

but, nevertheless, important. I am sure the gentleman met with the Governors when they were in town, as I did. They met on a bipartisan basis. I met with a lot of the Republican Governors and Democratic Governors together.

They are very concerned, as you know, not only about the ACA—which we talked about, which they have great concerns of the impact on their States, Republicans and Democrats, of the repeal of the Medicaid expansion, in particular, the impact it will have on them and their people—but they also are very concerned about the Marketplace Fairness Act.

That is simply, frankly, trying to protect small businesses so that they can compete, the local mom and pop store can compete with the online vendors so that everybody would have to pay the sales tax, whatever the State sales tax is. That bill, I believe, enjoys the majority support in this House. I think it has enjoyed the majority support since it passed the Senate pretty handily.

Does the gentleman know whether or not that bill is going to be considered at any point in time in the near term?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we did meet with a bipartisan group of Governors, and that was one of the discussions as well. It is not scheduled at this time, but we will continue to work on that in committee. Our hope is to be able to find a solution in committee and be able to move that forward.

Mr. HOYER. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my friend, the majority leader, that I look forward to working with him. I see that he recently observed that the attorney general ought to recuse himself in dealing with issues of the relationship between the administration during the course of the campaign and Russia, which the intelligence community has said interfered in America's election.

All of us ought to be concerned about that—a foreign government interfering in our democracy; particularly, a government that is hostile to our interests; particularly, a government led by Mr. Putin, who has committed international crimes, who, contrary to international law, invaded Crimea, still holds Crimea inconsistent with international law, and has been sanctioned. Hopefully, those sanctions will stay in place.

I agree with the gentleman that, at the very least, the attorney general ought to recuse himself. I have asked him to step down.

But we need to have, Mr. Speaker, an independent bipartisan commission with subpoena power, similar to the 9/11 Commission, for the security of our country and, yes, for the confidence building for our President to see what, in fact, were the relationships between his campaign and Russia and to what extent Russia involved itself in trying to impact on the elections of the United States.

I don't have anything further to say. Unless the gentleman wants to say something, I will yield back.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This is a matter for investigation by the House Intelligence Committee. For years, we have investigated Putin's hostile international actions.

Just so the gentleman does know, Mr. Speaker, this week, Chairman NUNES and Ranking Member SCHIFF approved the scope of their committee's inquiry into Russia's measures of targeting in the 2016 election. I support this bipartisan investigation. I have great faith that the committee will fully investigate all of the evidence and follow the facts wherever they lead.

I know the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, made comments in regards to the attorney general. Attorney General Sessions stated this morning that whenever it is appropriate, he will recuse himself. I agree with those remarks.

As far as the ongoing investigation into Russia, I would, again, direct my friend to the bipartisan effort that is underway in the House Intelligence Committee.

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Mr. HOYER. I thank the majority leader for his comments.

Let me say that I was very disappointed to learn that Mr. NUNES, at the request of the administration, talked to members of the press before the investigations have occurred, before they have heard a single witness, to say that he really thought this was not a matter that really needed careful consideration. That is not a quote. I characterized what I read his comment to mean to the press.

In addition, I understand the Department of Homeland Security was also requested, and the FBI, to talk to the press to tamp down interest in those. The American people need to be very concerned about these issues. Every Member of this Congress, a separate and coequal branch of the Government of the United States, ought to be very concerned about that.

The Bible says that the truth will set us free. And the truth will give us confidence. And the truth should be known by the American people.

The problem I have with the Intelligence Committee is that the Intelligence Committee—most of the information they gather is not available to the public. I don't know what they will do moving forward.

But we found in the 9/11 Commission a perfect example of a commission equally divided with two extraordinarily respected co-chairs that got to the bottom and made significant recommendations, most of which—almost all of which—were adopted in a bipartisan fashion by this Congress.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we would pursue that not in lieu of the Intelligence Committee—not in lieu of

the Intelligence Committee—but in addition to.

Benghazi, we had seven committees, and you thought on your side of the aisle that wasn't enough, so you spent some \$4 million on an additional special committee to find exactly the same conclusion.

So, in this case I do not oppose the work of the Intelligence Committee, but I certainly believe the American people would expect and would want a similar bipartisan commission as they saw work on the 9/11 tragedy to give them the confidence that Russia is not in any way undermining the independence of our government or undermining the democracy that we hold so dear.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY,
MARCH 2, 2017, TO MONDAY,
MARCH 6, 2017

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 4 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2017.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BACON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

CELEBRATING THE 105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND CANYON STATE

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, on February 14, my home State of Arizona celebrated its 105th year as a member of the United States. The Grand Canyon State is an incredible State to raise a family in, to live in, and to play in.

There is so much to love about Arizona. We have over 300 days of sunshine. We enjoy the cool pines of Flagstaff; the rustic and historic towns of Prescott, Show Low, and Tombstone, which give perspective into Arizona's first days as a State; and we greatly benefit from the agricultural city and county of Yuma.

Arizona's lakes, mountains, forests, and skies provide countless activities throughout the year for natives and visitors alike. Arizona also enthusiastically hosts spring training, Super Bowls, college football playoff games, and the Waste Management Open, which many call "The Greatest Show on Grass."

