

more than 2,000 rural communities in the United States are designated as having a shortage of healthcare professionals. Recruitment and retention of experienced professionals, including primary care physicians, is an ongoing challenge.

That is why I am a proud sponsor of H.R. 5641, the State Offices of Rural Health Reauthorization Bill of 2018. This legislation benefits States by increasing annual funding and reauthorizing vital programs for rural Americans for the first time since the 1990s. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this piece of legislation today.

Another issue that has ravaged our rural communities is the opioid epidemic. It continues to leave even more rural Americans in need of crucial health services.

Adolescents and young adults living in rural areas are more vulnerable to opioid abuse than their urban counterparts. The prevalence of fatal drug overdoses has skyrocketed in rural areas. High unemployment and a greater rate of the types of injuries that result in prescriptions for opioid medications have contributed to this.

There are ways to increase treatment options. As a part of the VA MISSION Act, which was signed into law in June, I included a provision that expands healthcare access for our veterans through telemedicine. We now allow VA-credentialed healthcare providers to practice telemedicine across State lines.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans should receive the best care possible no matter where they are located and where they live. With advances in technology, we see new opportunities for veterans to obtain coverage through telemedicine, especially in some of our most rural areas.

For those in rural regions, the need is great and services are scarce. Let us all recognize and celebrate the power of our vibrant rural communities in the face of these grave challenges.

As we celebrate National Rural Health Day today, it is my hope that we continue to strive for a 21st century healthcare system that works for everyone in America. Thanks to technology, we have the opportunity to expand services, regardless of where one resides, and all Americans deserve no less.

#### 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 11 o'clock and 20 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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House with focus and purpose as they gather these few days before Thanksgiving. May their efforts give true cause for Americans to gather to give thanks.

In our world, there are many places where peace is lacking and cause for thanksgiving rare. Send Your spirit of peace upon our world. Help us all see in those we view as enemies our brothers and sisters.

May all that is done this day 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 his approval thereof.

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS 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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF DADE COUNTY POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

(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 am pleased to congratulate the Dade County Police Benevolent Association on the celebration of its 55th anniversary.

Since its founding in 1963, the Dade County PBA has worked to protect the rights of Miami-Dade's finest, working tirelessly to serve as a voice of reason, of guidance, and of professionalism. From providing legal assistance to members in times of need, to assisting members and their families who may be struggling with PTSD, this organi-

zation is committed to serving those who protect and serve us.

I represent some of the finest police officers that our Nation has to offer, and the Dade County Police Benevolent Association will always have their back.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Dade County Police Benevolent Association for its extraordinary work in our community, and I wish this organization the utmost congratulations on this extraordinary milestone.

Here is to the next 55 years, PBA.

#### MILITARY APPRECIATION WEEK

(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, Penn State University recently hosted its Military Appreciation Week, and this year's theme honored 100 years of women who answered the call to duty.

Women have played a role in every major war in United States history, and their contributions have continuously evolved over time; and today, women now serve in nearly every combat role in the United States Armed Forces around the world.

During World War I, nearly 30,000 women enlisted as nurses, clerks, and telephone operators. Dating as far back as the American Revolutionary War, women volunteered as nurses, spies, cooks, ammunition carriers, water bearers, and more.

To kick things off, the Nittany Lions football team defeated Iowa on Saturday, October 27, for the Military Appreciation Game.

Over the course of 2 weeks, Penn State continued to host several numerous events and festivities to recognize servicemembers, veterans, and military families. The celebrations continued through Monday, when we observed Veterans Day.

Mr. Speaker, these annual military appreciation events give all Penn Staters and community members a chance to honor those who bravely served our country, and we are grateful for all of our American heroes.

#### RECOGNIZING ELDON "TWIRP" WILLIAMS

(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 recognize the life and legacy of Eldon "Twirp" Williams, whose life was tragically ended last month at the age of 87.

Endearingly known as "Twirp" by those throughout the Riverbend community, he had been involved in local government for more than 60 years.

