

company founded in 1898 by his grandfather.

During the Korean war, Don served in the United States Army as a second lieutenant and then as a first lieutenant, receiving a Combat Infantry Badge and a Bronze Star.

He then returned to Kaspar Wire Works, now Kaspar Companies, where he became CEO, and it grew from a small company with 18 employees to a multinational enterprise with nearly 1,000 employees. I was fortunate enough to tour the company a couple of years ago with Don and learned about the success of his ventures.

Despite his busy job, Don always had time to give back to the community. He was president of the Shiner Rotary Club, director of the Shiner Hospital Foundation, the first chairman of Shiner Youth Baseball, chairman of the Shiner United Way Fund, a local scoutmaster, chairman of the board at his local church, and more.

A pillar of the Shiner community, Don was married to the late Jean Welhausen Kaspar for 52 years and leaves behind 4 sons, their wives, 10 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.

Don, we miss you.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Guide our minds, thoughts, and desires this day. By Your spirit, breathe into us a new spirit. Shape this Congress and our world according to Your design that we may fulfill Your will.

Bless the Members of the people's House. Give them attentive hearts and open minds, that through the diversity of ideas they might sort out what is best for this Nation. May their speech be deliberately free of all prejudice, that others might listen wholeheartedly.

Grant that all dialogue be mutually respectful, surprising even the most jaded with the emergence of unity and justice.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done here be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. KILDEE 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.

HIGHLIGHTING THE 2018 MATZAH MITZVAH

(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. Madam Speaker, I would like to highlight the 2018 Jewish Community Services of South Florida Matzah Mitzvah, which will take place on Sunday, March 25, at Temple Israel of Greater Miami.

Every year, Madam Speaker, this wonderful event brings together volunteers and staff from the Jewish Community Services to prepare and deliver Passover holiday baskets to homebound seniors and other members of the Jewish community in need.

Those who take part in the Matzah Mitzvah do far more than just deliver meals: they help foster a sense of community amongst Jewish residents of south Florida and help to ensure that everyone who observes the Passover holiday does so with a full heart.

Volunteers will start assembling the food at 9 a.m., and the delivery of the food baskets will follow at 10 a.m.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Jewish Community Services of South Florida for its dedication to creating a better and more inclusive community. I also encourage everyone in south

Florida to come out this March 25 to Temple Israel of Greater Miami at 9 a.m. and take part in the 2018 Matzah Mitzvah.

DEMOCRATS SHOULD NOT BE LOCKED OUT OF THE FUNDING NEGOTIATIONS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, here we are again. On Thursday, the government runs out of funding because the majority has not yet been able to reach across the aisle and negotiate a long-term budget agreement that reflects the priorities of the American people.

One party controls the House, the Senate, and the White House, but there is not a functional majority in the hands of one or another party. The majority is comprised of thoughtful Members who, on both sides of the aisle, if we chose to, could sit around the negotiating table and work out the differences that we bring to this Congress in a way that moves the country forward and adopts a budget that is reflective of the priorities that we were sent here to address.

So long as one party takes the approach that all of the votes necessary to pass any measure must only come from one party, we are not going to be able to move forward as a country.

Being in the minority, I understand we don't get to set the agenda, but we ought not be locked out of the conversation, especially when it is by coming together that we can get a long-term budget and not continue to kick the can down the road.

REPORT DEVASTATING TO DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a House Intelligence Committee report has found shocking abuses of surveillance by the FBI. The implications of the report are devastating to a democracy.

The premier law enforcement agency of the Federal Government wrongly took sides in a Presidential campaign. The report confirms that FBI officials sought to influence the 2016 election. Unsubstantiated opposition research paid for by the Clinton campaign was wrongly used as a basis to wiretap a Trump campaign official.

Justice Department and FBI employees were trying to influence the outcome of the Presidential election. To borrow a phrase from Intelligence Committee Chairman NUNES, this "happens in banana republics," but it should never happen in a democracy.

It would be understandable if the President and Attorney General wanted to clean house and ask everyone to resign who used a political file compiled by the Clinton campaign as a

basis to spy on an innocent American citizen who was with the Trump campaign.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF DONNA MCCLOSKEY

(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, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Donna McCloskey, a constituent of mine from Bristol Borough, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, after a 42-year career of community service as an employee of the Grundy Foundation. Starting in 1975, Donna worked at the Grundy Library, eventually assisting the Grundy Foundation's executive director until Donna was appointed the Grundy Museum administrator, a position which she held for the past 12 years.

