

Oversight and Government Reform Committee effective immediately. It has been a privilege and honor to have served on this committee.

Sincerely,

TED W. LIEU,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 52

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.—Ms. Blunt Rochester.

(2) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Khanna, Ms. Jayapal, and Mr. Carbajal.

(3) COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—Mr. Ted Lieu of California.

(4) COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.—Ms. Hanabusa, Ms. Barragán, Mr. Soto, Mr. Panetta, Mr. McEachin, and Mr. Brown of Maryland.

(5) COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM.—Mrs. Demings, Mr. Krishnamoorthi, and Mr. Raskin.

(6) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY.—Ms. Rosen.

(7) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Mr. Evans and Mrs. Murphy of Florida.

(8) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS.—Mr. Correa.

Mr. CROWLEY (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING MARY FRANCES REPKO

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, every one of us who serves in this House relies on the talented and hardworking staff of ours and of the House itself. We couldn't do what we do without them. They not only serve us faithfully, but serve our constituents as well, and they often do so without recognition.

Today my colleagues and I want to recognize someone who has been serving the people of Maryland's Fifth District and our country as a senior member of my staff for a decade and, indeed, before that, on the Senate side for close to a decade as well.

Many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have come to know Mary

Frances Repko. If you have dealt with the environment, if you have dealt with energy, or if you have dealt with the history of the Senate and the House on energy legislation and environmental legislation over the last 20 years, you know Mary Frances Repko.

Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle know Mary Frances well and respect her deep intellect, her professionalism, and her sage counsel. When it comes to energy policy and environmental issues, there are few on this Hill who know more of the intricacies and complexities of the issues than she does.

I am very proud of Mary Frances because the leadership staffs on both the Democratic and Republican side engage her in order to ensure that all the facts and ramifications of energy and environmental legislation are known and considered.

Mary Frances has been integrally involved in every major energy and environmental legislative debate over the past 10 years.

I know Leader PELOSI is also a great admirer of Mary Frances Repko. Her staff and Mary Frances have worked very closely together, including on the Recovery Act, the American Clean Energy and Security Act, the Energy Independence and Security Act, the EPA Act of 2005, the Renewable Fuel Standard, the BP oil spill, flood insurance, Hurricane Sandy relief, the Water Resources Development Act, the Flint water crisis, the Toxic Substances Control Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, land conservation bills, transportation bills, and fighting partisan antienvironmental riders—an extraordinary history of deep and effective involvement on the issues.

□ 1545

She has also been my lead staff on Puerto Rico, working closely with the Resident Commissioner's staff to help the people of the island through a debt crisis and Zika. For the past 4 years, she has also been the lead staffer for House Democrats' Make It In America plan for investing in job creation and making opportunities more accessible to American workers.

When Mary Frances first came to the whip's office in 2007, I felt fortunate to have enticed her to leave the United States Senate, where she had served as a senior policy adviser for the Committee on the Environment and Public Works. Earlier, she had served as Senator CANTWELL's legislative director, and as legislative staffer for former Senator Russ Feingold.

Now it is with a great sadness that we must wish her farewell and send her back to the Senate, where she will return to the Environment and Public Works Committee as its new deputy staff director.

Ms. PELOSI. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Whip HOYER for yielding and for calling attention to the serious loss the House will suffer with Mary Frances leaving.

The first thing that I am inclined to say is: Mary Frances, say it isn't so. We so depend on your wisdom, your knowledge, your judgment, your advice, and guidance on all of the issues that the distinguished whip has mentioned.

The appreciation for Mary Frances goes well beyond the whip's office, throughout the leadership, and our caucus and, I think, across the aisle, certainly across the Capitol.

I was hoping in the last couple of days that the decision might be reversed, but Mary Frances, we wish her well. We are not sending her, Mr. HOYER, to the Senate. She is going to the Senate. But it is wonderful to know that the Senate will be blessed with her great leadership, knowledge, wisdom, judgment, and beautiful temperament.

Mary Frances, thank you. Don't be a stranger to us. We look forward to continuing our work together to preserve our planet, to create jobs in our country, to do so many things that are a part of your values and our values.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I know that Mary Frances very much appreciates the words of Leader PELOSI. I know that the leader is absolutely correct: we are not sending her. She is going.

But I want to tell the leader and tell this House that I talked to Senator CARPER, who is the chairman of the committee, and I said: TOM, I will not stand in the schoolhouse door, if you will, and not let her out of our office; but you must pledge that she will be available for our calls and for our questions on a regular basis.

Madam Leader, he assures me that that is the case. I thank the gentleman for the comments.

Mr. Speaker, our loss, though, is the Senate's gain. I have no doubt that Mary Frances will bring her talents, her wisdom, and her Michigan-bred can-do attitude to the important work the committee will undertake this Congress and in the years ahead.

I hope all of my colleagues and, indeed, the American people we serve will join me in thanking Mary Frances Repko for her contributions to the work of this House and to the service she has given to our country during her time as a member of the staff of the Senate and the House.

I hope you will all join me in wishing her great success in her new position, in which I can assure you she will not be a stranger to us in the House, but a crucial liaison to the work of the Environment and Public Works Committee just across the hall.

