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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at 12 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 10, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EVAN H. JENKINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, thank You for giving us another day.

Be with each of us that we might be our very best, and prove ourselves worthy of Your love and Your grace. Bless our President and those who work in the executive branch and the Supreme Court with Your wisdom and good judgment.

Be with the Members of this people's House in their work and deliberations this day that they might merit the trust of the American people and manifest the strength of our democracy to the nations of the world.

Without You, O Lord, we can do nothing. With You and in You, we can establish a world of peace, goodness, and justice now and into the future.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WENSTRUP 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

CELEBRATING MARS PETCARE FOR TWO MILLION MAN HOUR SAFETY AWARD

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mars, Incorporated, and Mars Petcare's Fort Smith, Arkansas, facility which was recently honored with the Two Million Man Hour

Safety Award from the Arkansas Department of Labor.

As a family-owned business since its founding in 1911, Mars has been a leading example of corporate responsibility practices that benefit their dedicated employees and the communities in which they operate.

Since Mars first opened the doors of its Petcare facility in Fort Smith in 2007, they have provided stable employment to over 200 Mars associates who are responsible for making food for our pets under the brand names Cesar, Nutro, and Sheba.

Impressively, Mars' Fort Smith facility has accumulated 2 million work hours over 5 years without a lost day away from work due to a work-related injury or illness, a direct testament to the great workforce in Fort Smith and the leadership of the Mars organization.

In addition to their excellent safety record, Mars has had a significant impact on my district's local economy. Recently, Mars Petcare announced plans to expand the Fort Smith facility, which is expected to generate an additional 130 new jobs over the next several years.

On behalf of everyone in northwest Arkansas, I am happy to celebrate this important milestone with Mars' Fort Smith facility, and I thank Mars for its continued dedication to our community.

□ 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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WORKING FAMILIES DESERVE BETTER THAN TRUMPCARE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, right now Republicans are racing to pass TrumpCare, legislation that repeals and replaces the Affordable Care Act.

They are racing to pass it to because they know when the American people find out what is in this bill, they won't support it.

But let me tell you what TrumpCare does, Mr. Speaker.

It gives huge tax cuts to insurance companies and the top 1 percent.

It allows insurance companies to raise premiums by 25 percent for older Americans.

It eliminates funding for Planned Parenthood, denying millions of women critical care.

It cuts lifesaving support for the most vulnerable: children, Americans with disabilities, the frail elderly, and nursing home residents.

And it slashes funding for Medicaid.

TrumpCare is a great deal for the wealthy. TrumpCare is a great deal for insurance companies and drug companies. It is a raw deal for everyone else.

Millions will lose healthcare coverage. And let's be clear, people are going to die when this happens. Millions more will end up paying for more lower quality care, and Republicans don't even have a plan to pay for their proposal.

After 7 years, this is it. This is the best they have got: tax cuts for the rich and bad health care for everyone else.

Working families deserve better.

CONGRATULATING THE GENEVA VIKINGS

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Geneva Vikings girls basketball team on winning their first Class 4A State championship at ISU's Redbird Arena on Saturday.

Facing the Edwardsville Tigers, the Geneva High School girls fought a close back-and-forth game until its final minutes.

Beating an unbeaten team is no small feat. With just 3.7 seconds left on the clock, junior guard Stephanie Hart made a shot to give the Vikings a one-point lead. As center Grace Loberg then stole the ball from the Tigers to run out the clock, the Tigers were unable to answer, giving Geneva the win, 41-40.

Virtually the same thing had happened in the semifinal the day before, when junior guard Margaret Whitley scored the game-winning point with just seconds left.

Clearly, the Vikings do well under pressure. I applaud Coach Sarah Mead-

ows and the Geneva Vikings on their achievement and their hard work.

Go, Vikings.

OPPOSING GOP'S HEALTHCARE REPEAL

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, good morning, and listen, America.

One of the Affordable Care Act's biggest successes was increasing mental health services for all the people through mental health parity protections and Medicaid expansion.

The GOP's pay-more-for-less bill cuts taxes on the wealthy at the expense of those who can least afford to pay for their health coverage, like low-income families.

One in five of Medicaid's 70 million beneficiaries have a mental health or a substance abuse disorder, and reports show services are needed especially for children. The bill would hurt those people by eliminating Medicaid expansion and gutting mental health services for this group, including the nearly 60,000 now covered in my district.

I strongly oppose this repeal effort and urge our Republican colleagues to work with us to strengthen the Affordable Care Act so more Americans can have access to lifesaving care.

Please, please, do that for us.

HONORING TOP SCHOOLS IN GEORGIA'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

(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 acknowledge the academic accomplishments of several school systems in Georgia's First Congressional District.

Niche is a website which analyzes data gathered from the Department of Education that focuses on academics, student life, test scores, and college enrollment. With this data, they rank each school system and help families find the best schools for their children.

This year, Georgia's First District had the honor of placing 10 school systems in their top 100 school districts in Georgia. It comes as no surprise to me that so many of these outstanding school districts made this great achievement.

Camden County School District ranks as the top school system in the district and even cracked the top 10 for the State, ranking as the number 7 overall school system in Georgia. Camden County scored top marks in the categories of diversity, teachers, health and safety, administration, and sports.

In addition to Camden County, I am proud to recognize, today, the other school districts to reach the top 100: Pierce County, Lowndes County, Ware

County, Effingham County, Glynn County, Bryan County, Bacon County, Echols County, and Chatham County.

Congratulations to each school's administration, teachers, and students whose hard work and dedication made this accomplishment possible.

I look forward to the future success that will surely come from these schools.

TRUMPCARE IS DESTRUCTIVE LEGISLATION

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, President Trump and the Republican Congress promised a better plan for health care that would be good for all Americans.

Now that we have seen their plan, we know the truth. Passage of the American Health Care Act will not improve health care or reduce healthcare costs. Instead, it will cut critical health access and benefits for children, older adults, pregnant women, communities of color, and people living with disabilities.

If TrumpCare becomes law, it will destroy Medicaid as we know it, while also increasing costs of health care for working class families across the country.

It is unconscionable that this kind of destructive legislation should be shoved through Congress without hearings or stakeholder input.

I urge my Republican colleagues to reject this shortsighted bill and work with Democrats to strengthen the Affordable Care Act, a healthcare plan that is working well for millions of Americans.

HONORING CHARLES GERACI

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, a member of the Ohio Second District community passed away this week, and our Nation lost a hero.

Charles Geraci was a beloved resident of Norwood, Ohio. He was known as a husband of 70½ years, grandfather to 31, and a great-grandfather to 16.

But he was also an American hero. Charles enlisted in the Army on December 10, 1942, and, after basic training, was stationed in England in 1943. Just a few months later Charles was in the second wave at Omaha Beach in Normandy, where he was wounded while storming the beaches. After recovering and being sent back to his unit, Charles was wounded by shrapnel and then shot again during combat. He was in Normandy for only 5 months and credits his survival to God.

While his courage earned him three Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star Award, Charles refers to his service