

The father of our Constitution, James Madison, wrote: "A popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or, perhaps both."

Yet, today, it feels as if we are in the middle acts of Madison's feared drama.

Sadly, only 26 percent of Americans can name all three branches of government, and 37 percent cannot name a single right guaranteed under the First Amendment. Meanwhile, public trust in government and voter participation is low, and foreign adversaries have taken advantage of this to sow discord among us.

Madam Speaker, I was proud to include a program in the House-passed National Defense Authorization Act to fund further development and evaluation of civics education programs, but this is just a first step. We must ensure that every child has access to evidence-based civics programs. The future of our democracy depends on it.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FAMILY MEALS MONTH

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Family Meals Month.

Between work, school, and extracurricular activities, it can be hard to find time to share a meal as a family, but the benefits that come from carving out time to eat together are rewarded tenfold.

Family meals are great for the mind, body, and spirit. Regular meals provide children and their parents with great nutritional value, helping them to meet the recommended servings of fruits and vegetables. It also expands the variety of food children will eat, making them less picky about what is on the table.

For young, developing children, conversation heard at the dinner table involves vocabulary and reading comprehension. Adolescents also benefit, often being more likely to achieve higher grades in school.

Meals bring families closer and provide a setting for parents and children to engage in meaningful dialogue that can reduce stress and negative behavior and improve communications skills.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all families to prioritize time for family meals and strengthen their ties to one another.

#### TRANSFORM STUDENT DEBT TO HOME EQUITY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in response to two crises facing

America's young adults: the student debt crisis and the homeownership crisis.

Since World War II, America's middle class experienced unprecedented growth in homeownership and wealth accumulation. Tragically, today, due to exploding levels of student debt, which, cumulatively, total over \$1.5 trillion, the option of homeownership for far too many young, aspiring Americans remains out of reach.

The homeownership rate for those under 35 is just 36 percent, 10 percentage points lower than 2006. These dismal numbers have exacerbated the racial wealth gap as well.

During the financial crash of 2008, African Americans lost half of their accumulated wealth since the founding of the Republic. In 2017, African American homeownership fell to 43 percent, effectively negating any progress since the Fair Housing Act.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 3511, the Transform Student Debt to Home Equity Act. My bill directs HUD and the Federal Housing Finance Agency to establish a pilot program to renegotiate creditworthy Federal student debt holders with eligible homes.

I thank the Financial Services Committee for considering it this week, and I ask my colleagues to consider cosponsoring this important legislation.

#### HONORING THE MUSSER FAMILY

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Musser family of Michigan for nearly nine decades of outstanding tradition and service at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island in Michigan's beautiful First District.

The famous "world's largest front porch" has welcomed five sitting U.S. Presidents, thousands of dignitaries, business leaders, movie stars, and over 150,000 guests each season.

The rich traditions of the Grand Hotel are world-renowned and have set the standards in the tourism industry for almost a century.

I personally congratulate my friend Dan Musser on 30 years of exceptional service as the president of the Grand and wish him and his wife, Marlee, and his sister, Mimi Cunningham, all the best as they pass the torch and set out on new adventures.

#### HONORING NICK BUONICONTI

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

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of my friend Nick Buoniconti, the humanitarian and football legend. He passed away on July 30, 2019, at the age of 78.

Nick's career with the Miami Dolphins began in 1969. With his help, the

Dolphins went undefeated in 1972, culminating with a Super Bowl victory. The team won the Super Bowl the next year as well and remains the only team in the National Football League to go an entire season undefeated.

After Nick retired from professional football, his son Marc sustained a spinal cord injury in a college football game, leaving him paralyzed from the neck down.

After this, Nick dedicated himself to focusing on his son's health and supporting the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, of which Marc currently serves as president.

In addition, Nick and his family founded the Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis, which has raised over \$500 million in support of the Miami Project's research objectives.

Nick Buoniconti's influence will be felt in Miami for years to come. We will remember him with love and pride.

