

truth and whether or not the truth is something that matters to people anymore or whether it is just spinning lies to get ratings.

The man who has been nominated to the Supreme Court went on FOX News and said he didn't drink illegally when he was 18 years old. Well, he did. The drinking age was 21.

The lady who accuses him has passed a lie detector test administered by a former FBI agent and has told more than four or five different people about this incident over the last 6 years, which has been very difficult for her. She should be given respect, and there should be an attempt to find the truth.

But the third person in that incident has not been subpoenaed by the Senate, because they don't want to know the truth. They fear the truth. They are keeping the truth from the American people, and they are failing in respecting women.

TRUMP TAX CUTS CREATE JOBS

(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, due to the tax cuts of President Donald Trump and the Republican Congress, there is unprecedented growth for American families.

The Hill today reported great things for the American people. CNBC reported that consumer confidence rose to its highest level in 18 years. The African American unemployment rate of 5.9 percent is the lowest on record—CNN. Median household income at historic highs—Investor's Business Daily. Middle class income hit an all-time high last year—The Washington Post. The majority of U.S. workers are satisfied with their job, highest job level satisfaction since 2005—USA Today. Youth unemployment at a 52-year low—Wall Street Journal. Small-business optimism, and plans to raise wages are at record highs—Bloomberg. GDP was 4.2 percent, the best performance in 4 years—Reuters. And unemployment is at a several-decade low—New York Times.

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

Our prayers for Brett Kavanaugh and his family, a judge of integrity.

□ 1215

BALTIMORE ORACLES

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to declare the Baltimore Oracles, my staff's congressional softball team, once again champions, having completed a perfect season, including an impressive 18-3 victory in the championship game.

Captained by Peter Gelman, Katie Teleky, and the equipment manager, Raymond O'Mara, the team's stalwart defense and steadfast offense was unstoppable. Yet roster depth proved to be the team's ultimate advantage.

Mike Pulver, Lucinda Lessley, Paul Kincaid, Jocelyn Kissell, Maddie Bainer, Laura Lubben, Ben Proshek, Rebecca O'Mara, Kate Durkin, Anna Killius, Shannon Frede, and Zach Weber each contributed to form a magnificent infield, while Brian Kaissi, Max Frankel, Andy Allen, Mike VanDan Huevel, James Howard, Stephen Demarais, Jaelon Moaney, and Sam Follansbee worked together to lock down the outfield, as did Jermaine Vincent, who welcomed his newborn son, Jayden, into the world just hours after lifting the trophy.

Tim O'Neil, the team's heart and soul, always kept hope alive with his insistence that the team hit "just a single," while the team's loveable mascot, Winston, wagged his tail in agreement.

Mr. Speaker, the Baltimore Oracles are, once again, champions, and that is truly world class.

RECOGNIZING KAY YORK, 2018 ARKANSAS PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an educator from the Fourth Congressional District of Arkansas who has dedicated her life to teaching the next generation. Kay York, principal of Ashdown High School, was named the 2018 Arkansas Principal of the Year, and it is an honor that is well earned.

Ms. York began her career as a kindergarten teacher and then librarian before going to Ashdown Elementary in 1989 as a school counselor. During a meeting this week, she explained how she has worked to introduce more career and technical education.

Partnering with a local community college, students receive instruction in trade skills and concurrent college credit in order to be college- and career-ready when leaving the halls of high school. It is this innovation in the local school that is helping Ashdown students prepare for a growing economy.

Mr. Speaker, Kay York is a leader in education, and I am grateful for the work she is doing in the Fourth Congressional District.

REAL BIPARTISAN TAX REFORM

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, this week, House Republicans are rushing through yet another tax bill that gives the superwealthy and the well-connected a

big tax break at the expense of working families in my district.

The first Republican tax bill already cost \$2 trillion, exploding our national deficit and setting up huge cuts for Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

The overwhelming number of Americans do not support these massive handouts to the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations. They have already funneled these corporations almost \$1 trillion in stock buybacks to shareholders—money that is not going to workers.

This week, House Republicans are just doubling down on this deeply unpopular and dangerous tax scam. This latest bill has Republicans scheming to make tax breaks for billionaires permanent, handing tens of billions of dollars to the wealthiest 1 percent. This latest bill will add to our national deficit.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats support real bipartisan tax reform that would give relief to working American families.

CONGRATULATING JOYCE WALKER, 2018 CLERK OF THE YEAR

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Joyce Walker of Lewisville, North Carolina. Last month, the North Carolina Association of Municipal Clerks named Ms. Walker the 2018 Clerk of the Year.

Ms. Walker had already retired when she entered municipal service and started a new career as Lewisville's town clerk in 2000. During her tenure, she has received numerous designations, including North Carolina Certified Municipal Clerk, Master Municipal Clerk, and a certification from the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators.

