

and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HURD 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE LATE CHIEF JUSTICE EARNEST A. FINNEY, JR.

(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, sadly, South Carolina lost a trailblazer with the death, Sunday, of Chief Justice Ernest A. Finney, Jr.

Justice Finney started his storied career in public service as an educator and then went on to become a renowned civil rights attorney and was South Carolina's first African-American chief justice since Reconstruction.

My first judicial commitment as a State senator was for Justice Finney, after meeting him with former Congressman John Napier, who had been my classmate in law school.

A graduate of Claflin University and South Carolina State University School of Law, the justice was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1972. As a member of the house, he made history as a founder of the Legislative Black Caucus. He served as the first caucus chairman.

In 1976, the justice was elected the first African-American circuit court judge. In 1985, he became the State's first African-American supreme court justice since Reconstruction. Justice Finney became chief justice in 1994.

South Carolina is grateful for the life and service of Justice Finney. We lift up his family and friends in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

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

OPEN ENROLLMENT

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind every American that the window to purchase health insurance on healthcare.gov will close in 10 days. I encourage anyone who doesn't get insurance through a job or government program to apply before December 15.

Financial assistance is available, and the Department of Health and Human Services has said before that 8 out of 10 consumers qualify for a plan that costs less than \$75 a month.

Although the sign-up period was cut in half by the Trump administration, nearly 2.8 million people have already enrolled so far this year compared to 2.1 million this time last year. That is an increase of 33 percent, and this doesn't include numbers from States that have their own exchange.

Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act is still the law of the land, and I urge my Republican colleagues not to harm the ACA by including provisions in the tax bill and, instead, work with Democrats to improve the law.

Millions of Americans depend on us to do the right thing, Mr. Speaker.

WORLD SOIL DAY

(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 today on World Soil Day to highlight the importance of soil quality for our food security, healthy ecosystems, and overall well-being.

As vice chair of the House Agriculture Committee and chairman of the Nutrition Subcommittee, I know firsthand the importance of good management practices to keep this essential resource healthy.

This year's theme is "caring for the planet starts from the ground." Globally, 815 million people are food insecure and 2 billion people are nutritionally insecure, but we can mitigate this through soil health.

Mr. Speaker, 95 percent of our food comes from soil. Soil is a finite resource, and on a human scale, it is non-renewable. However, despite the essential role that soil plays in human livelihood, there is a worldwide increase in the degradation of soil resources due to inappropriate management practices, population pressure driving unsustainable intensification, and inadequate governance over this essential resource.

World Soil Day 2017 aims to raise awareness of the importance of sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing the increasing challenges in soil management. Today we encourage people around the world to engage in proactively improving soil health.

Happy World Soil Day.

BIRTH CONTROL RULE

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today against the Trump administration rule allowing corporations to decide whether their employees can access birth control. This morning, 500,000 comments were delivered in opposition to this rule.

It is astonishing to me that we are having this debate in 2017: women's access to birth control.

Birth control is not healthcare alone. It is the right of women to control

their own bodies, plan their own families, and chart their own futures.

Obstetricians and gynecologists from Chicago submitted a comment, saying: "Women who are able to control when and how they become pregnant are able to finish school, pursue graduate degrees, and further the greater social and economic good of our Nation."

Mr. Speaker, for 99 percent of women of reproductive age, birth control is an essential part of their lives. This is a direct attack on women, and we will not stand for it. Women in America are watching.

TEXAS OFFICER DOWN: SAN MARCOS POLICE OFFICER KENNETH COPELAND

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon, 58-year-old San Marcos, Texas, Police Officer Kenneth Copeland was shot in an ambush-style attack while he was serving an arrest warrant for a violent crime.

The 19-year veteran of the force was working on his day off doing what he loved: protecting and serving the community. This wasn't unusual for Officer Copeland. A father of four, he worked just about every day simply to provide for his family and help the shorthanded department out.

As guns blazed around them, fellow officers sprang into action loading Copeland into a patrol car and rushed him to the hospital with their sirens blazing. But it was too late. Another member of the thin blue line murdered simply because he wore the badge.

Mr. Speaker, this is the sixth peace officer in Texas murdered this year, the first in San Marcos history. We must do everything in our power to stand by our men and women in uniform who wear the badge. Peace officers like Copeland are the last strand of wire in the fence between the law and the outlaws.

We mourn his sacrifice, but we thank the good Lord that such a man as Officer Copeland ever lived.

And that is just the way it is.

WELCOMING USS "LITTLE ROCK" TO BUFFALO, NEW YORK

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and welcome the newly constructed naval ship, the USS *Little Rock*, to my home city of Buffalo, New York, where it will be docked until its formal commissioning on December 16.

For the first time in the history of the United States Navy, the commissioning of the new USS *Little Rock* will take place alongside the original USS *Little Rock*, which served during the Second World War and for the last 40 years has stood tall as an honored exhibit at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to thank the brave men and women of the United States Navy and crew of the USS *Little Rock*, past and present, for their service.

