

need to make sure that workers have the right skills they need to get a job and a good career.”

I am talking about a family-sustaining career, a community-building career, a career that actually allows us to dream.

Right now, our economy is thriving. Americans are right to feel good about how things are going. We have not seen those kinds of optimistic statistics in such a long, long time.

□ 1045

So we are going to keep pushing. We are going to keep pushing to close the skills gap. We are going to close the opportunity gap. We are going to make sure that all these jobs that are being made available are being filled with workers who are getting great careers and good lives and going from poverty and welfare to work.

The dignity of being able to get up in the morning and go to work, to take care of your families, to take care of your community, to take care of your churches and schools, what an incredible lift that is for the American people.

Listen, our Better Way agenda is about one thing and one thing only: it is about building stronger families, about building stronger communities, about building a stronger America. It is what we are in the middle of executing and implementing right now. We are really excited to see the great economic news that comes as a result of all these things that we have been working on.

I want you to think about something, Mr. Speaker. Never, never in at least a decade has America been winning the way we are winning today in every way and every day. America is truly winning again, and we are making America great again.

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 46 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

Reverend Andrew D. Singleton, Jr., Victory Apostolic Church, Matteson, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

We worship You, heavenly Father, for Your greatness, goodness, and glory that even the heavens cannot contain. Though You are King of Kings and Lord of Lords, You have given the responsibility of leading this country to these men and women of the House of Representatives.

May they each be led by Your spirit in every legislative decision they

make, for You are the ultimate law-giver and judge.

As they seek Your guidance, give them the wisdom, courage, integrity, faith, and unity necessary to find solutions to the multiple and complex issues facing America today. Those destiny determining issues include, but are not limited to: poverty, racism, injustice, violence, and the ever-looming threat of war.

Only as a nation under God, whose people trust in God, will America be strong and carry out its creedal principles of truth, liberty, and justice for all.

I pray God's continued blessings upon you all.

In Jesus' name, 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 gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois 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 Ms. Gabrielle Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

WELCOMING REVEREND ANDREW D. SINGLETON, JR.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Reverend Andrew D. Singleton, Jr., pastor of Victory Apostolic Church in my hometown of Matteson, Illinois, as today's guest chaplain.

For more than 20 years, Pastor Singleton has been a powerful and positive force in our community working to improve the lives and futures of our neighbors while tending to their spiritual needs.

Pastor Singleton has a unique gift of communicating a message of faith, justice, and equality across generations. I could not be prouder to welcome him and his inspirational voice to Capitol Hill, especially at this critical time for our Nation.

I hope his words serve as an example and challenge to this Congress to redouble our efforts to uplift and empower families and communities.

Thank you, Pastor Singleton, for joining us and leading us in prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RECOGNIZING LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

(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 rise in recognition of Lupus Awareness Month because nearly two-thirds of the public know little to nothing about the disease beyond the name.

Lupus is a drastically unpredictable disease. It has no known cause, no known cure, and it can be fatal. An estimated 1.5 million Americans are currently living with lupus, including my lovely stepdaughter, Katharine; and millions more have sadly lost their brave battle with this disease.

I have been proud to work with the Lupus Foundation for many years to raise awareness about lupus and support efforts that bring us one step closer to solving the mystery of this dreadful illness.

I encourage my colleagues to join us in the Congressional Lupus Caucus to help advance lupus research and treatment. Through new scientific breakthroughs, we will better understand this disease and help patients living with lupus.

Mr. Speaker, let us “Pump Up the Purple” this May during Lupus Awareness Month and fight for a day when no one will be diagnosed with lupus.

GROWING OPTIMISM AND CONFIDENCE FROM MONTANA SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report that optimism among Montana small businesses is strong and on the rise. I recently concluded a tour of Montana's Main Street businesses; and as I listened to business owners, they described their growing confidence.

They talked about how progrowth reforms, which this Congress and our President delivered, are providing them and their small businesses greater certainty. They described how cutting taxes and cutting red tape are leading them to invest, create Montana jobs, and grow.

Their confidence and optimism match the national trends. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Index, which gauges optimism, hit new records in the second quarter. A survey from CNBC, which measures small business confidence, remains near its record high for the first quarter.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by the optimism I saw from Montana small businesses, and I will continue working to grow opportunities that improve the lives of all Montanans.

HONORING JUDGE RENEE CARDWELL HUGHES

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize a woman who has worked tirelessly to make our communities back home a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Her decades of experience as a jurist, nonprofit executive, and an author mark a remarkable career of public service.