Thank you, Mary Frances. Thank you for a job well done and for your service and wise counsel.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE AT CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA FOOD BANK

(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, on Monday, I will honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, legacy by volunteering my time to help veterans in my community. Congressman SCOTT PERRY of Pennsylvania's Fourth District and I will be at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank in Harrisburg to pack boxes for the MilitaryShare program.

MilitaryShare is a program that serves fresh, nutritious meals to families with at least one member who has served in the military. This program assists area veterans and their families to ensure they do not go hungry.

Our veterans have numerous needs when they leave the military, and many of them are life-threatening challenges as a result of combat such as post-traumatic stress injury. When we help meet the nutritional needs of military families, it allows them to focus on other pressing issues such as joblessness or treatment for combat-related health issues.

MilitaryShare serves more than 4,000 households in central Pennsylvania, which translates to about 10,000 people a month.

Mr. Speaker, to serve one's country is a noble and selfless act. The very least we can do is to help our veterans transition to civilian life when they return home.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH AND YOUTH MENTORS ACROSS THE NATION

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Mentoring Month and in honor of the youth mentors across Rhode Island and the Nation.

Every day, mentors enrich the lives of young people. They are powerful role models who provide essential support for at-risk youth.

Just some of examples of the powerful impact that mentors have in the life of young people are that vulnerable young people with mentors are more likely to enroll in college and volunteer more regularly than their peers. They are 46 percent less likely to start using drugs and 52 percent less likely to skip school.

They are also more likely to develop self-confidence, form healthy relationships, and cultivate productive habits.

Organizations like the Rhode Island Mentoring Partnership and Big Brothers Big Sisters lead the way in the Ocean State. Organizations like this and mentors across the country are im-

proving our communities one child at a time, and I am proud to honor them as we recognize National Mentoring Month this January 2017. I encourage more people to step forward and serve as mentors and make a difference in the lives of young people.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD DESIGNATE THE IRGC AS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. It funds and controls terrorists groups like Hezbollah. Its tentacles stretch all over the world, far beyond the Middle East.

Many of its activities are done through the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, which has funded, planned, and executed terrorist attacks in the United States and elsewhere for decades.

The IRGC is the parent organization of the Quds Force and is directly responsible for its terrorist activities worldwide. But somehow this group has managed to escape repercussions, and the United States has never recognized it as a terrorist organization. I am working to change that.

This week I introduced the IRGC Terrorist Sanctions Act. This bill will require the President to designate the IRGC for its terrorist activity and levy the relevant statutory sanctions against it.

It is time to close loopholes like these that allow terrorist-affiliated groups to continue their reign of terror. Designate and sanction these terrorist groups that are sponsored by the number one world state sponsor of terrorism, Iran.

And that is just the way it is.

SHAM AND SCAM

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans just voted to begin the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Their misguided and heartless effort will not just affect thousands of insurance policies in Nevada, but it will cost the State jobs, it will diminish access to health care, and it will jeopardize lives.

Nevada had one of the highest uninsured rates in the country before the ACA. Since then, we have cut the rate by almost 50 percent, and we have created a system that now provides 400,000 children and adults with coverage. But Trump and the congressional Republicans don't want to hear about that.

Make no mistake, when they voted to repeal the ACA, they are revoking vital programs that offer cancer screenings and mental health assistance. They are rescinding provisions that prevent insurance companies from charging

women more than men, or from denying benefits because of preexisting conditions.

This is unconscionable. Instead of repeal and replace, the Republicans should just call their proposal "destroy and delay," or perhaps just simply "scam and sham."

RUSSIAN THREAT TO U.S. DEMOCRACY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the freedom to live in a democratic society with freedom of speech, assembly, press, and religion are rights Americans hold most precious.

Not so in Putin's Russia. Putin's Russia brutally invaded Ukraine in 2013, resulting, to date, in over 10,000 war dead, with millions of displaced persons. The war grinds on.

Dozens and dozens of Putin's critics in the press have ended up dead, murdered for expressing their views. In 2015, Boris Nemstov, about to lead an assembly in favor of Ukrainian independence in Moscow, was murdered on the stairs near the Kremlin.

Georgiy Gongadze, editor of the news Website Ukrayinska Pravda, featured critical articles about Putin ally Leonid Kuchma. He disappeared in the year 2000, and his headless body was discovered in a forest more than 40 miles from home.

Anna Politkovskaya, a Russian journalist, was murdered in the elevator of her block of flats in 2006.

And Paul Klebnikov, an American, who was chief editor of the Russian edition of Forbes, was killed in 2004, likely by hired assassins.

All dead, no investigations, no justice. This is Putin's Russia.

President-elect Trump best be very wary of whom he showers praise upon, for the cock is crowing too close to home.

COMMEMORATING THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the anniversary of the devastating earthquake that struck the nation of Haiti on January 12, 2010. This Thursday marked 7 years since a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, killing Haiti's population center and the seat of its government.

The aftermath of the quake was unimaginable. 316,000 people perished, and 1.3 million were displaced. This tragedy struck a nation already hobbled by grinding poverty, health disparities, and food insecurity. Approximately 147,000 people remain internally displaced in Haiti, with countless others displaced outside IDP camps.