

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. VELAZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. 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

after the transfer of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the United States, when locals had no citizen rights and no mechanism for which they could have their own elected representation.

A son of the soil, he was educated on St. Croix, valedictorian of his high school class on St. Thomas, and in 1944 earned his medical degree from Howard College of Medicine. He returned to St. Croix and was eventually Commissioner of Health of the Virgin Islands.

In 1969, Evans was appointed Governor of the Virgin Islands by President Richard Nixon, earning him the distinction of being the territory's last appointed governor, but more importantly, the territory's first Black native governor.

In 1971, he became the governor elected by the people of the Virgin Islands after a 1970 law which allowed residents to elect their governor.

In 1978, he was elected to the House of Representatives in the 96th Congress. And after leaving Congress, he was an Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago.

Governor Evans personifies the evolution of the political maturity of the Virgin Islands. His life and legacy symbolized not only the extraordinary achievement of Virgin Islanders—given little but striving and attaining much under the American flag—but also the political growth and progress of our Islands from colonial rule to self-governance.

PRAISING PRO-ACT

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the work of the Council of Southeast Pennsylvania. The council provides resources and opportunities to reduce the impact of addiction, trauma, and other health-related issues for the five counties in southeastern Pennsylvania through intervention, education, and mobilization.

Established in 1997 by the council, PRO-ACT works to provide advocacy and residence for those suffering from the terrible disease of addiction. Through workshops and peer advocacy meetings for afflicted individuals and families, addiction victims can get back on their feet and learn necessary skills for both recovery and entering the workforce.

I am proud to work with my constituent, Executive Director Beverly Haberle, and her administrative team, Cindy Mikalauskas and Stacey Conaway.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share the words of a man named Jim, who stated that, through PRO-ACT, “A fire was lit inside of me, my spirit rekindled by hope.”

Recovery from addiction is difficult, and it is up to remarkable associations like the council to serve the southeastern Pennsylvania community and

make sure that these people can successfully beat this devastating disease.

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HONORING FOOTBALL PIONEER TOM FLORES

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

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a resolution for Tom Flores urging he be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Tom Flores had an outstanding and successful career, both as a quarterback and as a head coach. This resolution pays tribute to his inspiring athletic talents.

Flores became the first Hispanic starting quarterback in professional football history and played on two Super Bowl-winning teams. Also, he was the first Hispanic head coach to win two Super Bowls, a feat he accomplished on two separate teams, and he became the first Hispanic manager in the National Football League. He left with an impressive lifetime record and an 8-3 playoff record.

Tom has been a trailblazer for Hispanics in the NFL and has motivated a generation of new players by showing they can compete and win. Let's enter this trailblazer into the Hall of Fame.

CONGRESS SHOULD REMAIN IN WASHINGTON UNTIL A HEALTHCARE BILL IS PASSED

(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 call upon the House leadership to not adjourn until we have a healthcare bill.

Respective committees need to meet and walk a new product through regular order. We know what will and will not work, given the voting prerogatives of the Members of this body and the Senate.

We understand the needs of our constituents, regardless of their voter registration.

We understand it is our job to navigate the complexities of this issue on behalf of the American people and come up with a product that makes good on promises that have been made to improve our healthcare system. This will take Republicans and Democrats.

Later this morning, I will be proud to once again gather with my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, who are members of the Problem Solvers Caucus, part of no labels, to continue our work seeking a bipartisan solution to what has become, unfortunately, a partisan issue.

I stand ready to make good on these promises and suggest that we remain in Washington until that work is complete.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 114, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BONUS TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 480 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 480

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 114) to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 480, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring this rule forward on behalf of the Rules Committee. The rule provides for consideration of S. 114, the Department of Veterans Affairs Bonus Transparency Act.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. The rule also provides for a motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, we can all agree that our Nation's veterans are heroes. They deserve our support, gratitude, and recognition, and they deserve to have the promises we as a nation have made to them fulfilled. Unfortunately, far too often, we fall short of keeping those promises.