

Week, and I rise to recognize an educator in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who is teaching his students the value of good citizenship.

Josh Isaacsohn, a fifth grade teacher at the Gayman Elementary School in Doylestown, was recently recognized by the Central Bucks school board for his work in the classroom.

For the past 3 years, during each month of the school year, Josh has sent notes and drawings from his students to parents of members of our military who, in turn, would add them to care packages.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women in our military deserve our full support and gratitude, and I thank Josh for teaching our community's kids about respecting and honoring our true American heroes.

I would also like to thank Dr. John Kopicki, superintendent of the Central Bucks School District, and Glenn Schloeffel, president of the Bucks County school board, for all of their work as well. We thank them for their leadership in our community.

RECOGNIZING ARTISTS OF YARDLEY

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a nonprofit organization in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that was recently named Pennsbury School District's 2018-2019 Nonprofit Partner of the Year.

Artists of Yardley, founded in 2004, is an organization dedicated to enhancing creativity in our community through immersion in the arts.

Located at the Janney House on Paterson Farm in Yardley, Artists of Yardley boasts over 250 members and offers classes, workshops, and summer camps for young people in Bucks County. These opportunities, taught by professional art instructors, seek to amplify the artistic talents and education of our community's youth.

Notably, for the past 3 years, Artists of Yardley has organized an art competition for Pennsbury School District students at its headquarters.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Artists of Yardley for all of its amazing work with our community and for inspiring Bucks County students to pursue their dreams.

I would also like to particularly thank Artists of Yardley's president, Alison Smith, and vice president, Jim Bongartz, for all of their work and service to our community.

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 10 o'clock and 27 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. Cox of California) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Richard B. Kunst, St. James Catholic Church, Duluth, Minnesota, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we pray blessings upon the proceedings of this Chamber this day. May the Members of Congress and all government officials see their authority to govern as a sharing of Your authority, O Heavenly Lord.

And to this end, may the deliberations of today and always support the right of every citizen of the United States to have life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. And may our Nation's motto, "In God We Trust," be more than simple words on our currency but, rather, the true spirit in which our great Nation is governed.

We ask that You continue to be present to this great Nation and to answer our prayers by Your great love.

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 gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. WEXTON 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 RICHARD B. KUNST

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

There was no objection.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Father Richard Kunst, an ordained Catholic priest for the Diocese of Duluth in northern Minnesota.

Before ordination, Father Kunst was a Senate staffer for United States Senator Rod Grams out of Minnesota. He earned his B.A. in political science from Saint Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota, and a master of divinity from Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota.

Father Kunst has had several parish assignments in northeastern Minnesota, including parishes in Brainerd, Cromwell, Floodwood, Meadowlands, and three different assignments in Duluth. He was the vocations director for

the Duluth diocese for 12 years and has been the bishop's representative for the diocesan newspaper, The Northern Cross, since 2005. Father Kunst has also been the auditor of the diocesan tribunal since 2000.

As a hobby, Father Kunst collects artifacts associated with the history of the Vatican and the popes and has one of the largest private collections in the world.

I consider Father Kunst to be a great friend to my wife and me, and I am grateful that he can be here today to open this wonderful Chamber up with a prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

AMERICANS DESERVE QUALITY HEALTHCARE INSURANCE THAT IS ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, before the Affordable Care Act, Americans suffering with cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes, and Parkinson's disease could be denied health insurance coverage due to a preexisting condition, a genetic predisposition millions of Americans are born into. But insurance companies can't do that anymore because it is against the law because of the Affordable Care Act.

The Trump administration wants to take away that protection and has asked a Texas Court of Appeals to fully repeal the Affordable Care Act and preexisting conditions protections.

This week, the House will vote to approve the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act. In my western New York community alone, nearly 300,000 people need the protection for preexisting conditions that the Affordable Care Act provides.

Americans deserve quality healthcare insurance that is accessible and affordable.

RECOGNIZING CAPITOL WORSHIP

(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, I rise today to recognize Capitol Worship, which is a mission that is near and dear to my heart.

For the past 8 years, Pastor Dan Cummins and his wife, JoAnn Cummins, have ministered the Members of Congress, staff, and the Capitol Police. They share the love and Gospel of Jesus Christ through weekly prayer services and Bible studies.

Each year, Capitol Worship hosts and produces the Carols in the Capitol Christmas Concert and the Washington, a Man of Prayer, both of which take place in Statuary Hall. The Washington, a Man of Prayer event commemorates when President George Washington was sworn in at Federal Hall in New York City on April 30, 1789.

President Washington, accompanied by Congress, proceeded to St. Paul's Chapel, where one of his first official acts as President was to offer prayers of dedication to God on America's behalf. This is truly a remarkable event made possible by Pastor Dan and JoAnn Cummins.

