

colleague who wants to play a constructive role in the process. I firmly believe the government will not shut down. It will be funded as we continue further.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that information and comments.

Frankly, I want to tell the majority leader, honestly, nobody on my side, maybe someplace else, but nobody on my side is wanting to shut down the government. We don't want to shut down the government.

Of course, I will remind my friend, the majority leader—and I appreciate his comments about our cooperation and ability to work together—the only way the government has been kept open over the last 5 years has been with Democratic votes. My friend didn't have 218 votes on his side of the aisle that would do that. So I think that belies the fact that we want to shut down the government.

I would assure my friend that that is neither our intent or desire. As a matter of fact, we want to work quickly to avoid that happening. That is not good for, obviously, the American people, it is not good for managers trying to plan on how to deliver services, and it is certainly not good for our Federal employees. So I would want to work with you to make sure that doesn't happen.

As we have in the past, we will be prepared to provide votes, as we have every time, to ensure that that does not happen.

Let me ask my friend, as we work towards the end of not shutting down government and passing, hopefully, an omnibus which will complete the 2017 appropriations process and fund the government through September 30, let me ask him—he was quoting some information. I have a quote for him as well. I know he would be disappointed if I didn't have a quote. This is not nearly as difficult as some of the others, however. It says:

House Republicans are considering making another run next week at the passing of the healthcare bill that they abruptly pulled from the floor in a setback to their efforts to repeal ObamaCare. Two Republican lawyers say the leaders are discussing holding a vote, even staying into next weekend, if necessary, but it is unclear what changes would be made to the GOP's healthcare bill . . .

That was in Bloomberg News on March 29.

Does the majority leader have any information or expectation that we would be considering another bill seeking to repeal the Affordable Care Act next week? I know the majority leader didn't announce that for next week, and I know on Thursday we will break for the Easter break.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The gentleman does know, from the widespread disagreement, that ObamaCare is failing. He disagrees with that, but the majority of Americans agree that it is collapsing and that we have to solve this problem.

As of today, I do not have anything scheduled for next week. But as we continue discussions with our Members as we move forward, I anticipate in the future that we would have that vote.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that information.

If I hear what the gentleman just said, my interpretation is that we don't expect anything next week, but that does not mean that we don't expect something in the future. Is that a correct reading of it?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. That is correct.

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

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY,
MARCH 30, 2017, TO MONDAY,
APRIL 3, 2017

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, April 3, 2017, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING PENN STATE
WRESTLING NATIONAL CHAMPS

(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 celebrate the Penn State men's wrestling team for winning the NCAA Division I National Championship earlier this month in St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, Penn State has been a force to be reckoned with in Division I wrestling. This is Penn State's sixth title in 7 years. It is the second consecutive national title.

I could not be more proud of my alma mater or this team that gave us a season to remember.

Many college athletes dream about participating at the NCAA championships. It marks the pinnacle of their athletic careers.

Among the Nittany Lion national champions, All-Americans Bo Nickal, Jason Nolf, and Zain Retherford combined for a total of 82.5 points, which would have placed the trio sixth overall in the final team standings.

Penn State also made history with All-Americans true freshman Mark Hall and redshirt freshman Vincenzo Joseph earning their first titles to become the first freshmen NCAA champions in program history.

Congratulations to Coach Sanderson and the Nittany Lions on this outstanding achievement. Your hard work and dedication shows, and you are the pride of Happy Valley.

SUPPORTING PLANNED
PARENTHOOD

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my unwavering support for Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood is America's most trusted provider of reproductive health care. One in five American women has chosen Planned Parenthood for health care at least one time in her life.

The heart of Planned Parenthood is in our local and rural communities. These healthcare centers provide a wide range of safe, reliable health care; and the majority is preventive care, which helps prevent unintended pregnancies through contraception, reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections through testing and treatment, and screen for cervical and other cancers.

In my district, Planned Parenthood was instrumental in providing the following services to over 50,000 constituents in 2016, including:

23,215 pregnancy tests and counseling;
5,798 breast exams; and
5,052 pap smears.

This is the end of Women's History Month. That is why I am here today to stand with Planned Parenthood, and I will continue to fight.

NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR
VETERANS DAY

(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, this week was the first-ever celebration of National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Over 40 years ago, after the last remaining Vietnam veterans returned home, many faced poor treatment from the country they were fighting to protect. These brave men and women are getting the welcome home finally that they deserve.

Earlier this week, the U.S. Senate introduced a bill that was passed, which introduced the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act, which unanimously passed both the House and Senate, and President Trump signed it into law earlier this week.

I was proud to join my colleagues in supporting this bill. The overwhelmingly bipartisan support is proof that finally the perception of Vietnam veterans has shifted over the years as folks begin to better understand the sacrifices they have made.

Over 9 million Americans served in the military during the Vietnam war, and over 2.7 million actually served in Vietnam. I personally know many who came from my district and now live in northern California.

