

Mr. BILIRAKIS 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.

PRAY FOR VICTIMS OF STORM IN GEORGIA

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have the great privilege of representing a beautiful part of this country. Many of you have seen it on the news lately. Cook County is ground zero for the storms that hit this past weekend. We have seven deaths in Cook County, two in Berrien, two in Brooks, four in Dougherty—outside of my district—and we have four lives lost in Mississippi as well.

As I speak to you, the Georgia Forestry Commission is searching for five who are unaccounted for with cadaver dogs. I would ask that you pray for the families who have lost so much, and I would ask that we also pray that they find those who are unaccounted for.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say one thank you as well to the first responders, the volunteers, those from other counties who have provided mutual aid, and the churches who have opened their doors to take care of those who have lost their homes. Thank you.

And I also want to thank Governor Deal and President Trump, both of whom were available yesterday to offer their support and pledge to help our communities rebuild.

WOMEN'S HEALTH ATTACKS

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the age of coat hanger medicine has returned.

It may be a new year, a new Congress, a new administration, but Republicans are taking us back to a dangerous past, one where women were maimed and killed by back-alley abortions.

Today, our new President signed an executive order restricting safe abortions for women around the world. And tomorrow, Republicans will vote to block American women from access to full reproductive care.

Our government is about to enter our bedrooms and take the lives and liberty of our women and our families.

With every breath, we must fight back.

CONSTITUENT EXPERIENCES WITH OBAMACARE

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, last week, I met with a group of my constituents to discuss their experiences with the Affordable Care Act.

Here is what I heard: My deductible went from \$2,500 to \$6,000, so it wasn't even worth it.

The first year wasn't too bad until I found out I needed a knee replacement, said a constituent who found out her surgery wouldn't be covered because her physician was excluded from her plan's network.

A professor who saw his hours cut after passage of ObamaCare and lost his insurance because it didn't comply with the law's mandates said: I had to get a second job and sometimes a third job, and it made it very difficult.

A local small business owner saw premiums on his group plan increase by as much as \$2,500 a month for family coverage and \$975 a month for single employee coverage.

There were skyrocketing premiums, unaffordable deductibles, restricted access to physicians, and loss of coverage.

Mr. Speaker, these are real stories from real people in my district who want relief from the Affordable Care Act.

We are working to save patients from this disastrous law and to build a better healthcare system that lowers costs, expands access, and empowers patients.

MORTGAGE INSURANCE HURTS HOMEOWNERS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I was really disappointed that, on his first day in office, President Trump took action through executive order to make it more difficult for hardworking families to own a home.

With this executive order that the President signed, again, on day one, he canceled a scheduled FHA directive that would have saved American homeowners hundreds of dollars a year.

Under President Obama, millions of Americans were set to receive hundreds of dollars in reduction in those fees, saving on their mortgage payments, saving on their monthly payment.

Under this executive order, not only will Americans with mortgages pay more than they would have, but it will also prevent many Americans from being able to own a home.

In fact, according to the National Association of Realtors, 40,000 American families who could have purchased a home will not have access to that part of the American Dream because of this executive order by President Trump. This has a real impact.

Rather than obsessing about the size of crowds at inaugurations, we ought to focus on this. This is real news.

FLOOD INSURANCE INTEGRITY ACT

(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 discuss important legislation I will soon be introducing in this Congress, the Flood Insurance Integrity Act.

Flooding and flood insurance are major issues for Florida and my district. Our community along the coast is prone to experiencing hurricanes and tropical storms on a regular basis. Flood insurance is a must where we live.

But right now, the National Flood Insurance Program bases its flood insurance rates on maps that can be 50 years or older. Many are completely out of date and often inaccurate. It is also one of the reasons that NFIP is over \$23 billion in debt.

The Flood Insurance Integrity Act will require an open and transparent annual review of flood maps. It sounds good.

Americans who need flood insurance should be able to trust that their flood insurance premiums accurately reflect their flood risk. It is the least we can do. So that is why this bill seeks to do that.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF DETECTIVE JERRY WALKER

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

Mr. BURGESSION. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Detective Jerry Walker of Little Elm, Texas.

Detective Walker was lost in the line of duty last week when he responded to an emergency call that involved an active shooter. This great loss has cast a shadow of sadness over our close-knit community. This is the first time in the city's history that we have lost an officer in the line of duty.

Detective Walker was a dedicated member of our police force and community. He was a husband, a father, a mentor, and a friend to many. I had the privilege of meeting Detective Walker when he was on duty at one of my townhall meetings in the summer of 2014. His dedication to protecting the residents of Little Elm was evident in all that he did.

