

later on, in Rotary, multiple opportunities to go to the museum and to his library and honor Ike.

But, perhaps, the greatest memory I had was when my father was allowed to represent Kansas in Ike's color guard during his funeral procession from Washington, D.C., to Abilene, Kansas.

Like many fellow Kansans, I found Ike's devotion to public service, his leadership, and his integrity to be inspiring, both in his role as Supreme Allied Commander during World War II and during his time as the 34th President of the United States.

In October of 1999, this Congress recognized the significance of General Eisenhower to the United States and passed legislation directing the construction of a national memorial in his honor. This week, this very week, this Friday, the Eisenhower Memorial Commission will finally break ground on the construction of this memorial to commemorate the favorite son of Kansas here in our Nation's Capital.

I want to congratulate and thank several other Kansan legends who are a part of this commission—Senator Bob Dole, Senator PAT ROBERTS, and Senator Nancy Kassebaum—for their work on achieving this milestone, and we look forward to sharing Ike's legacy with generations to come.

PREMATURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, November is Prematurity Awareness Month, and I rise today to discuss the fight to prevent premature births.

I remember my very first night alone at Bayfront Medical Center as a second year OB/GYN resident when I was summoned to the labor and delivery unit at 2 in the morning. There, I found a young lady who never had prenatal care, who literally was bleeding to death as her placenta was tearing away from her uterus. As we rushed her back to the operating room, I did a quick sonogram to figure out if these babies were viable. Just glancing at her, she looked like she was 22 or 23 weeks along. I quickly saw that not only was there one baby in this uterus, but there were two babies. Though we got the babies out in less than 30 seconds, both of those babies perished from their extreme prematurity.

That has been 25 or 30 years ago, Mr. Speaker, and to this day prematurity is still the number one cause of death for infants. One out of ten babies are still born premature, and one out of three of those still die. Though we have done a great job in treating these premature babies, we have done very little to lower the incidence of premature births.

That is why I rise today: to recognize this problem, and to tell everyone that the most important step you can do to prevent premature birth is early prenatal care. That is why, wherever I have been, whether it was a residency in St. Petersburg, Florida, or delivering babies in Great Bend, Kansas, I made sure that every patient, regardless of their ability to pay, had early

access to prenatal care early on in their pregnancy that hopefully identified the risk that might lead to premature birth.

NATIONAL VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Veterans Small Business Week, so I rise today to acknowledge the contribution that these folks have given not only in their service to our country, but also to their communities and businesses.

Veterans bring a unique perspective to entrepreneurship, taking the leadership skills that they developed during their military careers and applying it to starting and growing a business. Nearly 1 in every 10 businesses in this country is owned by a veteran, creating annual sales of over \$1 trillion each year and employing over 5 million Americans across the country.

Veteran-owned businesses are a pillar of our economy. I applaud the success of these veteran entrepreneurs, both in Kansas and across the country, and ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Veterans Small Business Week.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many veteran businesses I can honor today, but here are just a few of them listed from our own Fort Riley area, Junction City: Tim's Auto Sales, Godfrey's Shooting Range, Coyotes Saloon, Disabled American Veterans Engraving Service, Donnerson Mobile Gaming, Mastercut Lawn and Landscape, Rainbow International, The Veteran Woman, JC CrossFit, 360 Kayaking, Fitzgerald's Gunsmithing, and Studio Pink Candy Boutique.

Mr. Speaker, those are just but a few of the veteran-led businesses in my own district, and we are so proud of them and salute them on this week.

□ 1215

OUR ECONOMY IS GROWING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, several economic indicators show us that our economy is growing: the unemployment rate is down, the stock market is up, consumer confidence is at its highest level in over a decade, and businesses are starting to invest in their future again. However, we cannot rest on this short-term snapshot.

For too long, top-down policies from Washington have built a system that is based on protecting the status quo rather than helping small businesses and middle class families. We need to embrace a governing vision that advances the American Dream and puts jobs and economic growth above the partisanship that too often divides us, and this starts with tax reform.

If this Congress is serious about standing up for middle class families and unleashing the power of the American economy, tax reform is the nat-

ural starting point. The model is straightforward. We need to simplify the ridiculously complex Internal Revenue Code, eliminate the loopholes that allow corporations and individuals to avoid paying their fair share, lower the rates for middle class families and for small businesses, and to broaden the tax base. We have the chance to make real, lasting changes to our broken and bloated tax system, and we need to act now.

