the rising cost of tuition, we relied on student loans to put us through college. In the President's speech last night, we didn't hear one mention of the over \$1.3 trillion student loan debt crisis.

I urge this administration and Congress to commit to addressing the unsustainable future of student debt by allowing students to refinance their debt at a lower interest rate and expanding access to Pell grants. We can ensure that every student is afforded the opportunity to pursue a higher education and to better their lives, their communities, and our country.

HONORING ANGELA LARA FLORES

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Angela Lara Flores, a dedicated servant to her community and her family.

Angela was born in Palacios, Texas, on August 2, 1926, to her parents Cesario Lara and Lydia Teran.

She was a devoted, longtime member of Casa de Dios Presbyterian Church and served as the treasurer of the church for 32 years.

Not only did Angela give her time and energy to the church, but she was

also known for her community service. She volunteered faithfully at a local senior citizens center in Dallas and even worked full time for the senior citizens center in Palacios.

Despite her busy schedule, Angela had time for her favorite pastime, and that was putting puzzles together with her family.

My heartfelt sympathy goes out to her four children—Jesse J. Flores, Lu-cinda Flores, Diana Flores, and Steve Flores—5 siblings, 19 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren, 8 great-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Angela's 90 years of life.

OPIOID CRISIS AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES

(Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, we continue to see pharmaceutical companies put profits over people. Even though 33,000 people are dying every year due to the opioid crisis, Kaleo Pharma raised the price of a lifesaving opioid overdose medication from \$690 in 2014 to \$4,500 this year.

The pharmaceutical industry has not only misled consumers and their providers to create a system where there are more opioid prescriptions than adults in the United States, but they are now jacking up the price of life-saving drugs and making money on this opioid crisis that they helped, in fact, create.

Meanwhile, the costs of the opioid epidemic fall on States, cities, communities, hospitals, counties, courts, and local communities who, quite frankly, do not have the resources to keep up.

This is why I introduced a bill which would impose a fee on the production of opioids and use the revenue for opioid prevention, treatment, and research programs across the country.

Pharmaceutical companies have to be part of solving the problem that they helped cause and to give back to the communities that opioids have ravaged.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY PHARMACIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is good to be back. It is good to be back on the floor, as we have been now, for the last few weeks doing the people's business, and we will continue to move forward.

I appreciate the last speaker discussing pharmaceutical prices. I think

it is another issue, but we are going to go straight to really what I believe is the bigger cause of problems in our communities, and that is the pharmacy benefit managers and their monopolistic, terrorist kind of ways that they are dealing with our community pharmacies and independent pharmacies and actually causing problems in health care.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD on this Special Order hour.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as we get started now, we have a lot of speakers. This is something that has been on my heart for a while, and I know that it is something we have been getting more and more comments and questions about, especially when you are dealing with the pharmaceutical prices and the Pharma industry.

When they begin to look into it, they began to see that there was actually a bigger issue. It was not just big pharmacy and the problems that we do see in drug pricing. It was the end delivery that is going to the pharmacies and how the independent community pharmacists are being beaten down in a way that is really unseemly in our society. They are taking that healthcare line tonight.

I have a lot of speakers, and I have a lot of stuff that I am going to be talking about.

Just as an important reminder: A community pharmacist is an important niche in our healthcare system, serving as the primary healthcare provider for over 62 million people. Especially in our rural and suburban areas, this is a vital lifeline. Roughly 40 percent of the prescriptions nationwide and a higher percentage in rural Georgia—especially in northeast Georgia—are filled by our friends in the independent community pharmacy system.

Look, the problems that we have and we are going to be discussing even further tonight, we are going to delve into some issues that we want to see taken care of. We want to see this industry, especially in dealing with pharmacy benefit managers, put into proper perspective so that we can actually take care of our constituents.

A gentleman who has been a fighter and a leader with me on this from day one since I have been in Congress and dealing with this issue, especially with transparency, is the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK). This is a fight that we are going to continue to keep fighting. I know he is as well, and we have a lot of friends tonight to help us out.

I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK) as he continues to try