Judge Renee Cardwell Hughes, just last month, was the 2018 recipient of the Pearl S. Buck International Woman of Influence Award in Perkasié, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. During her tenure, Judge Cardwell Hughes has shown a sustained commitment to justice, presiding over some of Philadelphia's most noteworthy homicide cases. She was also a fierce advocate for fairness in our legal system, founding Philadelphia's mental health court.

Judge Cardwell Hughes most recently served as CEO of the American Red Cross of Eastern Pennsylvania, which serves over 6 million Pennsylvanians.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my gratitude to Judge Cardwell Hughes for her service and congratulate her on this well-deserved award.

HONORING ELIZABETH MAE THOMAS DE LAGARDE

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of Mrs. Elizabeth Mae Thomas de Lagarde.

Mrs. de Lagarde, one of four children, was born to Reverend Ernest Thomas and Antoinette Miller Thomas. She married her late husband, Henry W. de Lagarde, and that union brought forth four children, nine grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. Mrs. de Lagarde holds a bachelor or arts degree from Howard University and served in many capacities at Charlotte Amalie High School for 31 years.

As a contributor to the quality of life in St. Thomas, she served on numerous boards, including the National Association of Secondary School Principals; American Association of Retired Persons; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; the Cathedral Church of All Saints; and countless others.

The Virgin Islands community and I are grateful for the impact she has had with her career and the indelible mark she has made.

Congratulations, Mrs. de Lagarde, and happy 100th birthday to you and all

of your contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands.

INCREASING WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to speak about the Workplace Choice and Flexibility for Individuals with Disabilities Act.

This legislation is a solution that will go a long way towards increasing opportunities for people with different abilities and will allow the promise of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which was passed in 2014, to be fulfilled.

Unfortunately, since the time that that act was passed, unnecessary roadblocks have been thrown up in the way of people who want to work in work centers for people with disabilities.

These work centers, first of all, frequently provide a great opportunity for people to work; and secondly, provide job training that can be used by people as they get out in the community, which is the goal of so many people.

Let us not put these people in a straitjacket and say that between ages 19 and 25 you cannot or should not be able to work in work centers.

I know many of the employees at these work centers. They do a tremendous job, and it is time to expand options for people with different abilities.

This bill is not threatening WIOA. It is embracing the goals of WIOA.

RECOGNIZING HOGAR CREA OF PUERTO RICO

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Hogar CREA of Puerto Rico on its 50 years of service to our community, helping people who struggle with substance abuse reclaim their place in society.

Hogar CREA was founded on May 20, 1968, in Puerto Rico by Juan Jose Garcia. The nonprofit organization has over 55 houses and 12 projects, in addition to 32 service proposals that serve more than 2,000 residents daily. Prevention and counseling services were established for communities, schools, municipalities, civic and religious entities, among others.

Moreover, in 1976, Hogar CREA began establishing international homes; and today, it provides service in more than 10 countries throughout Latin America and in several States of the Union.

Hogar CREA's historic mission has been to serve the helpless and to be an instrument to mitigate the suffering of those who live under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Let's recognize Hogar CREA on their 50 years of service.

PROTECTING RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Restoring Community Oversight of Sober Living Homes Act of 2018. This bill addresses Federal policies that have resulted in the proliferation of sober living homes in residential neighborhoods.

These so-called homes, which are really businesses in all but name, house drug and alcohol addicts in single-family residences. This infusion of drug addicts and alcoholics into residential communities has had a deleterious impact on the quality of life of local families who now suffer increases in police activity, transient residences next door, and a decline of property values.

Federal law has shielded unscrupulous owners, operators, and inhabitants of these so-called sober living homes from meaningful oversight. The well-being of the neighbors that surround them has been ignored. This is a travesty.

My bill will empower the communities and the States to prohibit such facilities in residential areas if that is the will of the local people. I now submit this legislation and ask my colleagues to cosponsor the bill, which is based on the principle of federalism, protecting local residential communities across our land.

THANKING AMERICA'S TEACHERS

(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 during national Teacher Appreciation Week to celebrate America's hardworking, dedicated, and passionate teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure every Member of this House can think of a teacher who had a positive influence on not only their education, but their life. Teachers push students to achieve their best, and they show students how to realize their full potential. Sometimes it is the interest of just one teacher that can transform the life of a young person.

Teachers are often the most underrated, yet powerful professionals in the entire world. They truly do shape young minds and our future.

Teachers lend a caring hand and extend a loving heart. They make differences in the lives of our students academically, emotionally, and physically.

So, Mr. Speaker, during national Teacher Appreciation Week, I rise to say "thank you" to those who educate our children. Thank you for the job you do, for the hours you work, for the patience you show, and for the impact