As the museum administrator, Donna is credited with updating the museum's strategic plan, creating best practices for all of the museum's programs and services, and building up partnerships between the museum and the community. Under Donna's leadership, the number of visitors to the museum increased exponentially, and the 40th and 50th anniversary events were great successes.

I want to express my deep gratitude and the gratitude of our entire community for Donna's commitment to preserving the history of our community. While her retirement is well deserved, her exit is already felt.

Thank you, Donna.

NORTH CAROLINIANS ON THE WORLD STAGE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the 242 athletes who made the 2018 United States Winter Olympic team. This is the largest delegation of athletes from any nation attending the Winter Olympic Games in history.

While reviewing the roster, I was pleased to see that the world will get to know something I have known for a long time: North Carolinians are strong competitors, three of whom I would like to salute.

I offer my well wishes and congratulations to Heather Bergsma of High Point, North Carolina, who will compete in long track speed skating; Kimani Griffin from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, who will compete in long track speed skating; and Bobby Sanguinetti from Wilmington, North Carolina, who will compete in ice hockey.

The Olympic Games remain one of the only avenues in which the world's community may come together despite resounding differences. I wish these North Carolinians the very best as they

compete on the world stage, along with their fellow United States athletes, and will look forward to cheering all of them on.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FERGUSON) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES ACT OF 2018

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4547) to amend titles II, VIII, and XVI of the Social Security Act to improve and strengthen the representative payment program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4547

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—STRENGTHENING OVERSIGHT AND BENEFICIARY PROTECTION

Sec. 101. Stronger monitoring of representative payees.

Sec. 102. Reducing the burden on families.

Sec. 103. Protecting beneficiaries through information sharing.

Sec. 104. Clarifying overpayment liability for child in child welfare system.

Sec. 105. Reports.

TITLE II—IMPROVING PAYEE SELECTION AND QUALITY

Sec. 201. Advance designation of representative payees.

Sec. 202. Prohibition on individuals convicted of certain crimes serving as representative payees.

Sec. 203. Prohibition on individuals with representative payees serving as representative payees.

Sec. 204. Reassessment of payee selection and replacement policies.

TITLE I—STRENGTHENING OVERSIGHT AND BENEFICIARY PROTECTION

SEC. 101. STRONGER MONITORING OF REPRESENTATIVE PAYEES.

(a) PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR BENEFICIARIES WITH REPRESENTATIVE PAYEES.—Section 205(j)(6) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(j)(6)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C)(i) The Commissioner of Social Security shall make annual grants directly to the protection and advocacy system serving each of the States and the American Indian consortium for the purpose of conducting reviews of representative payees in accordance with this subparagraph. The total amount used by the Commissioner for such grants each year—

“(I) shall be an amount sufficient, as determined by the Commissioner in consultation with each of the protection and advocacy systems, to carry out all of the activities described in clause (ii); and

“(II) shall not be less than \$25,000,000.

“(ii) A protection and advocacy system awarded a grant under this subparagraph shall use the grant funds to—

“(I) conduct all periodic onsite reviews pursuant to this paragraph and such other reviews of representative payees as the Commissioner may request, including reviews conducted in response to allegations or concerns about the performance or suitability of the payee;

“(II) conduct additional reviews that the protection and advocacy system has reason to believe are warranted;

“(III) develop corrective action plans to assist representative payees in conforming to requirements specified by the Commissioner;

“(IV) submit a report to the Commissioner on each completed review containing such information as the Commissioner shall require; and

“(V) conduct an initial onsite assessment of any organization that begins collecting a fee for its services as a representative payee to ensure that such organization is established as such a representative payee in accordance with requirements specified by the Commissioner.

A protection and advocacy system may refer beneficiaries to other programs or services as the protection and advocacy system considers appropriate.

“(iii) To be eligible to receive grants under this section, a protection and advocacy system shall submit an initial application to the Commissioner at such time, in such form and manner, and accompanied by such information and assurances as the Commissioner may require.

“(iv)(I) Subject to subclause (II), the Commissioner shall ensure that any funds used for grants under clause (i) shall be allocated to the protection and advocacy systems serving each of the States and the American Indian consortium in a manner such that the amount provided to each protection and advocacy system bears the same ratio to the total of such funds as the number of represented beneficiaries in the State or American Indian consortium in which such protection and advocacy system is located bears to the total number of represented beneficiaries.

“(II) The amount of an annual grant to a protection and advocacy system under clause (i) shall—

“(aa) in the case of a protection and advocacy system serving American Samoa, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, or