

economy prosper. I have enjoyed working with Kevin thus far, and I look forward to our efforts to serve our constituents in the East Valley.

LET'S GET DOPING OUT OF THE OLYMPICS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as we put the pieces back together again, the Budget Committee had a meeting with the Congressional Budget Office director. We know that it is clear that during this shutdown, the Nation lost \$11 billion; \$3 billion of it will not be recoverable. A shutdown is foolish. It hurts the American people.

And I am committed: One, to increase the pay of American workers, Federal workers, tomorrow, and, as well, to reflect that a shutdown should not hold our patriotic fellow workers hostage.

I ask my colleagues to join me in that.

Today, however, I am excited that I am introducing a bill, which is H.R. 835, the Anti-Doping Act, with Dr. BURGESS and, of course, in the other body, Senator WICKER and Senator WHITEHOUSE, that deals with the World Anti-Doping Agency that failed to suspend the Russian Anti-Doping Agency for missing a crucial December 31, 2018, deadline, and for the violations at the Olympics.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join in supporting this legislation. Let's get doping out of the Olympics. Let's have sports that are fair and square and to do what is right for these wonderful young athletes.

MAJD KAMALMAZ—CAPTIVE IN SYRIA

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to bring attention to Majd Kamalmaz, an American being held by Syria's dictator, Bashar al-Assad.

In February 2017, Majd was detained by Syrian police while visiting the country for the funeral of his father-in-law.

When I spoke to Majd's children, last week, they told me they had tried to convince him not to go to Syria, but their father always put others ahead of himself.

Majd's personal motto is "be in peace," and that motto has been on display throughout his life, in his work around the world, in places like Kosovo, Indonesia, Lebanon, and here at home after Katrina.

Majd's children have not seen or heard from their father for nearly 2 years. Madam Speaker, I echo their plea and call on President Trump to do what he can to ensure that their father

is safely returned to his homeland in America.

RECOGNIZING 158TH BIRTHDAY OF KANSAS

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my home State's 158th birthday.

As we traveled thousands of miles throughout Kansas this past week and enjoyed some time pheasant hunting countryside with my family, I spent a lot of time reflecting on the great things that the Wheat State has to offer.

Kansas is known for its abundance of farmland that is used to grow crops far and wide producing the food we eat across the Nation and across the world. It is home to the most stunning sunsets you could ever witness and the beautiful Flint Hills that stretch over 150 miles where I grew up working, hunting, and fishing.

But my absolute favorite part about the State I call home are the people. Where I am from, we always put our faith in family first; we support each other, uplift each other, and are resilient through tough times. I am honored to represent so many wonderful people and proud to be a Kansan.

□ 1530

ACHIEVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to tell you how honored I am to have been recently selected to serve as the senior Republican on the Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee under the House Education and Labor Committee for the 116th Congress.

As the son of two educators and grandfather of 13, many of whom are currently in school, I couldn't be happier to serve as the leading Republican on the subcommittee that addresses a variety of issues affecting K-12 education.

I have visited numerous schools throughout the 12th Congressional District, and during every visit, I stress to young scholars how important for their future it is to get an education.

With nearly 7 million available jobs throughout our country, it is critical that we cultivate a qualified workforce to fill all of these positions, and this mission starts in the classroom.

As the leading Republican, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that K-12 education remains local, while also providing appropriate Federal support so that our Nation's students can sufficiently be prepared to enter the workforce and everyone can achieve the American Dream.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DONALD LOUIS CRUTCH

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

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of a great man who had a profound impact on our local community. Mr. Donald Louis Crutch was a father, husband, Rotarian, and dedicated member of the community.

His wife, Lisa, was his high school sweetheart and together they raised four great children: Tiara, Dontai, Taniyah, and DaVontai, and he leaves behind a large and loving family of cousins, nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts, and friends. His contributions will be forever remembered.

He was the founder of two nonprofit organizations: the National Pink Tie Organization, and the Honor Guards of America. You could always find Don wearing a hot pink shirt in support of those battling cancer, and he would never accept less than six lemons in his ice tea.

It was these little things like his megawatt smile and warm handshake that made him a pillar of our community.

While we miss Don greatly, his legacy will live on.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF HOWARD MORRISON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of my good friend and the friend of many Savannahians, Mr. Howard Morrison, who passed away on January 24.

Mr. Morrison, with his exceptional talent for bringing people together propelled Savannah to make great strides throughout the community. A Yale graduate, Mr. Morrison served in the Navy before embarking on a 30-year banking career in the Savannah banking industry.

