

seen a rapid expansion in skills-based education like on-the-job learning, earn-while-you-learn programs, and apprenticeships.

Workforce development programs are successful only if they are adaptable to the changing needs of employers. The notice of proposed rulemaking by the Department of Labor issued this past June recognizes this through the proposed establishment of industry-recognized apprenticeships programs, or IRAPS. IRAPS cut through the bureaucratic red tape to put businesses and employees at the center of the conversation.

The proposed flexibility in the notice of proposed rulemaking will allow businesses the ability to quickly meet labor market needs. These changes will help foster continued innovation that recognizes the dignity of all work and provides another tool for apprentices to move into meaningful work in the rapidly evolving 21st century economy.

We can ensure IRAPS create as many career opportunities as possible by encouraging employer innovation and allowing students and families the freedom to choose the path that is best for them. That is the power of work. That is the power of CTE. And that is the power of apprenticeships, putting employers and students in the driver's seat of their own professional futures.

CONGRATULATING STEVE JOHNSON ON RECEIVING IMTA'S FOUNDERS AWARD

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Steve Johnson, for receiving the prestigious Indiana Motor Truck Association's Founders Award.

The IMTA's Founders Award is an honor bestowed to those who embody the spirit of the association's founders and have made outstanding contributions to the association and the Indiana trucking industry. Steve is only the ninth individual to have received this award in the past 14 years.

Always one to give back, Steve proudly serves his Nation in uniform and remains involved in his local church, charitable foundations, and children's hospitals in Indiana.

I congratulate my good friend, Steve Johnson.

CONGRATULATING THREE HIGH SCHOOLS ON SPECIAL OLYMPICS RECOGNITION

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate three high schools located in Indiana's Sixth District on their achievement of becoming a National Banner Unified Champion School.

Columbus East High School, Muncie Central High School, and South Ripley High School were recognized by the Special Olympics for their servant hearts and commitments to inclusion. These three high schools achieved the status of a Unified Champion School after meeting 10 national standards of excellence set by the Special Olympics.

As institutions dedicated to inclusion, collaboration, and engagement, we are proud of Columbus East, Muncie Central, and South Ripley. We congratulate the students and faculty for this significant achievement.

RECOGNIZING BATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AND IVY TECH'S PARTNERSHIP

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Batesville High School for their tremendous achievement of having one-half of the 2020 graduating class earn college credits. Through their innovative programs with Ivy Tech Community College, Batesville will see 50 percent of their graduating seniors walk across the stage with an entire year's worth of college credits.

The Ivy Tech program gives Hoosiers the opportunity to take 16 college courses at no cost, enabling them to obtain a bachelor's degree in just 3 years after they go to college.

I thank Batesville High School faculty and staff for continuing to provide innovative educational programs that set our students up for success.

RECOGNIZING RUSHVILLE CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL FFA PROGRAM

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Rushville Future Farmers of America chapter for being one of six chapters across the country to participate in the Turn the Bag Blue and Gold program.

The Turn the Bag Blue and Gold program is a partnership between FFA and Mycogen Seeds that gives students the opportunity to visit with farmers and polish their professional skills while raising money for their communities. This program will allow students to sell directly to local farmers, providing industry experience and a wonderful educational opportunity. A percentage of these sales will go directly to the Rushville FFA chapter.

Congratulations to Rushville FFA.

CONGRATULATING INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Indiana National Guard for the stationing of the 127th Cyber Protection Battalion at Muscatatuck. As the seventh largest Army National Guard contingent in the Nation, the Indiana National Guard continues to make our Nation's defenses better.

The Hoosier State is proud to be home to cyber force structures such as the Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex, the Defensive Cyber Operations Element, and Cyber Protection Team 172. We are honored to have such a distinctive battalion.

Indiana's Sixth District boasts the Department of Defense's only live, full-scale cyber range, and I join the Army National Guard in congratulating our distinguished Hoosiers in uniform on this outstanding achievement.

CONGRATULATING BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA VOLUNTEER BETH CURTISS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Beth Curtiss of Shelbyville, Indiana. Beth was awarded the 2019 Crossroads of America Silver Beaver Award, in association with the Boy

Scouts of America. This award is the highest honor the Crossroads of America Council may bestow on a volunteer.

Beth has volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America for over 15 years. This is the fifth time Beth has been recognized for her outstanding service.

I am pleased to congratulate Beth, and I thank her for investing in our communities.

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 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Ms. Verna Teller, Southern Tiwa, Pueblo of Isleta, New Mexico, offered the following prayer:

O, Creator and Great Mother, having asked and received Your permission to invoke Your blessings today to all directions—to the east, north, west, south, and the center—we thank You for the life You give to all Your children: the two-legged ones, the four-legged, those who live in the waters, and those who watch over us from the skies above.

Sacred pollen, sacred Earth Mother, sacred water that manifest Your desires, O Creator and Great Mother, we thank them for the nourishment they give us equally, with no regard to race, color, or creed.

Creator and Great Mother, bless those standing before You who carry a sacred trust to all of us who inhabit Turtle Island, our homeland. And I pray today that You will give them the wisdom and the courage to carry out their sacred trust with the same equality that we receive from the Sun and rain.

