

San Antonio, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Merciful and loving God, source of life and constant guide to Your people, we ask Your blessings on our esteemed Representatives as they continue to help govern a course for our Nation and its citizens.

In these days of disrepute and impropriety, keep them steadfast in their deliberations. Inspire them to continue in their journey to promote the values upon which this great Nation was founded: justice, liberty, equality, freedom, and peace.

As Your blessings of goodness transcend into a dynamic of creativity, help us to see signs of hope born of pain as we often find ourselves present in the midst of uncertainty and suffering.

May the vacuous space left by stains of catastrophic occurrences open the minds and hearts of all to deeper compassion and a new level of human understanding.

May all that is done here today be for our American democracy while reflecting Your resplendent honor and glory.

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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTENGER 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 CHAPLAIN MICHAEL J. HALYARD

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my colleagues

to our guest chaplain for the U.S. House of Representatives, Reverend Captain Michael Halyard of Jacksonville, Florida—previously of Jacksonville, Florida, I should say. Upon his return from Iraq just recently, he has been deployed to San Antonio, Texas, and that is a loss for northeast Florida.

Reverend Halyard is a respected community leader who is devoted to his community, country, family, and faith. Reverend Halyard serves as a staff chaplain at Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, and he served as an assistant pastor at the United Missionary Baptist Church in Jacksonville. He is also a member of the Florida National Guard, where he has served as the combat veteran battalion chaplain since 2009.

Reverend Halyard leads his church and his community by serving his Nation, leading worship services, and by providing support for grieving families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to welcome Reverend Halyard. May God bless him and our Nation, and especially those who he will be serving in Texas, particularly Sutherland Springs, Texas, today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

EXTEND TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR HAITIANS AND HONDURANS

(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, the administration has announced that it will terminate temporary protected status, or TPS, for Nicaragua while extending the immigration protection for Honduras for merely 6 months. In the coming weeks, an announcement on Haiti's TPS designation is expected.

I am greatly worried about these decisions because over 100,000 Hondurans and Haitians legally residing in our communities could be deported and forced to go back to the instability and chaos in their home countries.

For years, the United States has been providing necessary funding for Honduras, which is still struggling with crime and security challenges, and for Haiti, which continues to be impacted by devastating natural disasters. This is precisely why Congress enacted TPS: so that we can provide a safe haven to those who are unable to securely return to their home countries.

Mr. Speaker, the decision to send these individuals back would be a setback to our bilateral relations with those nations while tearing these families apart.

I strongly urge the administration to extend TPS for Hondurans and Haitians residing in our beautiful country.

INHUMANE TREATMENT OF THE UNDOCUMENTED CANNOT BE REWARDED

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on the appalling state of our Nation's immigration detention centers.

Devoid of health services and basic medical standards, these ICE facilities are cruel and inhumane. Suicide rates are high, children and families are traumatized, and LGBT detainees are subject to alarming rates of abuse.

These centers are also very expensive. Daily operations cost \$165 per detainee, and \$2 billion, annually, despite detention alternatives that can cost as little as \$9 a day.

Yet even with this track record, ICE funding has nearly doubled from the Bush administration to today, and transparency has fallen by the wayside under the current administration, all while conditions continue to deteriorate.

Inhumane treatment of the undocumented cannot be rewarded with repeated budget increases. It goes against our country's most fundamental values and cannot continue. We must cut ICE's budget until these concerns are addressed.

CELEBRATING JEAN GAINES' 40TH ANNIVERSARY AT GENEVA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Jean Gaines for her 40 years of service at the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, most recently as their president. Under her leadership, the chamber has grown substantially, to the benefit of our community and to the State of Illinois.

To those who know Jean Gaines, she is described as intelligent, alert, and fun-loving, a good mix of qualities to steer the board of directors through many challenges.

Through hard work, she has developed multiple festivals and business activities, including the Festival of the Vine and the opening of the Geneva Visitor Center.

Her contributions have made the chamber of commerce a vibrant organization and a model for many other chambers throughout the State of Illinois and throughout the country.

Her family has also had a hand in the chamber's success. Her husband, John; daughter, Kristine; son-in-law, Jerry Holtz; son, Mark; and grandsons, Jack and Luke Holtz, have all worked in countless events in their support of our local business community.

Jean, congratulations on 40 great years of service. Your hard work helps

American business succeed, and we are grateful.

GOP TAX PLAN WILL HURT WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today against the GOP tax plan that benefits the top 1 percent by raising taxes on millions of working families. It eliminates important tax incentives for middle class families and those who strive to join the middle class.

This bill would no longer allow Americans to deduct interest on student loans, making college even more expensive.