He always held firm that the most important contributions to Savannah were education, healthcare, and community development. To that end, he worked hard to bring a Georgia Tech campus to the Savannah area. Georgia Tech Savannah recently presented him with the Opportunity Award, given to those who have created opportunities for others.

One of Mr. Morrison's closest friends remembers him coaxing numerous individuals to move to Savannah because of the opportunities, many of which he was creating himself.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that Savannah had someone like Howard Morrison, who helped it become the city it is today. His family and his many friends will be in my thoughts and prayers.

NEGOTIATE BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, while the longest government shutdown in our country's history finally ended over the weekend, its effects continue to plague working families.

For 35 days the President held hostage the paychecks, financial security, and health and wellbeing of hundreds of thousands of Federal workers, including 5,200 from Michigan.

The President's stunt did nothing to advance real border security discussions and resulted in a colossal waste of time and resources. He cost the American economy \$11 billion; ironically, nearly twice as much as he wanted for an ineffective border wall.

As the President threatens another shutdown, I rise today to demand that he never again use this cruel tactic, and to, instead, come to the table, the negotiating table in good faith.

Democrats support effective border security solutions, and we are here to talk so long as working families are not used as pawns in the political process.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

FIRE SAFETY REMAINS A DIRE ISSUE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind people, that although it is wintertime, a rainy season, a stormy season, that we are still in a dire circumstance on fire safety in our forested areas, California, of the West, and many areas of the United States.

So for us to just be comfortable during the wintertime, during the rainy season and not think about it would be in error. We need to do much to catch up on the forest inventory we have across this country, across the West.

That will require USDA, the U.S. Forest Service, our States, our local governments, Tribes, and everybody to be able to coordinate much better than we have in the past to reduce this fuel load, this inventory we have in our forests that makes it so dangerous when fire season comes around once again.

We have seen that with so many devastating fires in the West, just this year in my own district, the Carr fire in the Redding area, and the Camp fire in the Paradise area.

Many factors go into what causes these fires, but we can at least be proactive in thinning our Federal forests, thinning the material that needs to come out of there, putting people

back to work doing that, using this material for biomass, generating electricity, and the wood and paper products that we all need and enjoy.

We need to move fast-forward on the pace and scale of what it takes to make our forested areas fire safe, healthy, good for the economy, and good for all of us.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO HOUSE DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 104(a) of House Resolution 6, 116th Congress, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member to the House Democracy Partnership:

Mr. PRICE, North Carolina, Chairman

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. CUELLAR, Texas, Chairman

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. HIGGINS, New York, Chairman

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO UNITED STATES GROUP OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly:

Mr. CONNOLLY, Virginia, Chairman

THE PEOPLE'S NIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and introduce extraneous material into the RECORD on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, tonight is a reminder of exactly whose House this belongs to. We hear much in the political circles as far as who makes the call and who gets to speak when. Today, customarily, is a very unique and special day had our President not been disinvited.

Well, tonight we will have a few Members speaking on the importance of hearing from the Members that Americans have elected to talk about the issues of the past 2 years, and some of the things that we need to accomplish over the next couple of years.

We have some wonderful speakers this afternoon and this evening, to be able to share some of the topics that are important to our constituents as well as to all Americans.

The first speaker I would like to introduce to you is Mr. MIKE JOHNSON, who represents the Fourth District of Louisiana, and is currently leading the largest caucus in all of Congress as chairman of the Republican Study Committee.

Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from the great State of North Carolina for inviting me to speak on this topic.

I stand before you in disbelief and in sorrow tonight. It has been mentioned that the State of the Union Address was originally scheduled to take place today, and it has been rescheduled for next week.

I think it is appropriate for us then to bring attention to what is happening here in the people's House. I think the American people deserve to know that. As we speak, I think the American people need to know that partisan tactics are underway by certain House Democrats to undermine American values and traditions that have been cherished and practiced here since the time of our founding.

As we finally begin our committee work in the 116th Congress, I am proud to serve again on the Judiciary Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee. We have just begun the process of adopting our committee rules there, and today, we were issued a list of proposed rule changes that the Democrat majority and the Natural Resources Committee will apparently push through at our hearing tomorrow.

Among the radical new changes to the rules is a stunning action to remove the phrase, "So help me God" from the oath taken by witnesses before they testify to Congress. Did you hear that? Let me repeat it. Among the radical new changes in our committee is a stunning action to remove the phrase "So help me God" from the oath taken by witnesses before they testify to Congress.

This latest example of the aggressive surge to the far left that we are seeing