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HEALTHCARE SCAM

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, for the third time in 90 days, Republicans are trying to take away patient protections for Americans with preexisting medical conditions. Fifty percent of all Americans and 86 percent of Americans ages 55 through 64 have preexisting conditions. There is a genetic influence in many people who have preexisting conditions, meaning that tens of millions of Americans are born into a predisposition for certain diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's, and heart disease.

The Republican healthcare scam would obliterate protections for preexisting conditions. For example, if you have a dad with a kid who is stuck with childhood cancer, the dad could buy a policy, but that policy would not have to cover his kid's cancer treatments. That, Mr. Speaker, is a deliberate intent to deceive the American people.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

(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, next week marks Teacher Appreciation Week, which recognizes the special role educators make for American families.

As the husband of a retired schoolteacher and a grateful dad of four sons with eight grandchildren, I know firsthand the positive impact educators have for students.

South Carolina's Second Congressional District is filled with dedicated and talented teachers and administrators, and it is always a pleasure to visit with them at their school or when their classes visit Washington.

I would also like to recognize the 2017 Teacher of the Year, Jennifer Wise, of Hand Middle School of Columbia, which my mother attended. As a math teacher, Jennifer motivates her students for mathematics to energize their lives outside of the classroom.

The success of our teachers is amplified by the leadership of State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman, working with Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, and the parents, teachers, administrators, and locally elected school boards who are making a difference for the students of South Carolina for job opportunities and meaningful lives.

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

VIETNAMESE BLACK APRIL

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday we commemorated the 42nd anniversary of Black April and the fall of Saigon. On this day, we are reminded of the pain of losing your homeland and of the sacrifices made in search for freedom.

When Saigon fell in 1975, thousands of families were forced to flee their home, and many came to America with nothing but hope and their dreams to keep them alive.

Today I am proud to have represented Little Saigon, the largest concentration of Vietnamese outside of Vietnam. Each and every one of them has a personal connection to the sacrifices that their families have made and to the loss of their homes. This shared experience has made the Vietnamese community and culture thrive in Orange County, California.

I am honored to represent this community and mourn alongside with them. I am proud that America gave them shelter in their time of need.

The U.S. must always be a beacon of hope to those without hope. We must continue to stand up for human rights and religious freedom.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
MATTHEW McCLANAHAN

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

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Matthew McClanahan.

Matthew was a loving and devoted family man, a friend to so many, a respected employee who worked among our congressional community for the Office of the Architect of the Capitol. Born in Annapolis, Maryland, Matthew made his home in Glen Burnie, Maryland. As part of the maintenance division team of the Capitol Grounds, he was only 30 years young when he passed away.

Respected by his colleagues and exemplifying hard work and dedication to his trade, he was known as being good-humored and someone always ready to lend a helping hand. Our entire congressional community mourns the loss of one of our own, following the terrible accident that took place last month on April 18.

Later today, I will stand with my House colleagues in a moment of silence to honor and remember Matthew McClanahan. My entire staff and I join with the Architect of the Capitol team in offering his family, especially his wife, Lauren, and children, Evie and Matthew, our prayers and deepest sympathies.

TERRIBLE HEALTHCARE PLAN

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, Republicans in Congress and now President

Trump are twisting arms and trying to make a deal to get their terrible healthcare bill through this House of Representatives.

It is so interesting to note that they are working really hard to make sure they can have a vote, if they can, before Members have to go home and speak to the people that they work for.

Why would that be? Why would they be so fearful of having to go back and explain what is happening?

They would rather go back and say: It is too late. I already voted for it. Sorry.

They do that because they know this is a bad piece of legislation. Don't just take it from me. Other Republican Members have said things like: This legislation provides health care in name only or it torpedoed protections for people with preexisting conditions.

No one should be fooled by this last-minute ditch effort to put some money on the table as if it is enough to provide support for preexisting conditions.

Let's be clear, this change eliminates the guarantee that you can get coverage if you have any sort of preexisting condition. We should reject it.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD
AWARDED UNIT OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Minnesota National Guard unit for recently receiving the prestigious John J. Stanko Army National Guard Unit of the Year Award.

During their deployment, which included soldiers spread across multiple locations, the Bravo Company 2 of the 211th General Support Aviation Battalion completed more than 300 missions across Afghanistan, enduring some of the most difficult and dangerous environments imaginable. Additionally, they moved an incredible 1 million pounds of cargo and participated in high-risk missions and deliberate operations to support forces on the ground.

Due to their overall excellent performance, the Bravo Company soldiers have been awarded three Bronze Stars, several Air Medals, eight Combat Action Badges, three Meritorious Service Medals, five Army Commendation Medals, and 14 Army Achievement Medals.

The Bravo Company's achievements have earned them the reputation as one of the best Army aviation units serving in Afghanistan. We are proud to know that these soldiers call Minnesota their home.

