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No. 62

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CISNEROS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 10, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GILBERT RAY CISNEROS, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Jesse Bernard Bilberry, Jr., Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for giving us another day.

Your loving kindness, grace, and mercy have blessed us with all good and perfect gifts, which we know come from You, and with grateful hearts we say thank You.

You have promised to supply all of our needs according to Your riches in glory, and with this in mind, we thank You for the opportunity to serve the people of this great country.

Help us to be truly concerned about others. Locked together, we can withstand the storms of life. How true of us. We need the help of others.

We pray, especially, for the Members of the House. Please endow them with the wisdom they need as they work individually and collectively to accomplish the agendas set before them. And this country will be wiser, stronger, and better because they have tabernacled here today.

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. SCHNEIDER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SCHNEIDER 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND JESSE BERNARD BILBERRY, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Jesse Bernard Bilberry, Jr.'s lifetime of service.

Reverend Bilberry has dedicated nearly four decades of pastoral service and educational leadership throughout the State of Louisiana. I am proud to have Reverend Bilberry as my constituent. He just recently retired from the historic Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Scotlandville, Louisiana, and was named pastor emeritus.

Reverend Bilberry began his career in service as an officer in the United States Army, and we owe him a deep seed of gratitude for his service to our country.

After an honorable discharge from the Army, Reverend Bilberry spent several years as an administrator at Southern University, ending his tenure there as director of admissions.

Reverend Bilberry has distinguished himself as a well-respected community and religious leader both at home and abroad. From leading missionaries in the West Indies to leading several service-oriented organizations and his church, Reverend Bilberry has led a life of compassion and courage that has resonated with the people of Baton Rouge and throughout the State of Louisiana.

I thank Reverend Bilberry for his tireless contributions serving his community throughout his career in ministry and education.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CONCERNS

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, Democrats and Republicans support the Corporation for National and Community Service and all of its volunteer organizations like AmeriCorps, VISTA, and Senior Corps. President Trump's 2020 budget eliminates the Corporation and all the volunteer activities our communities rely on.

As we speak, the Corporation's CEO is executing a plan to close all 46 State offices in the next 90 days, which they are calling the Sustainability and Transformation Plan. Contrary to its name, this plan is a step towards accomplishing the administration's ultimate goal of eliminating national service and abandoning local volunteers and stakeholders.

Last month, the Corporation's own inspector general reported to Congress:

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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“Aspects of this plan present heightened risks of fraud, waste, and mismanagement that warrant particularly close oversight.”

So now it is time for Congress to act to protect national service, not fund a plan that promotes fraud, waste, and abuse. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1458, the Keep Community Service Local Act, which prohibits the closing of State offices.

ETO TESTING IN LAKE COUNTY

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, last month, I spoke on the floor about the urgent need for EPA ambient air testing at two manufacturing facilities in Lake County that use ethylene oxide, a known carcinogen.

As well, I and my colleagues in the Illinois delegation have written to the EPA urging them to undertake ambient air monitoring.

The neighbors living near these plants, as well as the local governments, need to know that the air they breathe is safe. Yet the EPA still refuses to conduct any ambient air monitoring, instead insisting on using dispersion models based on estimates of smokestack emissions.

Such dispersion monitoring is completely inadequate because it fails to account for what are known as fugitive emissions, EtO escaping into the environment from locations other than the smokestack.

Absent EPA leadership, the local municipalities and the Lake County Public Health Department have stepped up to pursue monitoring on their own.

Good for them, but it should not have come to this. They are only doing so because the EPA has failed to do its job.

Our communities deserve far better from the EPA. This is about our families and the public health. I urge the EPA to do its duty and to begin this vital testing immediately.

FAIRNESS FOR HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRANTS ACT

(Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 1044, the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act, introduced by Congresswoman LOFGREN. This bipartisan legislation will help ease green card backlogs for those facing the longest wait times and help our businesses retain the high-skilled staff they need to be competitive.

Last month, I sat down with Sunayana Dumala, who shared her story with me.

It was only 2 years ago that our community was devastated when

Sunayana's husband, Srinivas, was murdered in a hate crime in Olathe, Kansas. My predecessor helped her obtain a temporary visa, but she still faces a potentially decades-long wait to gain citizenship. This is because, with him gone, her status was at risk.

These green card backlogs need to be resolved. Sunayana is not alone. Many people have applied for permanent residency and are stuck in long backlogs for green cards.

H.R. 1044 creates a fair and equitable first-come, first-served system, helping to even out green card lines and helping to prevent excessive backlogs for folks like Sunayana. It allows U.S. companies to focus on what they do best: hiring people with the right skills to create products, services, and jobs.

This is a piece of a larger, more comprehensive reform needed to fix our broken immigration system.

ADVOCATING FOR MEDICAID BILL

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill to help working Americans access quality, affordable healthcare.

Last month, I introduced the bipartisan Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act, which has already unanimously passed the House and Senate. With the President's signature, this bill will help parents coordinate care for a sick child and protect seniors from going bankrupt to pay for their loved one's in-home care.

My bill will also address skyrocketing prescription drug costs by preventing pharmaceutical companies from cheating State Medicaid programs.

As an emergency physician, I know that timely access to care is critical to helping every family live a full, healthy, and productive life. We must put patients first.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President to sign this important bill into law immediately.

IN HONOR OF DERRICK NELSON

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

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a hero in my district who passed away this week.

Mr. Derrick Nelson was the principal of the high school in Westfield, New Jersey. He was known to students, to parents, and to teachers for his generosity and selflessness.

Mr. Nelson dedicated his life to serving his country and community. He spent 20 years in the U.S. Army Reserves, including a deployment in the Middle East.

He began his career in New Jersey education in 2002 and joined the West-

field school system in 2010, officially becoming principal in 2017. Students and teachers said he always had a smile on his face, and his energy was infectious.

It was this kindness of spirit that led Mr. Nelson to donate his bone marrow to a 14-year-old boy in France. He did not know the boy, he just wanted to give something of himself to save a child's life.

He suffered a complication from the procedure. He never woke up.

Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Derrick Nelson, we have lost a leader in our community and a great and good man. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, and I hope they find comfort in knowing that the extraordinary legacy he leaves behind will continue to inspire and guide the people who had the privilege to know him.

SAVE THE INTERNET ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STANTON). Pursuant to House Resolution 294 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1644.

Will the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS) kindly take the chair.

□ 0915

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1644) to restore the open internet order of the Federal Communications Commission, with Mr. CISNEROS (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 116-37 offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON) had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MS. DAVIDS OF KANSAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part A of House Report 116-37.

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following: SEC. 4. GAO REPORT ON BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE COMPETITION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that—

(1) examines the efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to assess competition for providers of broadband Internet access service (as defined in section 8.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations) in the market;