

thought about how nice it felt to sleep in a comfortable bed or how nice that warm shower felt. I could go on and on and on, mentioning everything that made her life comfortable but I think you all have the general idea.

Age creeps up on us subtly. It may begin with your eyes not seeing as clearly as they used to or you don't seem to hear as well. One day you might get up off the floor and find that it took a little longer this time. You start to feel aches and pains you didn't before.

Fighting off a cold is harder this time. Trips to the doctor become more frequent. When once you were a mother or a father you're now gram or gramps. No matter how you've tried to deny it, one day you look in the mirror and wonder who this old person is looking back at you.

And so it was for this woman. Now in her 60's, her children grown, she still counted herself pretty lucky. Except for the glasses she put on each morning, the need to take blood pressure medication and insulin, she was doing pretty good health wise. She still made holiday meals, still cleaned her home with the same determination, she basically was living her life as much as she always had.

Then one day something happened in this woman's life that would forevermore change it.

In September 2017 Hurricane Irma slammed into Florida. Irma was not a lady. She left a great deal of damage in her wake and devastated many lives. Irma rendered the house this woman lived in uninhabitable, starting a domino effect in this woman's life that would eventually render her homeless.

She went to every agency she was aware of only to find out she either didn't qualify for assistance or there simply wasn't the housing or the funds available to help her out of a situation she had no control over.

On October 23rd, this woman now in her 60's took what clothes she managed to save, the necessary toiletries she needed, a few towels, a frying pan, a sauce pan and a coffee pot. With the little money she had left until her next meager Social Security benefit payment came in, she bought some food, a cooler, ice, paper plates, cups and plastic spoons, forks, and knives. Her last purchase was a small tent.

That night and for the next 12 weeks her bed was the floor of a tent, her covers were a thin blanket. She fell asleep that night to the sound of rain pelting the tent. She cried herself to sleep.

As time moved on she bought an air mattress, sheets, a heavier blanket, a small grill, little things that would make her life a little easier to bear.

She'd crawl in and out of the tent several times a day. She used public facilities to shower, brush her teeth, and comb her hair. She carried a bucket of warm water from the shower house to her campsite so that she could wash the few pans she'd used to cook in.

In November, many people from the North come down to Florida and many

come in RV's. This woman now found herself moving her campsite from one place to another every 3 or 4 days to accommodate these people who had resorted these campsites.

When the temperature in Florida gets into the upper 70's, the inside of a tent feels like an oven. When the evening temperature falls into the lower 50's or 40's it feels like a freezer.

Unable to take her insulin because she couldn't keep it properly cooled or take her blood pressure medication because the heat melted it, her health was deteriorating with each passing day.

In the later part of December, weak, sick, questioning her faith in God and wondering if she wanted her life to go on, she walked through the doors of a hospital's emergency room.

If you haven't guessed already I'll tell you now. This woman was me.

But this story is a story of triumph over tragedy and this is where my angel comes in. As I said, my angel is here in this room and her name is Lynn.

I'm going to embarrass her now because Lynn doesn't really think she did that much. But I say, if it wasn't for her I'm not sure I'd be standing here today.

Upon hearing about my situation from a hospital social worker, Lynn set up an appointment for me the next day. It was December 15th. I'll never forget Lynn looking at me from across her desk and saying she wouldn't have a merry Christmas unless she knew I was settled into Trinity Towers before Christmas.

There was still a problem however: Rent. I didn't have the money to pay until the 3rd of January. That didn't deter Lynn. She got on the phone and talked to those in charge. They came through for her. I have Beth and Marlene to thank for that.

Lynn had a merry Christmas because on December 20th I was handed the keys to apartment 427.

Yes, Lynn is my angel. She went that extra mile to help me and in doing so she renewed my faith in humanity and more than that, she renewed my faith in God.

Jesus once said the poor will always be among us and we should help them. Lynn lives those words.