As a CPA and a member of the Small Business Committee and as a concerned taxpayer, I am committed to fighting for real tax reform based on three core principles: encouraging growth, simplifying the Tax Code itself, and increasing service for the taxpayers. The time is now to act.

RECOGNIZING BILL PEZZA

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, Bristol Borough won the Small Business Revolution, earning the borough a \$500,000 grant to revitalize the community through small business development and entrepreneurship.

Integral to this effort was Mr. Bill Pezza, an individual who defines everything that is great about Bucks County and everything that is great about Bristol Borough.

Bill is a lifelong resident of Bristol, and his love for his hometown shines through in everything he does. He has served the community as an educator on the Bristol Borough Council, as a member of the school board, and as a community activist.

He has championed local businesses, creating an organization called Raising the Bar, a program which brought community leaders and business owners together to support the local Bristol Borough economy. Focused on development and community preservation, he continues to find new ways to serve the Bristol Borough community today.

Bill would be the first one to tell you that the many recognitions he has earned throughout the years belong to the community and not just to him, which is a true sign of his character. However, Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Bill today for being named Person of the Year at this year's Bristol Fall Classic.

I am deeply grateful to Bill for the positive impact on our community, and I congratulate him, his wife, Karen, and his entire family for this much-deserved recognition.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MARSHALL) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Compassionate and merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Give the Members of this House strength, fortitude, and patience. Fill their parties with charity; their minds with understanding; their wills with courage to do the right thing for all of America.

In the work to be done in the week to come may they rise together to accomplish what is best for our great Nation.

Last week, we honored, and we thank You for the service rendered to the Allied cause of the Filipino veterans of World War II. May we always be grateful for the courageous in our midst, and the sacrifices of so many that we might enjoy the freedoms we have as a nation.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 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 October 27, 2017, at 9:48 a.m.:

That the Senate concurs in the House amendment to the bill S. 782.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 28.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

MADE IN SOUTH CAROLINA
CREATES JOBS

(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, I am grateful to recognize the statewide consortium of ten institutions of higher education in South Carolina for receiving a 5-year Research Infrastructure Improvement Track-1 grant from the National Science Foundation's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. This grant led to the creation of the Materials, Assembly, and Design Excellence in South Carolina initiative—or MADE in South Carolina—to create jobs.

This grant encourages small businesses to grow by providing seed money through the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer awards to businesses and materials-related projects. This consortium will further foster research and development in the State by focusing on advanced materials discovery and optimization efforts that are in high demand. MADE in South Carolina will boost the manufacturing and materials science workforce by adding new undergraduate degree programs and expanding current coursework, which will provide and increase the skilled-labor workforce.

As a proponent of creating jobs and encouraging manufacturing across South Carolina, I look forward to seeing these higher education institutions utilizing the grant to stimulate small business growth, jobs, and valuable research.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 5 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 votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM ACT OF 2017

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2921) to establish a vegetation management pilot program on National Forest System land to better protect utility infrastructure from passing wildfire, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2921

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Forest System Vegetation Management Pilot Program Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE RIGHTS-OF-WAY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—To encourage owners or operators of rights-of-way on National Forest System land to partner with the Forest Service to voluntarily perform vegetation management on a proactive basis to better protect utility infrastructure from potential passing wildfires, the Secretary shall conduct a limited, voluntary pilot program, in the manner described in this section, to permit vegetation management projects on National Forest System land adjacent to or near such rights-of-way.

(b) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—A participant in the pilot program must have a right-of-way on National Forest System land. In selecting participants, the Secretary shall give priority to holders of a right-of-way who have worked with Forest Service fire scientists and used technologies, such as Light Detection and Ranging surveys, to improve utility infrastructure protection prescriptions.

(c) PROJECT ELEMENTS.—A vegetation management project under the pilot program involves limited and selective vegetation management activities, which—

(1) shall create the least amount of disturbance reasonably necessary to protect utility infrastructure from passing wildfires based on applicable models, including Forest Service fuel models;

(2) may include thinning, fuel reduction, creation and treatment of shaded fuel breaks, and other measures as appropriate;

(3) shall only take place adjacent to the participant's right-of-way or within 75 feet of the participant's right-of-way;

(4) shall not take place in any designated wilderness area, wilderness study area, or inventoried roadless area; and

(5) shall be subject to approval by the Forest Service in accordance with this Act.

(d) PROJECT COSTS.—A participant in the pilot program shall be responsible for all costs, as determined by the Secretary, incurred in participating in the pilot program, unless the Secretary determines that it is in the public interest for the Forest Service to contribute funds for a vegetation management project conducted under the pilot program.