

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 52 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST) at noon.

PRAYER

Dr. Jack Trieber, North Valley Baptist Church, Santa Clara, California, offered the following prayer:

Father, I thank You so much, Almighty God, that we can come into Your presence and pray for this great body of people that serve us.

We thank You for our Congressmen today. We pray that You keep them safe, men and women, their children, their mates, their grandchildren. We pray for our country today that it would have this day of safety and security.

Lord, it is my prayer that as our leaders serve today, that You give them wisdom, that You give them patience, that You give them kindness and understanding.

May we remember the words of the Scripture that: "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Remember the Bible says today that: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

We thank You for America. We thank You for the privilege of prayer in this very sacred assembly.

In Jesus' name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CICILLINE 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 DR. JACK TRIEBER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to introduce my friend and constituent, Dr. Jack Trieber, pastor of North Valley Baptist Church in Santa

Clara, California in my district. I thank him for his words of wisdom and comfort, and for joining us to deliver the opening prayer in the House today.

Pastor Trieber has been a source of strength and guidance for my constituents for more than four decades. He is a personal friend and counselor and source of strength to me. He and his wife, Cindie, have been friends since I entered public service, and I appreciate that Pastor Trieber accompanied me to last year's annual National Prayer Breakfast to join leaders from across the country in discussing the importance of faith to the strength of our Nation.

Under the pastor's leadership, North Valley Baptist Church has grown from an assembly of 22 people in 1976, the year I was born, to a current average of 3,000 in attendance each Sunday. He is a true patriot.

He believes in this country, and it is a real honor to have had him open our House with his prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

TAX CUTS ARE WORKING

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

MR. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, it has only been 6 months since the new tax reform law was put into place, but already, we are seeing many positive economic outcomes.

Unemployment is at the lowest rate in 18 years; Hispanic and African American unemployment has reached a record low; over 1 million jobs have been created; and there are now more job openings than job seekers. Wages are increasing, and Americans are seeing more money in their wallets.

On top of that, people are also seeing lower utility bills, keeping more of their hard-earned money. Small businesses are increasingly optimistic about the economy, reporting higher wages for their workers and plans for expansion.

Mr. Speaker, the promising results we have seen in such a short time show that the tax cuts are working. And this is just the beginning. Let's take these results, build on them, and continue to better the lives of the American people.

COVERAGE FOR PREEXISTING CONDITIONS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act improved access to quality healthcare for millions of

Americans. One of the most important protections in this law is that insurance companies can no longer deny people coverage because they have a preexisting condition.

Millions of Americans with arthritis, cancer, diabetes, mental illness, and other preexisting conditions have benefited from this requirement. And that is why it is so disturbing that earlier this month the Trump administration went to court to argue that insurance companies should no longer have to cover people with preexisting conditions.

If they succeed, it will further unravel the Affordable Care Act. It will be harder for individuals and small businesses to buy health insurance. Some experts believe that there will be even more Americans without health coverage than ever before. This is wrong. The President is putting the interests of health insurance companies and health insurance company CEOs ahead of American consumers.

Republicans in Congress should be demanding that this President stop. They should demand that their constituents have access to the best healthcare possible, but, instead, they are silent in the face of a President trying to take away coverage for pre-existing medical conditions.

It is wrong. We can do better.

PRAYERS FOR KATIE ARRINGTON

(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, South Carolinians extend sincere thoughts and prayers to State Representative Katie Arrington, who was injured in a tragic auto accident on Friday. We are grateful to learn that Katie will make a full recovery.

On June 12, Katie achieved the Republican nomination for Congress for the historic First District of South Carolina. When successful in November, she will be the first Republican Federal elected official in the history of South Carolina, in the tradition of Ambassador Nikki Haley who was South Carolina's first female Governor in 340 years.

Also, yesterday, Republicans nominated Pamela Evette to be the first female Republican Lieutenant Governor ever, and Lexington Republicans selected Paula Rawl Calhoun for the South Carolina State House.

Katie served as an executive with military defense contracts, ensuring servicemembers will have the tools necessary to succeed. She is on the board of many organizations, including Women In Defense, Charleston Defense Contractors Association, and South Carolina Cyber.

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

Congratulations on yesterday's primary victories by Governor Henry

McMaster, Attorney General Alan Wilson, and congressional nominee William Timmons.

IMPROVE OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

(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 rise today on behalf of the more than 130 million Americans with preexisting conditions who are under attack from the Trump administration.

Some of these people have chronic health conditions such as asthma and diabetes. Some are waging courageous fights against cancer. Some are tackling challenges with mental health or substance abuse. These are our family and friends. They are our neighbors, our coworkers, our caregivers. They are us.

