

Once again, I would like to congratulate everyone at The Victory Center for all that they have accomplished. I thank their staff for helping so many children in our south Florida community achieve their full potential and leave their own beautiful mark on our world.

CALLING ATTENTION TO THE SUFFERING IN PUERTO RICO

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am ashamed that our national government seems to have abandoned American citizens of Puerto Rico. Yesterday marked 6 months since Hurricane Maria furiously blew ashore. In those 6 months, more than 1,000 Americans have died because of the storm. In fact, people are still dying in Puerto Rico from causes that are directly related to Hurricane Maria's impact, and more than 100,000 American citizens in Puerto Rico are still without electricity.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, we tend to forget how much we rely on electricity until it goes out. Without electricity, people who rely on respirators must choose between their homes and their health. The elderly, sick people, and newborn babies have to suffer through the heat and cold.

Mr. Speaker, if this was happening anywhere else in our country, we would have riots. But instead of action, all Puerto Rico gets are excuses from the national government.

CONGRATULATING GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAMS

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize both the Grandview High School boys and girls basketball teams. These two teams from Grandview are now the State of Colorado's 5A high school basketball champions.

The Grandview boys basketball team had a spectacular season, finishing the season with an impressive 24-4 record, and the culmination of the season was its first-ever boys basketball State Championship title.

The Grandview girls basketball team also had a tremendous season, finishing with an equally impressive 25-3 record, and the culmination of its season was its second consecutive girls basketball State Championship title.

The teams were led to their respective championship titles by their coaches: Josh Ulitzky for the girls team, and Michael Rogers for the boys team.

I also commend these two coaches, their coaching staffs, and all their supporters at Grandview High School for all they have contributed to the suc-

cess of the school's boys and girls basketball programs.

I am incredibly proud to represent Grandview High School in the United States House of Representatives. Again, congratulations to the Grandview High School girls and boys basketball team on this impressive victory in Colorado's 5A State Championship.

□ 2215

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER GREGGORY CASILLAS

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

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas, a constituent of mine who was struck down in the line of duty.

It was Gregory's dream to be a police officer. He studied police reports after hours, and he always carried flashcards and books to prepare for the police officer exam.

His hard work paid off. Friday, March 9 was the final day of Officer Casillas' ghost phase, the last day before he went out on his own. As one colleague said: "I've never met someone so eager to become a police officer."

Tragically, that was also the day Officer Casillas was shot, trying to make contact with a suspect who had fled the police. Officer Casillas put himself at risk so that we could be safer, and we can never thank him enough.

I am so grateful for heroes like Officer Casillas, and I join the hundreds of others who have attended vigils in his honor when I say that he will never be forgotten for his sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ANDREW PATTERSON

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Commander Andrew Patterson, a native of Chittenango, New York, who currently serves as the Chief of Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Plans/Operations for the military in Afghanistan. He is the son of Marlene A. Patterson and the late commander, Kenneth F. Patterson, U.S. Navy.

Lieutenant Commander Patterson has served in the U.S. Navy Reserves for 12 years, as well as serving with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency for 13 years. Stationed in Afghanistan, Lieutenant Commander Andrew Patterson is leading the charge on the intelligence collection operations against the Taliban, working closely with joint regional U.S. military personnel.

In today's era of combat, the role of intelligence plays an especially impor-

tant role in the success of our military. Lieutenant Commander Andrew Patterson is a true hometown hero. He is an inspiration to all of us and is an exceptional community leader.

I would like to extend my gratitude to him for his answer to the call to serve, his bravery, and his dedication to our Nation. I wish him the best of luck as he continues to serve our country.

Go Navy.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL AG DAY

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, as a Representative of the salad bowl of the world, the 20th Congressional District in California, I commemorate and celebrate National Ag Day.

In my district, the number one industry is agriculture, yes, because of the fertile land, but also because of the fearless attitude of farmers and farmworkers, growers, and families and friends of those in agriculture.

Having grown up on the central coast, we understand that the key to their success is based on that willingness to take risk. We know that risk-taking attitude is the foundation of our country, but since then, the seed of risk taking has been sown in our culture and spread across our agricultural community.

