

Mr. BUDD 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 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING COACH DON DAVIDSON

(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 to congratulate Don Davidson for 50 years of teaching and coaching at Yorkville High School, Aurora Christian, and Parkview Christian Academy.

Coach Davidson's ability to inspire and energize his students of all ages has led them to hundreds of victories on the basketball court, earning him a place in the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Not only does Don hold the second longest home winning streak in Illinois history, with 80 wins from February 1988 until February 1997, but his exceptional coaching has secured 677 career varsity wins, 10 IHSA regional titles, 5 IHSA sectional titles, and 3 ACSI Great Lakes championships.

More importantly, Don is a generous, compassionate mentor who cares deeply about the lives of his students off the court.

Don, thank you for your 50 years of service to our community and, most importantly, for embodying the life of Christ to your students and to their parents, like me.

VOICING SUPPORT FOR SCIENTISTS AND FEDERAL WORKERS

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice support for the dedicated public servants who make this country great.

President Trump campaigned on a promise to drain the swamp, and instead he nominated unqualified Wall Street executives and career politicians for Cabinet and senior-level positions, leaving the next level of appointments almost entirely unfilled, all while threatening to cut the experienced Federal workforce who make our government work well every day.

As the only Ph.D. physicist in Congress, I know that many of these Federal workers and their support staff are scientists who work every day to advance innovation and improve our standard of living. The Department of

Energy, for example, relies on scientists with technical expertise to run our national labs. The success of their work depends on long-term sustained funding and a continuity of competent leadership to make their new ideas a reality.

But our President's skinny budget would destroy scientific funding and force us to give up our place as a leader in innovation, and many of his appointments are insulting jokes. So last weekend I joined the March for Science because it is clear that this administration does not value science and scientific enterprise.

I call on my colleagues here today to support scientists and Federal workers. And if a swamp needs to be drained, the place to start is Mar-a-Lago.

TAX FREEDOM DAY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday marked Tax Freedom Day, determined by the Tax Foundation, led by President Scott Hodge. This is the day when our citizens have earned enough money to pay their tax bill for the year.

It is alarming that American taxpayers must work 113 days to foot the bill for their annual tax obligation. Collectively, American families spent more on their taxes this year than on food, clothing, and housing combined. This is an abuse of the American people, limiting their ability to spend their own hard-earned wages.

As Tax Freedom Day is pushed later each year, we must commit to commonsense reforms to the Tax Code. The Federal Government takes too much from American workers with an obsessive push to increase taxes, destroying jobs.

I am encouraged by the tax plan President Donald Trump outlined yesterday and look forward to working with him to provide tax reform that will create jobs, simplify the Tax Code, and grow the economy. I am confident that, by working together, we can deliver comprehensive, balanced tax reforms for American families which will promote jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

PUERTO RICO MEDICAID FUNDS EVAPORATING

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, while my Republican colleagues take their sweet time passing a bill to fund the government, Puerto Rico is watching its Medicaid funds evaporate.

In this package, we must provide sufficient resources to address this short-

fall from the funding authorized under the ACA that is already owed to the people of Puerto Rico.

I remind Congress the funding under discussion would close a Medicaid shortage that was created by the unequal treatment of American citizens in Puerto Rico, fueling a healthcare crisis of historic proportions.

Last year, Speaker PAUL RYAN committed to helping the people of Puerto Rico. As he, himself, recognized, these are our fellow citizens.

Yes, Mr. President, they are American citizens. They have fought, shed blood, and given their lives in nearly every major war, yet they have been treated unfairly for decades.

Donald Trump's own HHS Secretary recently acknowledged Puerto Rico needs \$900 million to fund Medicaid. For once, I agree with the Secretary.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, a labor union's purpose is simple: to represent its members and to bargain on their behalf. But for millions of Americans who are currently paying union dues, their money is sometimes being used for political advocacy that they may not support.

The First Amendment in our Constitution grants workers around the country the freedom to donate or not to donate to any political cause. As it currently stands, however, union members have to opt out of having their dues spent on certain political activity. This process can be burdensome, and it can be complicated and time consuming.

Instead of asking workers to go through a lengthy process just to avoid funding political causes they don't support, they should have the choice from the start whether to opt in to that spending or not.

Earlier this week, I introduced the National Paycheck Protection Act that would require an employee's consent before their labor organization dues are used for any purpose not directly related to collective bargaining.

Mr. Speaker, union members are Americans before they are Republicans or Democrats, and this simple change would be the first step in the fight for more worker freedom.

DRAIN THE SWAMP

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Saturday marks 100 days since President Trump took office. He is far from "draining the swamp" as promised. He stacked his administration with billionaires, family members, and people with dangerous ties to Russian interests.

His national security policies have been a far cry from the steady-handed

decisionmaking he promised. From Mar-a-Lago missile strikes to aggressive and impulsive national security rhetoric, the President has made our foreign policy as murky as swamp water—a dangerous practice in today's world.