I want to thank these soldiers for their brave service to our Nation, their unwavering dedication to their unit, and the honorable way in which they have served. You are the reason the United States Armed Forces are the best in the world.

USPS FOOD DRIVE

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, in advance of the 20th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive next Saturday, let us recognize the unsung heroes within our communities: our letter carriers.

Take David Crestik from San Diego, who carried an injured elderly woman out of a burning mobile home, called 911, and then finished his route; or Shawn Kang from Stockton, who rescued a person trapped underneath his car.

On May 13, letter carriers will stock struggling food pantries across our country through the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Last year, they collected over 80 million pounds of non-perishable canned goods, a record. Let's remember, one in six Americans don't know where their next meal is coming from. So let's honor and recognize the tremendous leadership, compassion, and dedication of our letter carriers. They serve our communities and they are a vital part of them.

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the first week in May as Small Business Week in the United States and to applaud the contributions of the 1 million small-business owners from across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The entrepreneurs at the helm of these businesses take on great risk. As a former small-business owner myself, I fully understand that risk as well as the colossal responsibility associated with signing the front side of a paycheck.

Small business is the backbone of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, employing millions of people, roughly half of the private sector workforce in our Commonwealth. Their success is our success. We thank them for all they do to drive innovation forward and create and sustain careers of tomorrow.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING
SERGEANT JOSHUA RODGERS

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Sergeant Joshua Rodgers, who made the ultimate sacrifice last Wednesday night in Afghanistan. Sergeant Rodgers was a native of Bloomington, Illinois, in my congressional district, and was one of two American soldiers killed during a raid targeting an ISIS prison last week.

Sergeant Rodgers graduated from Normal Community High School in 2013, where he competed on the track and football teams. His teammates and coaches remember him as a hard worker and a great leader. He had a true sense of duty and believed it necessary to serve his country.

After graduation from high school, he enlisted in the Army, achieving the position of Army Ranger. In his short career, he did three tours in Afghanistan. He would go on to receive numerous medals for his service, such as the Army Achievement Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Sergeant Joshua Rodgers was a man of courage, and he gave his life on the battlefield fighting against the evil of ISIS and terrorism. His bravery and sacrifice in the name of liberty and freedom will not be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with Joshua's family during this difficult period.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would ask that the House rise and take a moment of silence to pay tribute to Sergeant Joshua Rodgers for his service and sacrifice for our country and for free people everywhere.

THANKING AMERICA'S TEACHERS

(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, Sunday marks the start of Teacher Appreciation Week nationwide. The National Education Association and the National PTA have teamed up to celebrate America's hard-working, dedicated, and passionate teachers.

Tuesday, May 9, is the official Teacher Day.

Mr. Speaker, I think every Member of this House can think of a teacher who had a positive influence on not only their education, but their life. Our teachers push students to achieve their best and they show students how to realize their full potential.

Teachers are often the most underrated, yet powerful professionals in the entire world. They truly do shape young minds. Teachers lend a caring hand and extend a loving heart. They make differences in the lives of our students academically, emotionally, and physically.

So to every teacher in America, I say to you: Thank you for the job that you do, for the hours that you work, for the patience you show, and for the impact you have on so many lives. Happy National Teachers Week. This Nation would be lost without you.

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SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, today, as we celebrate Small Business Week, I rise to recognize, commend, and stress the importance of small businesses of this country.

I have the honor of serving on the House Small Business Committee every day, and I am reminded that small businesses are the pillars and the cornerstones of the American economy.

The National Small Business Association recently met in our Nation's Capital. They communicated to me their biggest concerns were health care and government overregulation. That is why we believe doing nothing with health care is not an option. That is why this Congress must strive to end the overburdensome regulation this government does to kill jobs.

All across Kansas, and this country, small businesses are driving economic opportunity, innovation, and growth. This week, and every week, we must keep their contributions at the forefront of our decisionmaking.

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

(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 in honor of Small Business Week.

Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy and the main driver of our local communities. In fact, two-thirds of all new jobs in the United States are created by small businesses. It is crucial that our entrepreneurs and small-business owners have the support that they need; and as legislators, it is incumbent upon us to create an environment that allows them to succeed.

I am proud to be a member of the Financial Services Committee as we mark up a bill today that will give our small businesses the boost that they need.

The previous administration enacted rules and regulations that helped some big companies and some big cities but slowed growth for our small businesses in rural communities. The Financial CHOICE Act will repeal Dodd-Frank's one-size-fits-all regulations and finally allow small businesses to access the capital they need to grow and to prosper.

I am grateful for this opportunity to celebrate the remarkable small businesses in the Eighth Congressional District of Tennessee, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass financial regulatory reform that will revive our economy.

NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM
WEEK

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Travel and