Dallas Cowboys' wide receiver Cole Beasley sums up this loss precisely saying: "We lost a good one."

Our town of Little Elm continues to mourn the loss of one of our heroes. His service to our community will not be forgotten.

I extend my deepest sympathy to Detective Walker's family and will continue to keep them in my prayers.

EXCESSES OF MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

(Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Bret Baier of Fox News has a new book called, “Three Days in January.” It is primarily about President Eisenhower’s warnings against the excesses of the military-industrial complex.

Today, we have a military-industrial security complex that is more about money than it is about any realistic threat.

I think President Eisenhower would be shocked at how far we have traveled down the road against which he warned us. Our new President has spoken out against the excessive, exorbitant cost of some of our newest military equipment and weapons systems.

The only way we will ever bring these costs under control is if we stop the revolving door at the Pentagon, where the defense contractors hire all of the retired admirals and generals.

President Eisenhower once said: Heaven help us if we ever have a President who doesn’t know as much about the military as he did.

We need more leaders who have the guts to say “no” to the excessive spending by the military-industrial complex.

SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK 2017

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, at the heart of our American values is the belief that each of us, no matter our circumstance, can pursue our own success through hard work. That is how a small town boy like me wound up a businessman in Augusta and now a Member of Congress.

The value of education cannot be underestimated on the path to achieve the American Dream. That is why I proudly support school choice.

Support for school choice is growing. Evidence shows that 70 percent of Americans are in favor.

A great success story is in Dublin, Georgia, located in my district. Parents can choose an elementary school with learning tracks based on a student’s individual needs and interest. And those tracks continue through their childhood education.

I am very proud to say that Dublin High School has a 96.3 percent graduation rate.

God created every child to be unique, each with special gifts and ideas that only he or she may have.

Families should have the opportunity to select a K-12 education and environment that is best suited for their children.

EL DORADO FURNITURE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize El Dorado Furniture, a family-owned business in my congressional district celebrating its 50th anniversary.

El Dorado was founded by Manuel Capo and his two sons Luis and Carlos within a year of arriving to the United States after fleeing Cuba due to the rise of the evil Castro regime.

They deemed it only appropriate to name their store El Dorado named after the small boat upon which they sailed to freedom to our lovely country.

Today, there are 14 locations throughout Florida, and it is recognized as the largest Hispanic-owned furniture retail business in the country. Not only does this company provide hundreds of jobs, but it also partners with numerous organizations in order to give back to the community and to those in need.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating El Dorado Furniture’s 50th anniversary, and congratulate the Capo family, and wish them all the best and continued success in the years ahead.

□ 1415

MEMBERS URGED TO JOIN GERMAN-AMERICAN CAUCUS

(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 to highlight the good work of the Congressional German-American Caucus and to urge new Members of the House to consider joining.

I am cochairman of the caucus with Representative BILL KEATING from Massachusetts. The caucus seeks to highlight the friendship and the alliance between the United States and Germany. We do so through an Oktoberfest networking event and through our support of programs like the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange internship program. The caucus also discusses timely topics, such as trade, security, and foreign affairs, and how they relate to our German counterparts.

Mr. Speaker, German heritage has become widespread in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Germans are the largest single ethnic group in the United States. Frederick Muhlenberg, a German immigrant and Lutheran pastor from Pennsylvania, whose family also founded Muhlenberg College, was the first Speaker of this House following the signing of the new Constitution.

Our caucus has nearly 100 members in the House, and I urge all of those who are interested in joining to do so today.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILEY WASDEN, JR.

(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 to honor Mr. Wiley Anderson Wasden, Jr., from Savannah, Georgia, who passed away on January 18, 2017, just a few days shy of his 80th birthday.

Born in Millen, Georgia, to his parents, Wiley Senior and Katherine, Mr. Wasden moved to Savannah after graduating from high school in 1953. He then began studies at the University of Georgia, where he joined the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and ignited his interest in government. Throughout his life, Mr. Wasden continued this interest in government and used it to make the State of Georgia a better place to live, eventually serving as chairman of the Georgia State Republican Party and as a Georgia State senator. Outside of government, Mr. Wasden worked hard for his community. He was a well-respected local Realtor in Savannah while he also served as chairman of the board for Savannah Country Day School.

I am proud today to recognize Mr. Wasden’s outstanding life and the positive impact he made on the State of Georgia. He will certainly be missed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1529

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee) at 3 o’clock and 29 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

POWER AND SECURITY SYSTEMS (PASS) ACT

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 511) to provide for consideration of the extension under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of non-application of No-Load Mode energy efficiency standards to certain security