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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, July 31, 2017, at 4 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2017

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Pastor Scott Poling, Harvest New Beginnings Church, Oswego, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Lord, I pray for these who serve this Nation, for they ultimately serve You. There is no authority except from God, and these gathered here, whether they realize it or not, are Your ministers for the good of the people of the United States of America.

I pray for the men and women in this room and those who will soon fill these seats. Help them to acknowledge You, come to faith in You, look to You, and live in the fear of God and not the fear of men. Embolden them to make good godly decisions that You deem right, based on the authority of Your holy inspired word.

I especially pray for the many Representatives who are Your true children by faith in Jesus Christ. Grant them Your favor and blessing and raise them up. Give them supernatural strength through the work that they do. Give them great wisdom for the decisions they make and the direction in which they lead this Nation.

God, purify their motives, protect them from pride, help them bow, lest they break, and may they never forget Your promise: "He who honors Me, I will honor."

In Jesus' name, the only name by which we have access to Heaven, I pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DELBENE 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.

WELCOMING PASTOR SCOTT POLING

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today pleased to welcome Pastor Scott Poling, who graciously delivered our opening prayer in the House this morning.

For more than 20 years, Pastor Scott has faithfully led the congregation at Harvest New Beginnings Church in Oswego, Illinois, where my family and I attend.

His passion for evangelism and outreach is contagious. Those touched by his ministry have seen firsthand his en-

ergy and passion for people around the globe.

When he is not running ultra-marathons or playing tennis, he spends time expanding the church's international ministry, and has equipped African pastors with the leadership skills to carry God's truth into their congregations.

Scott and his wife, Carla, are celebrating 26 years of life-giving marriage, along with their five beautiful children.

Pastor Scott, we praise God for how your ministry has affected so many, and our legislative work is blessed by your prayers over us today.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUCSHON) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 27, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 27, 2017, at 6:33 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3364.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLONEL SYLVANUS THAYER

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th anniversary of Colonel Sylvanus Thayer entering West Point as the fifth superintendent of the United States Military Academy.

Colonel Thayer served 16 years as superintendent and is remembered as the "Father of the Military Academy." He is responsible for innovations that evolved the Academy into the world's premier leader development institution. His character-based leadership education system set new standards that are still expected of all cadets today.

The current superintendent is General Bob Caslen, who carries on Colonel Thayer's traditions and instills the ideals of duty, honor, and country in our future leaders.

To that end, the West Point Class of 2017 just graduated, and I congratulate the 936 commissioned 2nd lieutenants of the United States Army as they take their place in the long gray line. The class of 2017 has just begun with 1,230 members beginning their West Point experience.

I thank Colonel Thayer and those who follow him for exhibiting courage and developing leaders of character in the defense of our country. With that, I say: Beat Navy.

REINTRODUCING THE SMART ENFORCEMENT ACT

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

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, 26 States and the District of Columbia have legalized some form of marijuana, including my home State of Washington. Yet marijuana possession or use for any purpose is still prohibited under Federal law, leaving my constituents, including cancer patients, at risk of prosecution.

That is why today I am reintroducing the State Marijuana and Regulatory Tolerance Enforcement Act, the SMART Enforcement Act. My bill will fix the conflict between State and Federal law by giving States a waiver from the Controlled Substances Act.

It also resolves the banking issues currently forcing dispensaries to operate in an unsafe all-cash basis.

These waivers will ensure people in States that have different laws from

the Federal Government on marijuana are protected from prosecution, provided they meet certain requirements, because people in these States should not live in fear of unpredictable actions from the Attorney General and the Department of Justice on this issue.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LARRY JEFF ELEY, SR.

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

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Jeff Eley, Sr., a friend and strong advocate for farmers, growers, and landowners in my home district. He passed away suddenly at the age of 71 on July 17.

He was well known in Greene County, Georgia, as a gentle giant and will be remembered for his love for his family and his tireless efforts as president of the Greene County Farm Bureau and his steadfast leadership in the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts.

Farming was Larry's life. He was a guiding force in the community, who actively worked with State and local leaders to foster and promote a better understanding of agriculture. He was a leading voice for Georgia's farmers. Larry's legacy will better ensure that our children and grandchildren will experience the same opportunities to enjoy the natural resources of Georgia's 10th Congressional District just as our parents and grandparents.

Mr. Eley is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Nancy, and their four children and their grandchildren. Dee Dee and I both extend our thoughts and prayers to the family during this time of bereavement.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to have known Larry and to witness his passion firsthand. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his unyielding commitment to the State of Georgia and our agriculture community.

GIVING SMALL BUSINESS A BETTER DEAL

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, Donald Trump has now been President for 188 days, and despite the promises, his Republican-controlled Congress has not passed a single meaningful piece of job creation legislation.

Last night, we watched as Republicans failed in their latest effort to take healthcare from the American people. Mr. Speaker, it is time, at last, to move on.

The American people are looking for real proposals to create jobs, increase wages, and strengthen our economy. They are looking for—and they deserve—a better deal.

As the ranking member of the Small Business Committee, almost every day

I hear from entrepreneurs and small businesses who create jobs in our communities, and under Democratic plans, we will give them tools to further succeed.

We will offer small firms tax incentives to bring on and train new employees. We will invest in apprenticeship programs to help meet small businesses' workforce needs. We will expand internet access to fuel the next generation of innovation and e-commerce.

I ask my Republican colleagues, at long last, give up on this obsession with attacking America's healthcare. Instead, let us move forward with giving America's workers and small businesses a better deal.

AUTHORIZING THE E-VERIFY SYSTEM

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

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of permanently authorizing the E-Verify system and requiring U.S. employers to use the system to ensure their employees are eligible to be working in the United States.

I am proud to be a partner with United States Senator GRASSLEY of Iowa in offering legislation to do so, entitled "The Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act."

E-Verify is a proven system for making sure job opportunities are for American workers. E-Verify is a deterrent against illegal immigration. Expanding it to new workplaces will make sure legal American workers are not shut out of employment.

There are 700,000 American businesses that successfully use the E-Verify system. There is no cost for the employer or employee to use E-Verify, and our legislation will make sure that there are no costs passed onto businesses, their employees, or to customers.

We should be considering practical solutions that remove incentives for illegal migration into the United States. We need E-Verify up and running, and we need all employers to participate to make it effective.

I urge cosponsorship and collaborations from both sides of the aisle to implement this effective policy.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF MELVIN HERBERT EVANS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I speak on behalf of the centennial anniversary of the birth of the Honorable Melvin Herbert Evans.

This celebration of Governor Evans' 100th birthday is both timely and symbolic. Evans was born in 1917, months