Mr. Speaker, Capitol Worship fosters strong personal and bipartisan relationships between Members from both political parties, and I congratulate Pastor Dan and JoAnn Cummins on their dedication to this awesome mission.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. Another week, another school shooting, this time right outside my district at the STEM Highlands Ranch School.

My heart aches for everybody there, but you know something? That is so far from enough.

People say it is too soon, we can't talk about gun safety, but you know what? Tell that to the survivors of Columbine, only 7 miles away from STEM Highlands, who have been waiting for 20 years for it to be time.

Tell that to the Sandy Hook parents.

Tell that to the thousands of parents around this country who have lost their children in school shootings and just simply shootings on street corners.

The time has come. We need commonsense gun safety legislation, and we need it now. Until then, the blood of these children and all of the other children are on all of our hands.

RECOGNIZING CLINTON COLUMBUS JONES

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I stand to recognize the long career and service of Clinton Columbus Jones, the dean of the Republican Financial Services Committee staff. Clinton has been on the Hill for over 23 years, and he is leaving to join the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

A native of both Kansas and my home State of North Carolina, Clinton first came to Capitol Hill in 1993, after earning an urban planning degree and then a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

While I don't agree with his choice of university, he is a fine and upstanding

human being who has had a fantastic career on the Hill. He has served under seven different full committee chairmen on the Financial Services Committee, eight Republican Housing Subcommittee chairmen or ranking members, and has helped draft some of the most important housing and insurance bills of this generation, including the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998, the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016, and the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2012.

In addition to his work on the Hill, Clinton has taught prelaw at Howard University for over 20 years and is a single father to a wonderful 15-year-old son and great student, Clinton Beamon Jones IV.

We hate to see him go, but we thank him for his service, not just to this institution, but to the American people. We cherish his friendship and the knowledge he has imparted.

With that, I ask my colleagues to give a moment of recognition to Clinton Jones.

PROTECTING PREEXISTING CONDITIONS

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

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, in an unprecedented move, the Trump administration issued dangerous guidance last year that could effectively eliminate protections for Americans with preexisting conditions. The administration's guidance puts coverage for the over 130 million Americans with preexisting conditions at risk.

Our friends and neighbors, Americans who have had cancer, Americans who have high blood pressure, and Americans who have been pregnant would all be at risk of being priced out of their health insurance or being denied coverage outright.

Mr. Speaker, we can't go back. Healthcare is complicated, but this issue is not. No American should ever be denied coverage for a preexisting condition—not now, not ever. That is why I will be supporting the Protecting Americans With Preexisting Conditions Act on the House floor this week, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE OFFICER THOMAS WILSON

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

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Suffolk County Police Officer Thomas Wilson.

In responding to a 911 hang up call, Officer Wilson came upon a female victim with severe stab wounds and an armed assailant who refused to sur-

render. Thanks to his quick and measured thinking, while assuming clear risk to his own life, Officer Wilson was able to subdue and arrest the armed assailant and provide lifesaving first aid to the female victim.

His courageous actions have earned him the Silver Shield Award from Suffolk County PBA, and he will soon receive the Combat Medal from Suffolk County PD.

While this is an extraordinary act of heroism, those who know Officer Wilson are not surprised. This is the same man who worked on the pile in the aftermath of 9/11 for 350 hours and who has traveled to D.C. dozens of times to fight for the Zadroga Act and to fully fund the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund.

On behalf of our entire community and Nation, I thank Officer Wilson for his continued service.

CONGRATULATING ARVIN HIGH SCHOOL COLOR GUARD

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

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Arvin High School color guard.

Ranked number one in California, the Bears recently won the Western Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada, and this last April brought home the silver medal at the World Color Guard Championships in Dayton, Ohio. The team has proven that hard work, practice, and teamwork can bring success in any arena.

Led by Director Bryan Dandin, I am so proud of team members Ivan Perez, Andrea Ramos, Ivory Rose Iglesias, Karen Jaqueline Islas Rosas, Jose Nava, Melisa Sierra, Jocelyne Tapia, Yasmin Zavala, Maria Nunez, Maria Ramos Navarro, Juan Gomez, Cithali Barrena, Veronica Sanchez, Cassandra Cervantes, Enrique Portillo, Nevaeh Arriaga, Emily Watson, and Jessica Sierra. I look forward to their future victories and the success I know they will have in life.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the team.

Go, Bears.

HONORING DR. HILDA SHIRK

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, a few weeks ago, our Nation observed National Public Health Week, and I rise today to honor the work and accomplishments of a leading figure in public health in Lancaster County, Dr. Hilda Shirk, who is retiring after 7 years as president and CEO of Lancaster Health Center.

Dr. Shirk has been a tireless advocate for public health and for ensuring everyone has access to quality care,