This life experience has changed my life for the better. I don't sweat the small stuff anymore. I don't judge the homeless because I know how easy it is to be there. I don't take for granted God's blessings and I start every day thanking God for the roof over my head, a warm bed to sleep in and the food in my belly.

In closing, I want to thank all the residents of Trinity Towers South for the graciousness in which you welcomed me into your community and thank each and every one of you who saw a person down on their luck and came to my door one by one and gave me things I so badly needed.

I didn't tell this story because I wanted a pity party. I told it in hopes

that people will understand how important affordable housing is.

I ask our government officials, you whom we've entrusted the job of representing us, those who make the difficult decisions on our behalf to fight the good fight and make sure that programs set up to help the less fortunate, especially food and housing programs, do not fall by the wayside. Do not forget the poor, the disabled, the sick or the elderly.

If I could have one wish granted in my life, it would be this. That every man, woman and child would forever have, without question, the basic needs of life, a roof over their head, a warm bed to sleep in and food to fill their stomachs.

Thank you for listening to my story. •

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:47 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5797. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow States to provide under Medicaid services for certain individuals with opioid use disorders in institutions for mental diseases.

H.R. 5925. An act to codify provisions relating to the Office of National Drug Control, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6082. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to protect the confidentiality of substance use disorder patient records.

At 4:44 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2. An act to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5797. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow States to provide under Medicaid services for certain individuals with opioid use disorders in institutions for mental diseases; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5925. An act to codify provisions relating to the Office of National Drug Control, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 6082. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to protect the confidentiality of substance use disorder patient records; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3093. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to address the protective custody of alien children accompanied by parents, and for other purposes.

S. 3100. A bill to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2. An act to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5573. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Robert L. Caslen, Jr., United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5574. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General William D. Beydler, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5575. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Regulations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removal of Cross References to Previously Removed Appendices and Subpart” (RIN2501-AD88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5576. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5577. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Clarification on Endorsement of Nuclear Energy Institute Guidance in Designing Digital Upgrades in Instrumentation and Control Systems” (RIS 2002-22, Supplement 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5578. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Enforcement, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Enforcement Guidance Memorandum 18-001: Interim Guidance for Dispositioning Apparent Violations of 10 CFR Parts 34, 36, and 39 Requirements Resulting from the Use of Direct Ion Storage Dosimetry During Licensed Activities” (EGM 18-001) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5579. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance About Possession Licenses for Manufacturing and Distribution” (NUREG-1556, Volume 12, Revision 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5580. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Guidance to Grantors and Contributors of Tax-Exempt Organizations on Deductibility and Reliance Issues” (Rev. Proc. 2018-32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5581. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Credit for Indian Coal Production and Inflation Adjustment Factor for Calendar Year 2017” (Notice 2018-36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5582. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reference Price for Section 45I Credit for Production of Natural Gas from Marginal Well During Taxable Years Beginning in Calendar Year 2017” (Notice 2018-52) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5583. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and accessories abroad controlled under Category I of the United States Munitions List of rifles, semi-automatic sniper systems, suppressors, grenade launchers and accessories to Saudi Arabia in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-055); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5584. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Poland, Colombia, and Chile to support the pre-delivery requirements and post-delivery modification of S-70i helicopters to Chile in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-105); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5585. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2018-0070 - 2018-0112); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5586. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5587. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection

Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency’s Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5588. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5589. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Unexploded Ordnance Detonation, Gulf of Mexico, Pensacola, FL” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0531)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5590. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Columbia River, The Dalles, OR” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0536)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5591. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Lewis River, Ridgefield, WA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0535)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5592. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Bay, Corpus Christi, TX” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0458)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5593. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Blazing Paddles 2018 SUP Race; Cuyahoga River, Cleveland, OH” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0242)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5594. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Ohio River, mile marker 27.8 to mile marker 28.2, Vanport, PA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0308)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5595. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Appomattox River, Hopewell, VA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0330)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.