In addition to her duties and accomplishments, she is known by everyone for being a genuinely sweet and pleasant person, dedicated to serving the community through Lewisville's Student Leadership Committee, the Civic Club's Scholarship Committee, Lewisville Historical Society, and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Congratulations to Joyce Walker on her award of 2018 Clerk of the Year. Lewisville is fortunate to have her as a pillar of institutional knowledge and outstanding community service.

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL CIAFARDONI SR.

(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, I rise today to honor the passing of a great man from California's First District, Michael Ciafardoni, who died at the age of 94.

He was born in Nepezzano, Italy. Michael immigrated to America in 1939.

Although not yet even a United States citizen, he then served in the U.S. Army in World War II as a member of the 803rd tank destroyer battalion as a heavy machine gunner. He was the last surviving member of his company.

He earned five Bronze Battle Stars fighting some of the most consequential battles of the war, including the Normandy invasion and the Battle of the Bulge.

Michael insisted his proudest war-time experience was not one of those major engagements but, rather, the liberation of a small town in Czechoslovakia near the end of the war. Jewish prisoners were being held in the town of Volary, where they awaited transfer to a Nazi concentration camp. Fortunately, Michael and his company got there first, and they liberated them. To the people of Volary, these men were heroes.

When the 803rd was leaving town a few days later, they were ambushed by German soldiers. Indeed, the last soldier killed in Europe, Private Charles Havlat, was riding a tank directly in front of the one Michael was in. The Germans unconditionally surrendered just a few hours later.

To this day, the town holds an annual celebration to pay tribute to the American soldiers who risked their lives to free them.

I am told that Michael's one wish was to be honored for his wartime service in Europe. That is a wish that we are fulfilling right here today on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, he was a hero for a country that he wasn't even yet a citizen of. In October of 1946, he earned U.S. citizenship for his service to his new country, his new home.

Before he died, he asked to see his Certificate of Naturalization, which brought a proud smile to his face. Michael is as American as any of us.

God bless him and his family.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6157, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1071, RECOGNIZING THAT ALLOWING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS THE RIGHT TO VOTE DIMINISHES THE VOTING POWER OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1077 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1077

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 6157) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other pur-

poses. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the conference report to its adoption without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate; and (2) one motion to recommit if applicable.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 1071) recognizing that allowing illegal immigrants the right to vote devalues the franchise and diminishes the voting power of United States citizens. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of September 27, 2018, or September 28, 2018, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BACON). The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for consideration of the conference report to H.R. 6157, the Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019, and for an additional resolution, H. Res. 1071. The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the appropriations package in front of us represents the second of what will likely be several appropriations packages to fully fund the government for fiscal year 2019.

This represents the first time in more than 10 years that Congress will send more than one final appropriations bill to the President for signature before the beginning of the fiscal year. In years past, we have relied strongly on omnibus spending bills to fund the government; but now, with the hard work done on both sides of the aisle and in both Houses of Congress, we are returning to regular order and com-

pleting spending work through the normal legislative process.

Mr. Speaker, as I have so often said on this floor, the primary obligation of the Congress is to fund the American Government and keep it open and operating. The American people deserve no less. With this package under consideration today, Congress will do just that with respect to 2 of the 12 main spending bills: the Department of Defense and the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies.

In addition, the bill also includes a continuing resolution extending funding for other parts of the government not covered by this bill or the appropriations bill signed by the President last week.

In passing this bill, we will provide crucial funding for services across broad areas of the government and fulfill our promises to the American people: to patients, to communities, to business owners, to the military, and to Americans of all stripes.

The House is already familiar with this bill from when it was passed in June, and this conference version, agreed to with the Senate, has not substantially changed with respect to Defense. However, it now reflects the combined priorities of the Members of both sides of the aisle and in both the House and the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, in the Defense title of the bill, the conference report appropriates a total of \$674.4 billion for the Department of Defense, including \$606.5 billion in base funding, an increase of \$17 billion above fiscal year 2018, and \$67.9 billion in overseas contingency operations and global war on terrorism funding. This increase in funding will help begin to right the wrongs committed against our military readiness by several years of chronic underfunding.

This bill provides an authorized 2.6 percent pay increase for our troops, the largest pay raise in 9 years, and it ensures we will be able to increase our Active-Duty number of military personnel by more than 16,000 soldiers.

The bill provides \$148 billion for equipment procurement, including 13 new warships, a number that includes two new Virginia-class submarines and three new littoral combat ships. It also adds 93 new F-35 aircraft, new transport aircraft, new tankers, and over 100 new helicopters.

The bill also provides \$96.1 billion for research and development of new defense systems and technologies, and \$243.2 billion for training, maintenance, and base operations, funding that is sorely needed to increase our dwindling readiness to confront threats both at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education title, the conference report appropriates \$178 billion, a \$1 billion increase over fiscal year 2018.

As the conference knows, I am fortunate to chair the Labor, Health and