□ 1945

#### HONORING THE LIFETIME OF SERVICE OF TERRY OTTINGER

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Terry Ottinger, who has retired after 14 years of faithful service on staff with the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce and, 17 years before that, as a business owner. Few have done more to advance the cause of the local entrepreneur than Terry.

Since 1921, the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce has served as an advocate for business and, today, is the largest chamber in Polk County, with over 1,400 investor businesses.

During Terry's tenure as chamber vice president, Lakeland has risen to the fourth fastest growing metropolitan area in the Nation. His leadership has been instrumental in expanding training workshops, promoting small business development, and providing opportunities for investors and visionaries to network.

The city of Lakeland is a stronger regional partner and a more desirable location for prospective businesses because of Terry's professionalism, strategic outlook, team building talents, and honest friendship.

Thank you, Terry. Thank you for a lifetime of service. You are not done, though, and we look forward to keeping you engaged in our community for years to come.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ANTHONY MARTINEZ, SR.

(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 recognize the life of Anthony Martinez, Sr., a true leader in Delano, California, and the

Central Valley, who dedicated his life to helping others.

Tony was born in Santa Paula, California, and grew up in Hanford, where he graduated from high school, and then went on to pursue higher education at Bakersfield College, San Jose State, and Porterville College.

A selfless leader, Tony proudly served in the California National Guard and the United States Air Force.

Among his many jobs in life, Tony managed a Thrifty Drug Store, but then, with the support of his wife, Pat, accomplished a lifelong dream by opening the renowned Tony's Pizza in Delano and also founded the Anthony Martinez Farmers Insurance Agency.

During his impressive 40-year business career, Tony volunteered countless hours to his community and served in elected roles as both a city council member and as mayor.

Tony passed away on June 20, 2019, but he leaves behind a legacy that will live on.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Anthony "Tony" Martinez. May he rest in peace, and may we always remember his dedication to Delano, the Central Valley, and our great Nation.

#### AUGUST 2019 JOBS REPORT

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in the August jobs report, job numbers were once again strong. Over 570,000 people joined the labor force, and the unemployment rate remained at its 50-year low of 3.7 percent. In addition, 130,000 jobs were added in the United States and wages were increased.

I am grateful for this consistent change for the better and for President Donald Trump's policies in continuing to create jobs. By creating jobs, lowering unemployment, and increasing wages, President Trump is continuing his effective record of keeping his promises. With more jobs created, there has been also an impressive increase in wages.

One number that specifically stood out in this past August's report was the number of women employed. Currently, the number of employed women is at the highest level since 2002.

I am grateful that the Trump administration will continue to focus on American families and the creation of jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

I am grateful to recognize today is Constitution Day.

#### HONORING EAGLE SCOUT SEAN DUFFY

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to honor a remarkable young man of South Jersey.

Recently, Scout Sean Duffy of Egg Harbor Township in South Jersey earned the outstanding honor of becoming an Eagle Scout. For his Eagle Scout project, Sean decided to beautify the nature reserve in Egg Harbor Township.

Sean led his fellow scouts in the construction of the gazebo and oversaw the project from the very beginning to the very end. Because of this exceptional young man, the community of Egg Harbor Township can enjoy a new place of recreation and gathering at the nature reserve for many years to come.

At times, we must all take initiative and assume a role of leadership. We continue to be inspired by brave and passionate young people like Sean Duffy who step forward and guide their peers in order to better their own community. We are proud of him. He is a true leader.

Congratulations, Sean. We wish you the best going forward and thank you for your contribution to our community. South Jersey, New Jersey, and the United States of America are proud of the work that you have done.

Good luck.

#### APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4003(e) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Pub. L. 114-255), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Dr. Jim Jirjis, Nashville, Tennessee

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MAST (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today through final votes on September 18 on account of a death in the family.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken

from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 25. Concurrent resolution recognizing September 11, 2019, as a "National Day of Service and Remembrance"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1200. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2019, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 116th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

GREGORY F. MURPHY,  
Third District of North Carolina.  
DAN BISHOP,  
Ninth District of North Carolina.