"Hurrd kem," thank you.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PETERS 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 MS. VERA TELLER

THE SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. HAALAND. Madam Speaker, I am honored to have a fierce woman from my district to deliver a historic opening prayer.

Isleta Pueblo Chief Judge Verna Teller is the first Native American to deliver the opening prayer in the U.S. House.

This is a special time in our country's history and, in honor of Native American Heritage Month, a time to reflect on the contributions of Native Americans to this country.

Chief Judge Teller made her own history in New Mexico. She broke barriers when she was elected as the first woman Pueblo Governor. Because of the history of colonization, many Pueblos generally don't allow women to hold leadership positions, but that didn't stop Judge Teller from knowing her value as a Tribal leader.

I am proud to stand with Chief Judge Teller to highlight the resilience of indigenous women and our perseverance to uplift our girls and our women in all of our communities.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

COMMENDING MEMBERS OF NIAGARA FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT AND NEW YORK STATE PARK POLICE

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our everyday heroes—police and fire personnel—who sign up to rush into dangerous situations most people would run from.

Today I want to take this opportunity to commend the outstanding members of the Niagara Falls Fire Department and the New York State Park Police.

Last week, a man was discovered in the fierce and frigid rapids of the Niagara River. Without hesitation, the Niagara Falls firefighters and New York State Park Police took quick action, entering the water just yards away from the brink of Niagara Falls and, under the most dangerous of circumstances, completed a successful rescue.

We are grateful for the brave and selfless service of these first responders

and others across my community and this Nation who risk their own safety and save the lives of others.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DEBBIE BONE-HARRIS

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Debbie Bone-Harris as she begins her retirement from the Franklin Public Utility District.

Deb began working for Franklin PUD in 2003 and has held many roles throughout the organization. She has been a stalwart advocate for hydro-power in the Northwest. She has spent countless hours educating our community about the value of the Columbia and the Snake River dams, and she has worked with both State and Federal legislators to advocate for their protection.

Deb is a leader, not only with the Franklin PUD, but in the greater community as well. She has served on numerous boards and held leadership roles with community organizations, including Pasco Chamber of Commerce, Visit Tri-Cities, Tri-Cities Legislative Council, Washington Public Utility District, Northwest Public Power Association, and Pacific Northwest Waterways Association.

As Deb begins her well-earned retirement, our community wishes her the best as she enjoys spending more time with her grandchildren, going on hot-rod adventures with her husband, and attending those rowdy sewing conventions.

I thank Deb for her advocacy and congratulate her.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLEET READINESS CENTER SOUTHWEST

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Fleet Readiness Center Southwest at Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado, the birthplace of naval aviation maintenance.

In 1912, the entire Navy aviation squad consisted of four officers and three planes, which called North Island home. As more planes routinely landed at sea, it became necessary for the Navy to have an official aviation maintenance facility.

Shortly after the U.S. Government obtained the island in 1917, it established the Overhaul and Repair Department, the first maintenance repair and overhaul facility in the Department of Defense.

Now designated as the Fleet Readiness Center Southwest, the goals are the same: to produce quality equipment and provide support to our Nation's aviation war fighters through the overhaul, repair, and modification

of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps frontline aircraft.

Encompassing 358 acres and over 80 buildings, the Fleet Readiness Center is one of the largest aerospace employers in San Diego County, employing approximately 3,500 civilians and 900 military personnel.

Please join me in honoring one of the best facilities in the U.S. Navy, the Fleet Readiness Center Southwest at Naval Air Station North Island, on its 100th anniversary.

HONORING WALTER B. JONES, JR.

(Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I proudly announced my first piece of legislation as a Member of Congress, H.R. 5037.

Of course, every bill that goes through this great legislative body is important, but I think it is fair to say that every Member's first bill carries with it an importance in its own right. It marks the beginning of a new path forward, and I wanted mine to begin in remembrance of my predecessor, friend, and mentor, the late Congressman Walter B. Jones, Jr.

Congressman Jones served the great people of eastern North Carolina for over 20 years. He supported our military, he supported our farmers, and he supported our coasts. As his successor, I pledge to do the same.

This bill, which would name a post office in the town Congressman Jones was born and raised, in the great town of Farmville, North Carolina, is the least that we can do to honor the remarkable statesman and steward that he was.

In this time of great divisiveness, it is wonderful to have an issue that we all can rally around and support. I look forward to this bill becoming a reality for the people of eastern North Carolina.

LOWER THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mrs. AXNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the price of prescription drugs is too high and prescription drug prices have risen 44 percent in 5 years.

Big pharmaceutical companies have raised the cost of the most commonly used drugs by 100 percent. I am talking about every day, basic prescription drugs like insulin for diabetes or Advair for asthma.

Experts say there is no end in sight, and we will see prices rise in 2020 if this continues and if we don't act now.

I recently heard from Joan in west Des Moines, who said the cost of her generic suddenly skyrocketed, and there is nothing she can do, because if she doesn't take it she will need a liver transplant.