

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, with solemn remembrance and a heavy heart, I rise today to honor the life of my uncle, Colonel Joseph S. Hice.

We knew him as Uncle Spurge. He was a great husband, a father, a friend to everyone who knew him, and an amazing American patriot.

Colonel Hice was born in 1928 in Cherry Log, Georgia. He attended the University of Georgia, where he graduated with a degree in aeronautical engineering.

His passion for flight led him to an amazing career in the United States Air Force, where he served with honor for 21 years. He was among the first jet pilots in our Nation's history who commanded the P-80, F-84, F-86, F-100, F-104, KC-135, and B-52.

During his distinguished career, he earned the World War II Victory Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Bronze Star service medal.

Colonel Hice served his Nation with great honor during both the Korean and Vietnam wars and led the first squadron of jet aircraft to circumnavigate the globe nonstop.

During the October 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, Colonel Hice served at Strategic Air Command headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, where he helped coordinate various branches involved in Operation Looking Glass, and he was responsible for briefing President John Kennedy in real time.

Following his career in the Air Force, Colonel Hice celebrated a 20-year career with Eastern Air Lines in Miami, Florida, as a chief flight instructor. Later, he worked in real estate in both south Florida and Atlanta, Georgia, after his retirement from the airline.

Colonel Hice was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Phil Blankley Hice. He is survived by his children, Joseph Hice, Jr., Charles N. Hice, Leslie Jane Hice Coleman; his brother, my father, Thomas Hice; 10 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; his many nieces and nephews; and his beloved pup Louie.

Colonel Hice led an illustrious life of great honor and marked dignity in service and commitment to his family, his friends, and his Nation. He will receive full military honors during a ceremony at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, Georgia, on Friday, October 4, 2019—10/4/2019.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this amazing American hero, Colonel Joseph S. Hice: Fly low and slow, and keep the doors open. 10-4.

CONGRESS MUST ACT TO LOWER INSULIN COSTS

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

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the scourge of the diabetes disease in lower income communities all across our Nation.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 30 million Americans are living with the dreaded diabetes, and many cannot properly manage this potentially deadly disease due to the high cost of their medication.

Insulin is a critical and necessary treatment for those with diabetes. Since 1996, the cost of the most frequently prescribed forms of insulin has increased from just \$25 to over \$250 per bottle.

According to a 2018 Yale University survey, one in four patients were forced to ration their insulin due to these skyrocketing costs, a potentially deadly practice.

□ 1030

No one, Madam Speaker, should ever have to forgo or ration their lifesaving medication, which is the very reason why I introduced H.R. 366, the Insulin Access for All Act.

This bill would prevent the most vulnerable citizens from having to choose between taking their insulin or paying their household bills by eliminating the out-of-pocket costs for Medicare and Medicaid patients.

I encourage all of my colleagues, Madam Speaker, to join me in supporting this very necessary bill.

Additionally, Madam Speaker, the Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health held a hearing yesterday to begin discussions on H.R. 3, the Lower Drug Costs Now Act. I am a proud cosponsor of this bill. I firmly believe that passing this piece of legislation would be an important step in relieving the burden of rising pharmaceutical costs experienced by all of our citizens. This legislation would direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate fairer prices for some of the 250 most costly drugs, including insulin.

Madam Speaker, no American should ever have to wonder if they can afford the lifesaving insulin that they must depend on. Congress must take bold action to lower insulin costs. Lives are depending on it.

Madam Speaker, healthcare is a human right, and access to insulin is righteous and just and good.

EASTERN HANCOCK HIGH SCHOOL WINS COLTS LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Eastern Hancock High School football team for being one of four Indiana high schools to win the Colts Leadership Challenge.

The Colts Leadership Challenge is a competition that encourages high school football teams to host blood

drives and encourages donations throughout the summer.

Hundreds of donations are needed each day to meet the needs of the Versiti Blood Center of Indiana. We are so proud of the Royals for helping to deliver these critical, lifesaving measures.

I want to thank the Eastern Hancock High School football team for their outstanding service to the community and to the State of Indiana. Well done.

RECOGNIZING BEC WICKER'S WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Rush County resident Bec Wicker, who was recently awarded the Women in Agriculture Achievement Award. The annual award recognizes Indiana women who have contributed significantly to the success of Indiana agriculture.

Bec joined Wicker Farms in 1976 and has since built a dairy milking operation, a calf and cow operation, and produces corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, and hay.

I thank Mrs. Bec Wicker for her outstanding contributions and support for the agriculture community.

FARMERS IN INDIANA'S SIXTH DISTRICT RECEIVE HOOISER HOMESTEAD AWARD

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the outstanding achievement of 27 family farms in Indiana's Sixth Congressional District.