In 1957, Twirp was appointed as Godfrey Township assessor, a position he held until 1997. In 1999, he was elected

as a trustee to the Godfrey Village Board, where he served until his untimely death.

In addition to his decades of service to Madison County, Twirp was also an Air Force Veteran.

Outside of his public service, Twirp worked as a Realtor for more than 50 years and was even out on a real estate call at the time of his passing.

Twirp leaves a long-lasting legacy of service that will never be replaced. He is survived by his wife, 6 daughters, 11 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

Please join me in keeping the Williams family and the Godfrey community in your thoughts and prayers.

#### RECOGNIZING JOHN ECK, SR.

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Eck, Sr., of Springfield, Illinois, on being named the 2018 First Citizen by the State Journal-Register newspaper.

Each year, the State Journal-Register recognizes a community leader as the First Citizen who is committed to helping our Springfield community prosper, and they chose a phenomenal leader for 2018.

Upon retirement 13 years ago, Mr. Eck's commitment to philanthropic endeavors has surged throughout Springfield and central Illinois. Most notably, Mr. Eck was instrumental in helping to raise money to save the financially struggling St. Patrick Catholic School, which was set to close on its 100th anniversary.

In addition, John has served on numerous local boards, including the St. John's Hospital Foundation, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois, the United Way, and the American Business Club.

Throughout John's career, he has never been afraid to step up and do what is right to support the greater Springfield community, and it doesn't appear he plans on stopping now.

Mr. Speaker, I thank John for his relentless commitment to helping others, and I congratulate him on a well-deserved award.

#### DEFENDING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

(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, the administration of President Donald Trump should be appreciated for promoting religious freedom.

This summer, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo hosted the first ever international ministerial on religious freedom. Representatives from 88 countries attended to review the harsh realities confronting religious minorities around the globe.

The clearest message of all throughout the ministerial is that the United States unequivocally stands for religious liberty.

I am grateful that Ambassador Nikki Haley emphatically addressed the U.N. Security Council about the human rights crisis against the ethnic and religious minority Rohingya of Burma, as well as the minority Christians in Burma. After President Barack Obama lifted sanctions on Burma, the Burmese military has been targeting religious minorities, resulting in the creation of the world's largest ever refugee camp of 1.1 million people in Bangladesh.

Secretary Pompeo and Ambassador Haley deserve thanks for shining a light on this tremendous evil in Burma.

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

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PALMER) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, November 15, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 15, 2018, at 9:32 a.m.:

Appointments:  
National Commission on Military Aviation Safety.

National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, November 16, 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:

6816. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — General Regulations for Federal Fruit, Vegetable, and Specialty Crop Marketing Agreements and Orders; Electronic Mailing Notice of Hearing [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-18-0066; SC18-900-2 FR] received October 31, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121,

Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6817. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington; Order Amending Marketing Order No. 982 [Doc. No.: AO-SC-16-0136; AMS-SC-16-0074; SC16-982-1] received October 31, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6818. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Changing of Container Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0049; SC17-906-2 FR] received October 31, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6819. A letter from the Administrator, Livestock and Poultry Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Soybean Promotion and Research: Amend the Order To Adjust Representation on the United Soybean Board [Doc. No.: AMS-LPS-18-0015] received October 31, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6820. A letter from the Administrator, Specialty Crops Program, Specialty Crops Inspection Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — United States Standards for Grades of Pecans [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0101, SC-17-331] received October 29, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6821. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — North Dakota: Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions and Incorporation by Reference of Approved State Hazardous Waste Management Program [EPA-R08-RCRA-2018-0084; FRL-9982-08-Region 8] received October 29, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6822. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2017-0464; FRL-9985-55] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received October 29, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6823. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2017-0560; FRL-9985-56] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received October 29, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6824. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final NUREG — Piping Systems and Components — Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria [NUREG-0800, Chapter 14.3.3] received October 31, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6825. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Passport Office of Legal Affairs, Bureau of