

In Florida, for example, Republican Governor Rick Scott, now Senator-elect, undermined confidence in the State's own recount process by making his own unsubstantiated claims of widespread voter fraud and filed lawsuits against and called for investigations into certain Democratic-leaning counties.

In Georgia, Secretary of State Brian Kemp refused to step down from his role overseeing his own election to be Governor of the State. Under his management, more than a half a million people were purged from voting rolls in July of 2017. That election was decided by just tens of thousands of votes. It makes a difference.

In North Carolina's Ninth Congressional District today, the State Elections Board is investigating whether a local GOP operative illegally collected absentee ballots and altered votes or never submitted them. It may yet lead to, frankly, the decertification of that election and a new special election to be called.

In Wisconsin and Michigan, the GOP-controlled, lame duck State legislatures have pushed through a series of measures that would strip the incoming Democratic Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of State of key authorities and restrict access to early voting.

We have seen this before. It is part of a pattern, unfortunately, of voter suppression: purging voter rolls; difficult voter I.D. restrictions; eliminating early voting; outdated and insufficient voting machines; and long lines, especially in minority precincts.

In 2016, North Carolina closed early voting stations and, just coincidentally, reduced African American voting by 8.5 percent, clearly a dispositive difference.

Republican governors like Governor Scott of Florida have exercised their discretion to restore felon voting rights in as restrictive a manner as possible. His predecessor, Governor CHARLIE CRIST, now our colleague, restored voting rights to 155,000 individuals in Florida in 4 years. Governor Scott averaged just 400 per year.

In Wisconsin, a strict voter I.D. law has been credited with suppressing the vote of more than 200,000 Wisconsin voters who were otherwise eligible to cast a ballot in 2016.

Could that have made a difference in the electoral vote of the State of Wisconsin?

□ 1045

These tactics undermine democracy. They are not worthy of the party of Lincoln, and they further erode America's trust in government.

I implore my friends on the other side of the aisle: Let's win fair or square. Let's make sure every American's vote is counted and is treated as sacred. America will be the stronger for it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from en-

gaging in personalities toward the President of the United States.

HONORING DONEGAL INDIANS FIELD HOCKEY TEAM

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and to honor the young women of the Donegal Indians field hockey team, who won the PIAA State championship this year, their second in 3 years.

The Donegal Indians held an impressive 28-1 season record, with 235 points scored and only 19 points scored against them. They can be described in one word: dominating.

They finally met their match in the State championship game, where they were scoreless through regulation. When the team needed to score, they turned to one player, Captain Mackenzie Allesie, who holds the national record for scoring in girls high school field hockey.

Mackenzie racked up an impressive 351 goals during her tenure at Donegal. The last goal that Mackenzie scored lifted the Indians to their second championship.

The team members' drive is a trait that will serve them well in the future. I congratulate them, their coaches, and the community for their victory. I wish them all continued success.

RECOGNIZING CASEY KAUFHOLD

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the amazing accomplishments of Ms. Casey Kaufhold, a 14-year-old freshman at Conestoga Valley High School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Casey is a winner and a world record holder. Last month, she competed with Olympic-class archers from around the world at the World Archery Indoor Series GT Open in Luxembourg. She earned 589 out of 600 possible points to win the gold medal for this event and set a world record for the highest score earned by an archer under the age of 17 during competition.

We are all incredibly proud of Casey's achievements, and we are looking forward to all that is in store for her in the future, which I believe will be as a future Olympian. And if she does so, she will represent our Nation well. We wish her continued success in all of her endeavors.

RECOGNIZING LINN MOEDINGER

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a man synonymous with railroading in Lancaster County: Mr. Linn Moedinger.

After 51 years—51 years—working for the Strasburg Rail Road, Linn is retiring as president of the Strasburg Rail Road Company.

Strasburg Rail Road was founded in 1832. It is the oldest continuously operating railroad in the Western Hemisphere. After 125 years of declining rev-

enue, 24 individuals, including Linn's parents, decided to buy the railroad.

Today, it is a top tourist destination in the district that I represent. They brought new life to Strasburg Rail Road, turning it into a tourist railroad and helping educate and entertain thousands of visitors in our community each year.

Linn took his first paying job at the Strasburg Rail Road when he was 17. He cleaned the restrooms. Year after year, his responsibilities increased and so did his love for the railroad.

Linn was named president in 2000 and has overseen great expansion of the Strasburg Rail Road, and it is a historical marker in the State of Pennsylvania.

Thank you to Linn for his many years of service, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

We ask today that You bless the Members of the people's House to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve.

May they be filled with gratitude at the opportunity they have to serve in this place. We thank You for the abilities they have been given to do their work to contribute to the common good.

As this second session of the 115th Congress draws near its end and legislative business once again weighs heavily on this Hill, withhold not Your spirit of wisdom and truth from this assembly. Give each Member clarity of thought and purity of motive so that they may render their service as their best selves.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN 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.