The Hoosier Homestead Award is given out by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture to family farms that have been farming for over 100 years, 150 years, and 200 years. I am proud that, in my district alone, 15 family farms earned the Hoosier Homestead centennial award, 8 earned the sesquicentennial award, and 4 earned the bicentennial award.

Future generations of Hoosier farmers can look up to these family farms and know that hard work and dedication pays off.

Congratulations to all of these families for earning the recognition as a Hoosier homestead.

INDIANA'S BEIRUT MEMORIAL MONUMENT

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, this weekend, I joined my fellow veterans and Gold Star families in dedicating the Beirut Memorial monument to Hoosiers killed in the terrorist attack in Beirut, Lebanon, on October 23, 1983.

As a Beirut veteran myself, I understand that our first duty is to remember. I am proud that Indiana now has our own memorial to commemorate the Indiana servicemen who sacrificed their lives in the name of peace, and we will never forget:

James Baynard, USMC

Danny Estes, USMC

Michael Gorchinski, USN

Maurice Hukill, USMC

George McVicker, USN; and

Thomas Thorstad, USMC.

Madam Speaker, I will always be faithful.

Semper fi.

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 35 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. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God, Father of us all, thank You for giving us another day.

All the world, and certainly all Americans, know that this is a time of rare historic significance here in the Capital.

Bless Your children, the men and women of the peoples' House, with grace, patience, good judgment, and honesty in the deliberations of this day and the many to come.

Lord, have mercy on us all. May all that is done 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSE J. GONZALEZ

(Mrs. NAPOLITANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Master Sergeant Jose J. Gonzalez of La Puenta, California, from my district,

who died on August 21 during combat operations in Faryab province in Afghanistan.

Master Sergeant Gonzalez was a Green Beret who served with distinction in the military for 17 years and deployed seven times during his career as a marine, Army infantryman, and special forces engineering sergeant.

He was recently assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

Master Sergeant Gonzalez served with incredible courage and bravery and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, the Purple Heart Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, and many other high honors.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to recognize and extend my deepest sympathy to Master Sergeant Gonzalez' wife, his children, his mother, his father, family, friends, and his fellow soldiers in the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, to the Gonzalez family, please know that the Congress of the United States grieves with you. The courage, character and sacrifice that he has made to our country will never be forgotten.

God bless the Gonzalez family. God bless America.

SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY

(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. Mr. Speaker, as part of National Clean Energy Week, I am grateful for clean energy and its advances in South Carolina.

The success of President Donald Trump has been the achievement of energy independence for America.

South Carolina is home to seven nuclear power reactors that produce 95 percent of the State's emission-free electricity. In addition, nuclear energy facilities in South Carolina employ over 2,800 South Carolinians. Nuclear energy is a reliable source, providing over half of the State's electricity.

Solar energy is also a reliable form of clean energy. Currently, there is enough solar installed in South Carolina to power over 90,000 homes.

I have been impressed by visiting Cypress Creek Renewables, a solar farm in Gaston-Swansea, Lexington County, welcomed by Wannelle Lefkowitz; NARENCO solar farm in Orangeburg County, welcomed by Michael Cox; and Green Energy Biofuel in Aiken County, reprocessing cooking oil, welcomed by Joe Renwick; along with Ameresco, clearing woody debris at the Savannah River Site.

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

NEGOTIATED DRUG PRICING SHOULD BE ENACTED NOW

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, this week, the Committee on Ways and Means released a report highlighting the disparities between the cost of prescription drugs in the United States and other developed nations.

This report found that on average, drug prices in the United States were nearly four times higher than prices in similar countries.

The sky-high cost of prescription drugs affects all of our communities, and too many Americans cannot afford the medications they need. The Medicare Program alone last year spent \$135 billion for prescription drugs.

It is a lot of money, but it is also a lot of leverage, a lot of leverage that should be used to negotiate lower drug prices for Medicare and for the American people.

Negotiated drug pricing should be enacted now.

NATIONAL LITERACY 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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Literacy Month.

Reading is a fundamental part of learning and expanding our knowledge of the world around us. It is especially important to form strong reading habits in childhood that we can carry with us throughout our adult lives.

Parents, educators, and the local community can all play a role in encouraging young people to pick up a book and to exercise their imaginations.

A great resource that schools, museums, and public libraries can take advantage of is the Library of Congress' Surplus Book Program. This initiative offers surplus books of all kinds and for all ages to organizations and institutions nationwide to help build their book collections, and I encourage those interested to visit the library's website for more information.

Mr. Speaker, reading at a young age is important, but a passion for books can form at any stage of life.

During National Literacy Month, let's all pick up a new book and share the reading experience with the children in our lives.

WHISTLEBLOWER

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, a whistleblower brought a complaint to the DNI, who sent it to the inspector general—