One hundred days in, the President is heavy on alternative facts and light on action. Where is his job bill? Where is his infrastructure and cybersecurity plan? Where is all of the “winning” we were supposed to be sick of by now?

It has been 100 days, Mr. President. It is time to do something the American people can get behind. You can start by draining the swamp you created at the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the life and legacy of Donna Lynn Johnson who, for 40 years, brought quality eye care to the South Side of Chicago. She will be greatly missed by her patients, family, and especially her niece, Donna Miller.

Lastly, I am proud to have Baily Lynn Compton from Texas as my shadow today.

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST FISH FRY, PARIS TENNESSEE

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the World's Biggest Fish Fry, which happens to be this week in Paris, Tennessee. Each year at the end of April, people from all across the country travel to west Tennessee to take part in a week-long celebration that includes parades, a carnival, rodeos, dances, catfish races, and much more.

The Fish Fry, as folks call it in west Tennessee, originated in 1938 as one of the many “Mule Days,” when farmers gathered to trade their products, do their shopping, and enjoy the fellowship of their community.

By the 1950s, the tractor replaced the mule, so the good citizens of Paris and Henry County started a new event that is now known in west Tennessee and around the country to be “The World's Biggest Fish Fry.”

The festival ends with the main event this Friday, April 28, when more than 5 tons of catfish will be cooked, leading up to a grand 2-hour finale of parades.

I thank the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce for their leadership in preserving this great west Tennessee tradition.

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REPUBLICAN HEALTH CARE

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the new Republican healthcare scam, again, slams good hardworking Americans with higher

costs and less healthcare coverage. Fewer people will have healthcare coverage, and insurance companies will increase their already record profits.

And what would a Republican healthcare bill plan be without a massive tax cut for high-paid insurance executives?

UnitedHealthcare is one of America's largest insurers and is under investigation by the Department of Justice for defrauding Medicare and the American people out of billions of dollars over the past decade.

On page 67, in seven words, this Republican bill gives their chief executive officer, who made \$66 million in 2014, a massive tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, this is disgusting and morally reprehensible.

TAKE YOUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

(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 there are a lot of children in the Capitol for Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

While my three sons are all grown and scattered across the country, I do have the privilege of having Seth Lewis Parish with me today.

Seth lives in Maryland, and thanks to the nonprofit Tuesday's Children, he gets to spend the day with me—or better yet, I get to spend the day with him.

Seth is 7 years old and actively involved in his Cub Scout pack. I was really glad to hear that, as I am an Eagle Scout who has been involved in Scouting all my life. Seth is in the first grade. He is a Tiger Scout, plays ice hockey, and also participates in tae kwon do.

In 2009, Seth's dad was serving in the Army and lost his life about a month before Seth was born. Tuesday's Children uses its experience and expertise to help our military families work through their own losses.

Seth's mom, Debbie, dropped him off at my office this morning. He is the best-dressed guy today on the floor and, very frankly, on Capitol Hill, right over there.

Seth, I hope you are having a good day shadowing an old Scout like me.

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Representative FITZPATRICK and I introduced a bipartisan resolution calling on the House to commit to the removal of political gerrymandering from congressional redistricting and to improve the public confidence in our electoral process.

Every citizen in every State deserves to have the same ability as citizens in

States like California, Arizona, Hawaii, and Ohio, who now have to draw their Congressional district boundaries without the influence and gamesmanship of politics.

The political gerrymandering of our congressional districts, which attacks at the very bedrock the right of every American to fair representation, has seriously undermined the public's trust in our democratic system.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to get the back room out of the ballot box and let the people decide.

HONORING U.S. CHESS TEAM FOR ITS GOLD MEDAL VICTORY AT 42ND WORLD CHESS OLYMPIAD

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the U.S. Chess Team for its historic victory in the 42nd Chess Olympiad held in Baku, Azerbaijan, this past September.

The last time the United States won this competition was 40 years ago at the 1976 Chess Olympiad in Haifa, Israel. At that time, the gold medal was determined by the outcome of a single game that lasted 14 hours and contained 111 moves, and eventually ended in our favor.

The final round in Baku was even more strategic, with the gold medal determined by a brilliant final move. The game was close, but the United States Chess Team took home the gold once again.

Today I would like to honor the six members of the winning chess team as well as their coach. This was a great accomplishment for the United States. I am honored to have the opportunity in Congress to recognize them.

For the next 2 years, the Olympiad trophy will rest and be on display at the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis, Missouri. I look forward to recognizing the team's accomplishments in my home State.

THE FCC AND NET NEUTRALITY RULES

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the new Trump-appointed FCC Chairman announced his mission to undermine the net neutrality rules that we fought so hard to put in place.

In 2015, over 4 million people submitted comments calling on the FCC to keep the internet open and fair. However, the FCC's new Chairman, who used to work as counsel for Verizon, wants to turn the internet into a system of pay-to-play fast lanes for Big Money and people who can afford it, leaving everyone else behind in the slow lane.

This hands the levers of access over to big ISPs at the expense of students,