CONGRATULATING JUDGE CARYN CANNER SCHWARTZ

(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, I am so pleased to rise today in honor of Judge Caryn Canner Schwartz upon her retirement from the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida where she has proudly served since 1993.

Throughout her long and distinguished career as a judge, she has worked in the Civil and Criminal Divisions of the Miami-Dade County Court and as an Acting Circuit Court Judge in the Civil, Criminal, Domestic Violence and Family Divisions of the Circuit Court.

When Caryn is not sitting on the bench, she volunteers her time and experience through many different charitable and educational organizations, including mentoring law students and young attorneys. In fact, for the first 10 years of her career, Caryn taught high school students science and math and worked tirelessly to educate our Nation's youth.

Our south Florida community has benefited substantially from Judge Schwartz's leadership and her public service; and for this I truly thank her.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join Caryn's family, her friends, and her peers as they honor the many accomplishments of her outstanding career. I wish her and the entire Schwartz family all the best in this new exciting chapter of her life.

PRIORITIZE ISSUES THAT MATTER

(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, I recently asked my constituents about their priorities, and we received more than 2,400 responses. Their top issues? Healthcare, gun safety, and the environment.

It is worth noting that on each of these issues this Congress has not only not made progress, we have moved backwards. On healthcare, this Con-

gress spent months fighting a failed fight to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and now the administration continues to cynically sabotage the law to weaken protections for pre-existing conditions and increase premiums.

On gun safety, this Congress sits idly by as senseless gun violence and mass shootings claim lives across the country. In fact, the only gun legislation we passed this year, concealed carry reciprocity, actually weakened our gun laws.

On climate, this Congress has not only not listened to the science that tells us to reduce emissions, and instead the administration, President Trump, recklessly withdrew the United States from the Paris Climate Accord.

It is time Congress put the interests of the American people first. In the coming new Congress, we have a new opportunity for progress. Let's listen and prioritize the issues that matter most to our constituents and our country: affordable healthcare, the safety of their children, and a sustainable planet.

ADK FORTY-SIXERS CELEBRATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Adirondack Forty-Sixers, an organization in my district whose 10,000-plus members have climbed all 46 peaks of the Adirondack Mountains.

Since their founding by brothers Bob and George Marshall, the Forty-Sixers have been central to promoting environmental stewardship, protecting our natural resources, and encouraging younger generations to enjoy the great outdoors.

The Adirondacks are an essential component of our tourism economy. The Forty-Sixers have done important work giving back to the mountains they love and making the peaks more accessible. They have also prioritized community outreach and volunteerism. Their all-volunteer trail maintenance program is critical to keeping trails available to hikers from across the world and, in turn, protecting our environment.

For the past century, young hikers have been mentored and trained by this dedicated group of environmental stewards, and I know that over the next 100 years, many more will be inspired to experience the Adirondack Mountains.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Adirondack Forty-Sixers on this incredible milestone.

MEANINGFUL GUN SAFETY LAWS NOW

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, this Friday marks the sixth anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut.

On December 14, 2012, from 9:30 to 9:40 a.m., a lone gunman armed with an assault weapon killed 27 people, including 20 kids between the ages of 6 and 7 years old. Five minutes, one shooter, 27 people dead. Many of the kids had several bullet wounds in their bodies when they were recovered.

In the years since that tragedy, we have seen high-powered assault weapon attacks on schools, synagogues, nightclubs, churches, concerts, and in our neighborhoods. With each horrific attack, Congress responds with a moment of silence. We have had 50 moments of silence since Sandy Hook.

Silence is not a response. We need rational voices, congressional hearings, and meaningful gun safety laws now.

TRIBUTE FOR PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH

(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, an extraordinary tribute for President George H.W. Bush was published by Krishnadev Calamur in *The Atlantic*: "Had George Herbert Walker Bush never become the 41st President of the United States, he would still be remembered as one of the great Americans of the 20th century. . . .

"But it was his one-term presidency, from 1989 to 1993, that had a monumental impact on the world. Ronald Reagan, his predecessor, uttered the famous words: 'Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall,' yet it was Bush who presided over its orderly dismantling.

"Bush oversaw the collapse of the Soviet Union, the end of the Cold War, the birth of the post-Soviet republics, and the West's outreach to former members of the Warsaw Pact."

In my service in Congress, I have seen firsthand the expansion of freedom and democracy. Today the largest number of nations in world history are free and democratic, from Bulgaria to Lithuania, inspired by President George H.W. Bush.

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

OPEN ENROLLMENT

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, with only 4 days until open enrollment closes for next year, I want to call on people in my community, across Pennsylvania, and in every part of our country to sign up for coverage on healthcare.gov.

Because Pennsylvania chose to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, low-income individuals and