Over the course of the war, the United States of America suffered

58,000 casualties, with hundreds of thousands more wounded and disabled. We need to remember the sacrifice they made, whether it was from Agent Orange or disabilities, or even the 22 veterans we lose each day to suicide.

We welcome home the Vietnam veterans. I am glad we could have this recognition for them.

INVESTIGATE RUSSIA'S INFLUENCE

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

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the Russian cloud over this White House and over our democracy is darkening. I rise today to call on this body to come together to create a bipartisan, independent commission to investigate the full extent of Russia's influence on the Trump administration and our democracy.

Mr. Putin wants to weaken America and our allies, and he views democracy and human rights as obstacles to Russia's reemergence as a global power.

After Russia maliciously hacked emails and distributed false information to influence our elections for their favorite candidate, they have turned their eye to Germany and France. They want to sow disunity and weakness among Western democracies and undermine the transatlantic alliance.

Mr. Speaker, we must know the full truth of the Trump administration's ties to Putin and the Kremlin. There are too many unanswered questions about financial ties, personal ties, and political ties. Every new tie we discover is followed by another distorted fact from the administration.

The American people are demanding answers now. This House cannot become an accomplice to the administration's desperate efforts to divert attention from this investigation. An independent commission is now the only way to find out what happened and ensure it never happens again.

Mr. Speaker, we must follow the facts. We can't let ourselves be attacked this way ever again.

RECOGNIZING GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Grandview High School girls basketball team from Aurora, Colorado. The Wolves triumphed in their 61-32 victory over Lakewood High School in the Colorado 5A State Championship.

Grandview finished the season with an impressive 27-1 record and celebrated the culmination of their season with the first girls basketball State championship win for their school.

Senior Michaela Onyenwere walked off the court with a game-high of 25 points and 8 rebounds.

During the championship game, the Grandview Wolves proved that with hard work, dedication, and perseverance anything is possible. The team was led to the championship title through the committed leadership of their coach, Josh Ulitzky, and his commendable staff.

Again, congratulations to the Grandview High School girls basketball team on their continued success and for their victory in the Colorado 5A State Championship.

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ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, addressing climate change is one of the most important long-term challenges for our future. But this week's executive order from President Trump reverses recent progress and will worsen this slow-burning crisis.

The order undercuts the Clean Power Plan, weakens restrictions on emissions, and expands Federal coal mining leases. It undermines the success of the Paris Agreement and damages our relations with the signatories, including China and India. At the same time, the order makes it harder for our government and military to plan for the already occurring consequences of climate change—including assessing its impact on national security policy.

That is why today I am introducing the CLIMATE Act to prevent the irresponsible executive order from being implemented. Whether the Trump administration recognizes it or not, the international community understands climate change is real and is rapidly embracing a renewable energy future. The administration's decision to move our energy policy backwards only weakens the United States' global leadership role, making it more likely that green energy jobs of tomorrow will be created elsewhere.

We must come together to support policies that grow clean energy jobs in the United States and ensure we pass on a healthier planet to the next generation.

COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1730, the Combating Anti-Semitism Act of 2017. I am proud to introduce this important legislation with my colleague from the other side of the aisle, Representative DEREK KILMER from Washington.

Since this January, we have seen a wave of disturbing violence and threats towards religious institutions across

America. In 2017 alone, more than 100 bomb threats have been made at 81 Jewish Community Centers across our Nation in 33 States. Tennessee, the State I call home, is also on that list. It is time that we send a clear message: religious intolerance has no place in this country.

The Combating Anti-Semitism Act of 2017 would increase the penalty for these violent threats and make them punishable as hate crimes under Federal law. We have a moral duty and responsibility to protect the rights of all Americans to worship freely and without fear, whether at a church, a synagogue, or any religious institution.

With this bill, we will deter threats and stand united against religious intolerance.

HONORING BARB LUTZ

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

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barb Lutz. Barb has spent her entire adult life faithfully serving our military as a Federal civil service employee, primarily at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, as well as in Europe.

Barb has held numerous positions at the base and is currently the executive assistant to the commander of the 20th Air Force and Task Force 214 at F.E. Warren. She is responsible for providing the commander and vice commander with executive support, as well as serving as protocol specialist for the headquarters staff.

After a distinguished 43-year career, Barb is retiring this week. When Barb's current and former coworkers at F.E. Warren reached out to me about recognizing her, General Cotton best summed up how her colleagues feel about her when he said: "We all know Barb is a national treasure."

I want to thank Barb for all she has done for Wyoming and for the country over her 43-year career, and I wish Barb and her family the best in retirement.

TOPICS OF THE DAY

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives and to once again continue this dialogue that we have with you, all of our Members and staff and the American people.

To initiate this dialogue, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) of the Eighth Congressional District, born in Green Bay.

AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, every time I have the privilege of addressing this body, I am reminded of