People in agriculture are constantly using that trait to deal with Mother Nature, to overcome government mandates, to transform for the changing market conditions, and to contend with the lack of immigration reform right here in Congress.

Nevertheless, with that risk-taking attitude, people in agriculture don't shrink from those challenges; they stand up to them. That is why they not only survive, they succeed. That is why we in Congress shouldn't just recognize people in agriculture today; we should learn from them every day.

REFORMING THE POLICY FOR OUR FORESTS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, as it is known, enacted in 1970—I am sure, well intentioned—but time and time and time again, issues that need to be resolved for the people and their assets in this country are thwarted by needless red tape, a lot of times coming from NEPA.

Our forests in the West suffer badly—and the people who live near them, from the smoke, from the danger, from the loss of homes, the loss of wildlife—because to do the slightest thing to improve our forest conditions requires NEPA delay.

In talking to forestry people just today, you can see illustrated in photographs private land that has been recovered right after a forest fire and, indeed, Federal land, because we have to do yet another NEPA on something we should already know and understand—delayed 1, 2, 3 years. And then you don't have the value left anymore of those trees that were left behind after a fire; therefore, there is never enough money to do the job.

Mr. Speaker, we must reform NEPA so it works for the people.

HONORING BERTEL VAN EEK

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, at the end of this month, something rather extraordinary will happen: Bertel Van Eek will turn 108 years old. She has been the embodiment of the American Dream and, in some respects, of the importance of the things that happen here.

In the midst of debates here about immigration, she reminds us that we are a nation of immigrants. She came to this country as an immigrant after World War II. She was welcomed by the Statue of Liberty and by a country where she built an amazing life.

In the midst of debates about retirement security, she reminds us that it is important to have the backs of our seniors. Her husband died in 1981, and her ability to live with dignity for the last 37 years has been closely tied to two of the most successful public policies in the history of this country: Medicare and Social Security.

She was born on March 31, 1910—1910. America has had 19 Presidents over that timeframe. As someone who lived in Holland during World War II, she saw the capability and bravery of our military and its members.

Imagine all that she has seen over the years. She is going to watch this speech over the internet on a mobile phone. Imagine that. She was born 17 years before movies had sound.

But beyond that, her life has been filled with people who love her: a loving daughter who married a guy who calls her “Mom,” four great-grandchildren who adore her and who are adorable, and three grandkids who consider her a hero.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be one of those grandsons, and I am proud to stand here on the floor of the U.S. House and wish my Oma a happy 108th birthday.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NORMAN). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 0120

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL) at 1 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1625, TARGETED REWARDS FOR THE GLOBAL ERADICATION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 23, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 9, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-614) on the resolution (H. Res. 796) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1625) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to include severe forms of trafficking in persons within the definition of transnational organized crime for purposes of the rewards program of the Department of State, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from March 23, 2018, through April 9, 2018, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 899. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the requirements that new Federal employees who are veterans with service-connected disabilities are provided leave for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disabilities apply to certain employees of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 2030. An act to deem the compliance date for amended energy conservation standards for ceiling fan light kits to be January 21, 2020, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until today, Thursday, March 22, 2018, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4323. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Modification of Revenue Procedure 2018-4 (Rev. Proc. 2018-19) received March 20, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4324. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Issuance of Opinion and Advisory Letters for Pre-approved Defined Benefit Plans for the Second Six-Year Cycle, Deadline for Employer Adoption of the Pre-approved Plans, and Opening of Determination Letter Program for the Pre-approved Plan Adopters [Announcement 2018-05] received March 20, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[March 22 (legislative day, March 21), 2018]

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 796. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1625) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to include severe forms of trafficking in persons within the definition of transnational organized crime for purposes of the rewards program of the Department of State, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from March 23, 2018, through April 9, 2018 (Rept. 115-614). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 5357. A bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to require congressional approval of agreements for peaceful nuclear cooperation with foreign countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. JONES, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER):

H.R. 5358. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers under the age of 21, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. MENG, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SOTO, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. PASCARELL, and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 5359. A bill to amend title 13, United States Code, to require the Secretary of