By capping the mortgage deduction, it keeps the American Dream of owning your home in economically vibrant areas of my State out of reach.

The bill ransacks Medicare and Medicaid by \$1.5 trillion, and if you have a sick child or a family member with disabilities or long-term medical needs, you will struggle just to make ends meet.

While the tax cuts for billionaires and corporations are permanent, the help for working families would disappear over time.

Raising taxes on middle class families isn't the kind of tax reform our country needs. This isn't the relief they were promised. This isn't the relief they deserve. Working moms and dads can't simply hope that corporate tax cuts turn into profits that trickle down to them.

Mr. Speaker, we need to invest in economic growth, not in hurting working families across America.

AMBASSADOR HALEY SPEAKS TRUTH

(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, congratulations to Ambassador Nikki Haley, the former Governor of South Carolina, for leadership opposing a misguided U.N. resolution calling for the U.S. to lift the Cuban embargo. This was a resolution the Obama administration has shamefully abstained from voting on.

Rather than bow down to the Cuban Communist dictatorship, Ambassador Haley stood up to them and stood up for the oppressed people of Cuba.

Ambassador Haley correctly reviewed: "The United States opposes this resolution today in continued solidarity with the Cuban people and in the hope that they will one day be free to choose their own destiny."

The economic catastrophe of Cuba is due to the Communist, totalitarian dictatorship, not the American embargo. As cited by the late Prime Min-

ister, Margaret Thatcher: socialism will work until you run out of spending other people's money.

Ambassador Haley's service has ushered in a new era of moral clarity. The United States is again a leader for expanded freedom. President Donald Trump's commitment to peace through strength is going to make the world safer for American families, along with Vice President MIKE PENCE, who is here in the Capitol Building today.

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

TAX PLAN AND EDUCATION

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, are there students in our country who think college has become too affordable? Parents who feel that saving for their children's education has become too easy? I know that my constituents would certainly answer with a resounding "no."

Why would anyone support a tax bill that would make college even more expensive for our students?

When will we start working together to put the interests of average Americans before the interests of large corporations?

According to the Ways and Means summary, the Republican tax bill would increase the cost to students attending college by \$65 billion—that is billion with a B—over the next decade.

This administration promised to put money back in the pockets of Americans who need it the most, and this misguided tax bill does the exact opposite.

Mr. Speaker, education is the cornerstone of our global competitiveness, and this Republican bill would only make college less affordable and less accessible. I urge my colleagues to reject this assault on the middle class.

HONORING DR. BILLY GRAHAM'S 99TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Billy Graham, a revered national treasure, who celebrates his 99th birthday today.

The world honors Dr. Graham's birthday because of a decision he made 83 years ago. On November 1, 1934, at a Mordecai Ham tent revival in Charlotte, North Carolina, young Billy Graham accepted Jesus as his personal Savior and committed his life to telling others about Jesus' love and forgiveness. God used that decision to impact countless lives around the world.

While Presidents have sought his counsel over many decades and millions have gone forward to accept Jesus Christ at his meetings, Dr. Graham is

remembered most for honoring and following his Lord and master.

On a personal note, I first met Dr. Graham back in 1971 when I served as his caddy at the Byron Nelson Pro-Am, playing with Byron Nelson, Bob Hope, and Arnold Palmer. That was a fun time, but I have admired his walk with Jesus ever since.

Happy birthday, Dr. Graham.

GOP TAX PLAN

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Republican tax plan. This bill is nothing but a giveaway to America's wealthiest and corporations on the backs of middle class families.

The GOP tax plan gets rid of commonsense policies that the American people rely upon:

It eliminates the student loan deduction that helps young people pay for college;

It eliminates the medical expense deduction, which helps families struggling with diseases like Alzheimer's afford care;

It eliminates the deduction for teachers that helps them purchase supplies for the classroom; and

It sharply reduces the State and local tax deductions that my constituents in Sacramento rely upon.

Meanwhile, when the national debt grows as a result of the GOP's unfunded tax breaks, Republicans will turn around and justify cuts to earned benefits like Medicare and Social Security.

Middle class Americans shouldn't be punished so that the megarich and corporations get a break.

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OPIOID CRISIS

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend President Trump for his attention to the opioid epidemic sweeping over our great Nation and his declaration of a public health emergency.

As we work to address this epidemic, I was happy to welcome Richard Baum, the acting director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, to Cecil County in Maryland's First Congressional District 10 days ago for their Prescription Drug Take Back Day. My home State of Maryland has been hit particularly hard by the opioid crisis. Last year, 89 percent of all intoxication deaths in Maryland were linked to opioid abuse, and the frequency of opioid-related deaths quadrupled over the last 7 years.

But despite these frightening statistics, State and Federal lawmakers