Most of all, I love the people of Arizona. Arizonans are diverse, patriotic, and fiercely independent people. They bring so much talent and potential to our communities. I am deeply honored to serve my constituents in Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Sun Lakes, and Queen Creek.

After a long week in Washington, I cannot wait to step off the plane into

the fresh, free Arizona air. It is the greatest State in the Union, and I will always be proud to call Arizona my home.

Happy birthday, State 48.

ATTORNEY GENERAL JEFF SESSIONS AND RUSSIA

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today after news that the Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, lied under oath about his multiple contacts with higher level officials from the Russian Government.

The American people deserve full answers from the FBI on the ever-growing list of Trump administration officials with reckless and dangerous ties to Russia. The 2016 attack by Russia on U.S. democratic institutions, election systems, and political parties represents an international crime against liberty.

We still don't know the full extent of Russia's attacks. Thus, it is essential that the FBI, which reports to the Attorney General, be absolutely free of any political pressure. Congress must empower an independent investigatory, bipartisan commission to discover the truth. And the administration must appoint a special prosecutor free of political influence by the executive branch.

Any investigation must be empowered to thoroughly probe Russia's actions against our Nation's elections and must unearth any individuals who aided and abetted Russia in furtherance of its nefarious objectives. Without question, it is essential that our FBI and Justice Department be absolutely free of any political influence by the Attorney General.

The American people are owed the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Toward restoring integrity, the Attorney General should resign in view of his misleading answers about Russia during his Senate confirmation hearing.

Truth will out.

COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of including Everglades restoration in the President's infrastructure plan for America.

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan is the most ambitious ecosystem restoration ever attempted and represents the ultimate infrastructure package for Florida, but many critical projects designed to add harmful Lake Okeechobee discharges and algal blooms into my community are far behind where they should be and becoming far more costly by the delay in full funding.

The President has touted his record of building world-class projects ahead

of schedule and under budget; so I am calling on him to create an Everglades restoration infrastructure task force, secure the full funding, and accelerate the CERP projects to completion.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents have waited long enough to realize the massive benefits of Everglades restoration. Now let's seize this moment and put this President and this Congress to work to finish the job.

UNDERSTAND THE LEGAL MARIJUANA INDUSTRY

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, Attorney General Sessions stated we won't be a better, healthier Nation if marijuana is sold at every corner grocery store. His Justice Department also signaled that it would raid a marijuana industry convention being held on tribal lands in my State of Nevada.

While it is pretty clear that the Attorney General has some other problems to worry about now, I would note that his statement and his department's actions demonstrate a complete lack of understanding of the legal marijuana industry.

The industry, which is highly regulated in States that have chosen to legalize marijuana, does, indeed, face challenges in banking, taxes, advertising, security, and working with veterans. These need to be addressed by Congress.

But in the meantime, I invite Mr. Sessions: Come to Nevada. Meet with members of the industry. Find out how it really works before you make rash decisions about enforcement that will counter the votes of many people across this country.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT AND MEGAN TRINKLEY AND MISSION FIRST HOUSING GROUP VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert and Megan Trinkley and the many supporters and volunteers of the Mission First Housing Group, which places homeless veterans in need in safe, affordable, and sustainable housing.

Last Friday evening, I had the great pleasure to be present at the third annual Homes for Heroes fundraising event in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. I joined the Trinkleys and iconic radio personality and Vietnam veteran John DeBella and hundreds of community supporters who were all committed to quality housing for our vets.

The Homes for Heroes event was founded in 2015 as a way for the Trinkleys to honor the memory of Megan's late father, a United States

Air Force veteran. Homes for Heroes raised more than \$40,000 last year and surpassed that number this year.

Mr. Speaker, on any given night, some 40,000 of our veterans are homeless, and that is too many. But thanks to the work of Robert and Megan Trinkley and all of those who have supported Homes for Heroes, some three dozen veterans right now in our region sleep in safe, affordable housing.

I am grateful for their efforts, and I applaud them for their service to the homeless veterans to assure that no hero he is left behind.

CELEBRATING WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, as we kick off Women's History Month, I want to recognize Women Helping Women, celebrating 40 years of service to the people in my district of Maui County.

Since its founding in 1977, Women Helping Women has been an indispensable source of strength and support for survivors of domestic violence in Maui County, many of whom have fled courageously away from life-threatening situations with nothing more than the clothes on their backs, a few dollars in their pockets, and the desire to live without fear. Many of these women flee with young children and have no one to turn to and nowhere to go.

Each year, this organization serves more than 1,500 women, men, and children on the Islands of Maui and Lanai through a variety of programs, projects, and activities focused on direct intervention, shelter, advocacy, education, empowerment, and prevention.

Mahalo to Women Helping Women, and congratulations on reaching this 40th anniversary year.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO SHERIFF'S DEPUTY WES HARPER

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

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the actions of Clark County, Indiana, Sheriff's Deputy Wes Harper.

On the evening of February 21, Deputy Harper was dispatched to a call for an unconscious person. While en route, Deputy Harper's dispatcher advised him that this individual was, in fact, a 9-month-old child, and it was possible that the child had drowned.

Wasting no time, Deputy Harper arrived on scene, scooped the infant up into his arms, and dove back into the patrol vehicle with an ambulance still minutes away. As his fellow officer drove to Kosair Children's Hospital, Deputy Harper provided CPR to the unconscious infant. As they pulled into