On behalf of Buffalo and western New York, it is an honor and a privilege to serve as the site from which the USS *Little Rock* will embark on its next mission.

This new vessel will make a formidable addition to the United States Navy fleet, and its dedicated crew, tasked with protecting our Nation's coasts and waterways, will ensure the ship lives up to its motto: "Back with a Vengeance."

ROHINGYA CRISIS

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

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, many decades ago, we swore it wouldn't happen again, yet it happened in Rwanda in 1990, in Bosnia in 1995, Darfur in 2003, and it is happening right now in Burma. The word is "genocide."

It is unclear how many Rohingya men, women, and children have been lost to violent beatings, arson, and indiscriminate firings because the government is refusing access to human rights investigators. What we do know is that, since August, over 600,000 Rohingya civilians have fled to neighboring Bangladesh to escape systematic persecution, mass rape, killings, and disappearances committed by the Burmese military. These are crimes against humanity and the very definition of ethnic cleansing.

There is no place for genocide in 2017. The international community needs to increase the humanitarian access to Rohingya.

In addition, we must consider the crisis from a national security perspective. Not only are the squalid refugee camps teeming with contamination and disease, but the mass exodus and horrible conditions are a breeding ground for terrorist recruitment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

CONCEALED CARRY RECIPROCITY

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, this year we are again experiencing terrible gun violence that destroys lives, tears apart families, devastates communities, and is leaving a stain on our Nation.

Sadly, after thousands of senseless deaths, after Sandy Hook, after the Pulse nightclub, after Las Vegas, and after so many more, this body has taken no action, just the now tragically routine moments of silence and then back to business as usual.

But this week Congress will, in fact, take action, action making it easier for

dangerous people to carry concealed guns throughout the country. It is inconceivable to me that this bill is what comes to the floor from the debate about gun safety.

Concealed carry reciprocity allows people from States with the loosest safety standards or no safety standards at all to carry a firearm across the country irrespective of local laws.

I will give one example. In my State of Illinois, people who have two DUIs within 5 years cannot get a concealed carry permit. But this bill would override our State law, rendering our and every other State legislature virtually helpless to protect their own citizens.

I rise today in strong opposition to the reckless and dangerous concealed carry reciprocity bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

SUPPORTING CONCEALED CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act.

The constitutional rights of law-abiding gun owners in my north Texas district do not end when they cross State lines. The Second Amendment protects the right of my constituents—and of all Texans and people throughout our country—to keep and bear arms.

This week the House will vote on legislation allowing gun owners with a State-issued concealed carry license to freely travel between State lines.

Many States already acknowledge the concealed carry permit of another State. The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act simply ensures the rights of private citizens be upheld regardless of the State that they are in.

I cosponsored this legislation, and I will continue to stand up for it. I urge the passage of this bill that will protect our constitutional rights.

□ 1215

NEW RULE

(Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to suggest a new rule.

All my life, I have heard the Republican Party preach family values and fiscal discipline, but in the course of a single week, Mr. Speaker, we have seen the Republican Party in this House vote to add more than \$1 trillion of new debt because tax cuts for rich people matter more. We have seen the Republican President and the Republican Party in the Senate choose to support a credibly accused pedophile because power matters more.

So, I will tell you what, Mr. Speaker, new rule: After today, the Republican

Party can choose to support massive new debts and politicians who abuse kids, but it cannot lecture the rest of us about it. The rest of us have listened to our last lecture from Republicans about family values or fiscal discipline. From now on, that party has no credibility on either issue.

So I will tell you what. When it comes to family values or fiscal responsibility, please keep it to yourselves. We have heard enough of it.

SUE STIVERS DAY

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Sue Stivers of Columbia in the First District of Kentucky.

Heralded as the "matriarch of Adair County," Sue has been an outstanding contributor to the livability and prosperity of her hometown. Her extensive involvement in working to better her fellow citizens' lives through her decades of experience with the Cooperative Extension Service is a testament to her steadfast dedication to a life of serving others.

She has not only helped local businesses to thrive during her tenure as executive director of the Columbia-Adair County Chamber of Commerce, but has also been extensively involved in one of the main components of life in Columbia, Kentucky: Lindsey Wilson College.

An honorary alumnus and a longtime member of the board of trustees, Sue has continually pursued means of giving back to her community and, as a result of her positions, has had an influence on individuals from across the Commonwealth, country, and globe.

I am honored to recognize Sue for her tireless service as she has continually made Columbia and Adair County "a great place to call home."

RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, the chief reason the "American experiment" in liberty and democracy has been so successful is our belief in God-given, inalienable rights. One of these fundamental freedoms is an individual's right to "keep and bear arms."

While the original intent of the Second Amendment to the Constitution was the defense against an abusive, tyrannical government, the central principle is to empower Americans to protect themselves, their families, and, as we witnessed in the Sutherland Springs shooting, their communities.

Statistics show annual reductions in murder rates as concealed carry laws have gone into effect and that violent crime has decreased as gun ownership has increased. In fact, according to Gun Owners of America, citizens defend