

with interim President Juan Guaido and call on Maduro to step down so that humanitarian aid can flow to the Venezuelan people, who are sick, starving, and scared.

All Americans stand with Venezuelans, who want their republic back; they want their rights back; they want their freedom back.

CLOSE THE LOBBYIST LOOPHOLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Lobbyist Loophole Closure Act.

This bill will close a loophole that lobbyists on both sides of the aisle—and they are lobbyists—have been taking advantage of for far too long. They have been using it to skirt disclosure under the guise of just providing strategic guidance for billion-dollar corporations.

You know, when I go back to Staten Island and south Brooklyn, they see right through this. They see it for what it is, people getting over on the system on the backs of hardworking Americans. And they are tired of it.

It is time that we do our job here in the Halls of Congress to end this. This is the way our jobs should work, because for far too long we have been allowing lobbyists on both sides of the aisle to undermine this process and keep our constituents in the dark.

Just look at this—both sides of the aisle. We have seen this in my own party with former Senate majority leader Tom Daschle:

He laid the blueprint for the shadow lobbying industry. He did work that looks, smells, and tastes a lot like lobbying, but the public was in the dark. He earned millions advising healthcare clients and others about how to navigate Congress without registering as a lobbyist.

And on the Republican side, the President's former lawyer, the infamous Michael Cohen, getting paid hundreds of thousands of dollars for providing strategic guidance to corporations when, in truth, it was providing access to the President without ever registering as a lobbyist. Again:

Used his ties to the President to land consulting agreements; secretly hired to work on the same issues their lobbyists were already registered to work on; was paid millions of dollars to help influence administration policy without once registering as a lobbyist.

Folks, this is corruption. Mr. Speaker, make no mistake, this is corruption.

And no matter if you are a Democrat, if you are a Republican, or if you are an independent, we all see it for what it is.

Now, this is why H.R. 1 is such an essential step. I applaud my Democratic colleagues for putting a bold anticorruption bill on the floor of the House this week, of which the Lobbyist Loophole Closure Act will be a part.

We have got to take this opportunity and push the ball forward because, for the last 4 years, the American people have been voting for change. The Republicans called it draining the swamp. The Democrats called it anticorruption.

The American people are united against the American political class. They are united against the D.C. political class.

We have got to do something about it, because, if it looks like a lobbyist, if it talks like a lobbyist, if it acts like a lobbyist, then, Mr. Speaker, let's call it a lobbyist. Let's disclose it and regulate it as such.

COMMEMORATING THE 157TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOMESTEAD ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 157th anniversary of the Homestead Act passing the House of Representatives.

The Homestead Act was instrumental in bringing settlers to the Midwest and forming the State of Nebraska, as it allowed any qualified person to claim up to 160 acres of Federally owned land in exchange for 5 years of living on and improving the property.

Homestead National Monument, which is located in Nebraska's Third Congressional District, commemorates this law.

Unfortunately, the name of this facility does not represent its cultural and historical value, as many tourists show up looking for a physical monument rather than a park, which would more accurately describe it.

For this reason, and at the request of the local community, I introduced a bill on Thursday, February 28, the law's anniversary, to reclassify Homestead National Monument as a national historical park.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill in order to maximize its value in terms of education, tourism, and economic development for the surrounding community as it commemorates an important event in our Nation's history.

REMEMBERING REPRESENTATIVE WALTER JONES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to remember my good friend and our late colleague Representative Walter Jones.

Walter Jones was someone who deeply cared about this institution and the constitutional principles that undergird our service. He was a respected member of the Armed Services Committee, where he was a passionate advocate for military families and against endless, senseless wars that seem, too often, to have a small per-

centage of Americans bear a disproportionate burden for the decisions that are made by this body and others.

Walter was a deeply caring individual. He was an encourager. When he saw Members on the floor, regardless of your seniority or your status within the institution, he referred to everyone as "chairman." He thought that was a distinction that should be shared and one he used to revere those with whom he served in this body.