Sadly, if the administration has its way, they will once more be subjected to discrimination that could deprive them of coverage, condemn them to a lifetime's worth of staggering medical bills, and push their families into devastating bankruptcy.

One of my constituents in Highland Park who found coverage through the ACA wrote me:

My preexisting condition is not a result of my lifestyle choices, as some like to believe. I don't deserve to be demonized and financially thrashed just because of something I cannot control.

I agree. Seventy percent of the public also support making sure people with preexisting conditions have protections. I urge the Trump administration to abandon its legal effort to undermine the ACA. Enough with the sabotage.

We owe it to these 130 million people to do better. Instead of building barriers to healthcare, let's work together and improve our healthcare system.

WELCOMING CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION WINNER MEGAN SMITH TO THE CAPITOL

(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, today I welcome Megan Smith to the Capitol. Megan is the winner of the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District's Congressional Artwork Competition.

The annual art competition, organized by the Congressional Institute, showcases the artwork of high school students across every congressional district in the country.

Megan just graduated from Bellefonte Area High School earlier this month. Her artwork titled, "Spoons," is a drawing of five different spoons on top of blue, pink, and white collage paper.

All of the winning pieces will be displayed for the year in the Cannon tun-

nel where they will be viewed by Members of Congress, staff, and the many visitors of the Capitol every day.

I am looking forward to spending time with Megan and her parents at this afternoon's reception where she and her fellow winners from across the country will be honored for their work.

I congratulate Megan and all of the students who participated in the competition, and I am excited to see all of the new artwork hanging in the tunnel.

STATEHOOD FOR PUERTO RICO

(Mrs. MURPHY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for bipartisan legislation to begin Puerto Rico's transition to statehood.

There are over 3 million U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico, and over 5 million individuals of Puerto Rican heritage in the States. My Florida district is home to more Puerto Ricans than any other district in the country.

I care deeply about Puerto Rico because my constituents care deeply about Puerto Rico. But every Member of Congress should care about Puerto Ricans because they are our fellow citizens. We are part of the same American family.

Puerto Rico has been a territory for 120 years. Its residents are treated unequally under key Federal laws. This impairs economic progress and quality of life, spurring migration to the mainland. And even though Puerto Ricans serve in the military with distinction, they cannot vote for their President and Commander-in-Chief. They have no Senators, and have only one nonvoting delegate in the House.

The hard truth is that Puerto Rico's lack of political power too often makes it an afterthought in Washington, as the Federal Government's poor response to Hurricane Maria made painfully clear.

I support statehood because I support equality. The people of Puerto Rico deserve the same rights and responsibilities as their fellow citizens in Florida and every other State.

Puerto Rico has earned its star on the American flag.

RECOGNIZING THOSE AFFECTED BY THE EASTPOINT FIRE

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hardworking people of Eastpoint, Florida, who lost their homes, their belongings, and even their livelihoods to a devastating fire this week.

This past weekend a fire broke out in Franklin County, which destroyed more than 40 homes and almost 1,000 acres. My heart goes out to those

whose lives have been forever changed by this horrible and unexpected wildfire. My office stands ready to assist them in any way we can.

Thank you to all of our first responders, volunteer firefighters, and local law enforcement for your heroic efforts in containing this blaze. Your quick actions saved many lives.

Thank you also to Franklin County Sheriff, A. J. "Tony" Smith, Franklin County Emergency Management Director Pam Brownell, local community leaders, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross, all of whom stepped up and provided aid and comfort to those who need it the most.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praying for the victims and their families during this time of loss.

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

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

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, 20 veterans commit suicide in the United States every day. This is not only a crisis; it is a national shame.

Today, June 27, is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day. We need to come together as Democrats and Republicans to help those suffering from PTSD.

Too many veterans suffering alone in the dark are not eligible for VA benefits, or are unable to navigate the VA bureaucracy.

I am proud to have introduced the bipartisan Mental Health Services for All Veterans Act, H.R. 2736, which would provide every member of the military mental health services, whether Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard, even if they were less-than-honorably discharged.

Mental health, PTSD, 20 suicides a day—this crisis in a community of heroes must be addressed.

□ 1215

HONORING WILLIAM DALLUGE

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, William Dalluge, Jr., a lifetime resident of Blue Mound, Illinois, who retired as Pleasant View Township clerk in April.

William, who is known to everyone as "Whompie," is a staple in the Blue Mound community. Born and raised there, Whompie has always called Blue Mound home. Even from a young age, he knew the importance of giving back to his community. In 1961, he started a small business by leasing and operating the Standard Gas station in town for 9 years. The following 16 years, he was co-owner of the Blue Mound Furniture Store.