He had friends on the right, on the left, and in the middle, because Walter treated everyone with respect and was the ultimate southern gentleman.

I will miss his friendship, his guidance, his mentorship, and this institution and this country will miss the principle with which Walter Jones served our great Nation.

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 12 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 (Mr. TED LIEU of California) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

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

Bless the Members of this assembly, and us all, that we would be worthy of the call we have been given as Americans, to nurture and guarantee democratic freedoms to all who dwell in our great Nation. Help us all to be truly thankful and appropriately generous in our response.

Give each Member the wisdom, patience, and perseverance to attend to the pressing issues of these days.

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.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. 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.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. 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 New York (Mr. BRINDISI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BRINDISI 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.

DEMOCRACY REFORM

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I started in this business as a college student. Inspired by what was happening with the civil rights movement, I worked on the campaign to lower the voting age to 18 in my home State of Oregon and on the national campaign.

After that, I had the privilege to work on a series of nonpartisan efforts to expand the franchise, to improve voting rights, to streamline access—bipartisan, not particularly controversial.

It has been one of the biggest disappointments of my life to find that the issues that I worked on as a college student continue to vex us. But I am pleased today that we are in the process of advancing H.R. 1, the most significant democratic reform package in a generation.

H.R. 1 will make it easier to vote, regardless of income, ability, geography, or race. It fights to end the dominance of big money in our politics and enacts tougher ethics standards to ensure public officials actually work for the public.

I am particularly proud of three provisions that I helped incorporate into the bill from our Oregon experience.

Oregon is a pioneer of vote by mail, and bringing that model nationwide paves the way for all States to be able to offer vote by mail and early voting that is secure and verifiable. It even saves money for State and local governments.

We have a provision that has automatic voter registration for individuals interacting with State agencies. They are automatically registered to vote.

And it mandates that paper ballots ensure election integrity and the ability to audit.

I look forward to our moving forward, Mr. Speaker, to be able to deal

with this significant conversation to make sure that we meet our responsibility for the democratic process to function.

HERITAGE MISSION FOR SOUTHEASTERN KANSAS

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

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to encourage the President to sign into law S. 47, the bipartisan lands package, which includes my legislation protecting the Fort Scott National Historic Site in Kansas.

My first piece of legislation, the Fort Scott National Historic Site Boundary Modification Act preserves the legacy of the fort's role in the American frontier. This legislation solidifies the community's contribution to supporting the Union during the Civil War.

Known locally as Lunette Blair, this antique structure is the sole remaining blockhouse that helped repel the Confederate invasion into eastern Kansas. It is only through the stewardship of the Fort Scott community that this blockhouse still stands.

I thank my colleagues in the Kansas delegation for joining me in this heritage mission for southeast Kansas.

BETTER OVERSIGHT OF CABLE AND INTERNET PROVIDERS

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

Mr. BRINDISI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the need for better oversight of cable and internet providers.

Between price increases, slow internet speeds, and baffling fees, customers in all regions of the country, and in my district in New York State, are overcharged by their cable company and don't always get what they have paid for.

For customers on fixed incomes, a sudden jump in the cable bill can put a painful squeeze on other parts of the family budget. Customers in rural areas often find their broadband speeds are not nearly as fast as advertised, if they are lucky enough to have broadband at all. That is why I am introducing the Transparency for Cable Consumers Act.

Under this bill, if a cable or internet company is fined by the State public service commission, the company would be required to report to the FCC what they are charging customers and what they are delivering in return.

By bringing more transparency into the market, we can help increase competition and improve services for consumers across the country.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 5, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM 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 March 5, 2019, at 9:31 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 252.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-19)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, with respect to the situation in Venezuela, is to continue in effect beyond March 8, 2019.

The situation in Venezuela continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 with respect to the situation in Venezuela.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 5, 2019.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 9 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. RICHMOND) at 4 p.m.