

As we are here to celebrate Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, I invoke the credo of my spiritual leader, His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj: "In the joy of others lies our own. In the progress of others rests our own. In the good of others abides our own."

O, Lord, may all the Members of this House and their staff receive Your guidance in their thoughts and actions. May our Armed Forces stay victorious, and may they be protected.

May God bless the United States of America.

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.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COMER 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 MR. DIPESH PANDYA

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our guest chaplain for today, Dipesh Pandya, along with members of the BAPS mandirs in our district in Pennsylvania.

They are here with hundreds of prominent Indian Americans who are also members of the BAPS organization, a Hindu faith that holds services in 32 States across 91 congressional districts.

They are here with us today to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights, a

festival celebrated by over 2 million Indian Americans across the United States. This 5-day celebration signifies the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair.

Diwali reminds us that there is joy in serving God, serving our country, serving our community, and our fellow citizens, particularly during times of calamity and despair. Traditionally, rows of divas, or candles, were used to illuminate and dispel darkness.

Today we are reminded that we must work together, united and in friendship, to serve this great Nation and the communities in which we live.

Indeed, the BAPS community throughout the United States continuously strives to serve society through various charitable and humanitarian activities, ranging from food drives to disaster relief efforts, including the planting of trees.

On behalf of my fellow Members of Congress, I am proud to recognize and welcome the BAPS members who have traveled here to Washington from across the country.

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.

SUPPORTING THE FARM WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION ACT

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

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the nearly 5,000 farmers in my district, 96 percent of which are family-owned farms.

Every time I am home, I meet with farmers about the major challenges they face today. The need to modernize and make more effective our H2A visa program is consistently flagged.

That is why I am proud to support the bipartisan Farm Workforce Modernization Act, a historic bill that both simplifies and broadens the scope of the H2A application process. In addition to ensuring critical protections for work, the bill will finally allow dairy and other farm operations to access the H2A farm worker program, a critical priority for farmers in New York-19.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of upstate produce and vegetable growers, dairy operators, and all farmers in my district, I applaud the bipartisan work of my colleagues in negotiating this important agreement. Now let's come together and get this done.

IMPEACHMENT HOAX

(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, after over a month of secret investigations against the President, Democrats have now decided to open these controlled hearings to the public.

This continued deception by Democrats to mislead the American people is insulting. No Republican witnesses, no counsel of the President to participate, and full exoneration by the courageous President Zelensky of Ukraine.

It is said that, instead of focusing on funding our military through the National Defense Authorization Act or passing the United-States-Mexico-Canada Agreement to create jobs, which improves our schools, like Lexington District 1, Democrats continue.

They have wasted \$30 million of taxpayer money on the Russian hoax and are now proceeding with the Ukrainian hoax. This partisan witch hunt diverts attention from the President's successes.

The unemployment rate is at a record low; there is record job creation; and the stock market is thriving, showing President Trump keeps his promises.

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

Thank you, President Lech Walesa of Poland, a world hero, for testifying yesterday for freedom.

LOWER DRUG PRICES NOW

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

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of lower drug prices, because Americans are getting squeezed while drug companies are raking in the cash.

One of my constituents, Mike McKenny, runs a minority-owned, small business in St. Petersburg. He works hard for a living, making payroll, serving his customers.

When Mike's daughter Taylor was diagnosed with diabetes, he had to pull thousands out of the family's 401(k) and do, in his words, "other creative things" to make ends meet when the insurance coverage ran out. At the toughest point, he paid \$120 for a 3-day supply of the insulin to keep his daughter alive.

Mr. Speaker, \$120 for 3 days. That is immoral.

Under the Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, nearly 600,000 of my constituents will pay less for drugs, some dramatically so.

End the drug company abuse. Lower drug prices now.

SALUTING MILITARY FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, it is my greatest privilege to represent our military servicemembers and their families in the 25th District of Texas, and I am humbled to be their voice in Washington.

During the month of November, we honor the dedication, the commitment, and daily sacrifices of 2.6 million military family members in the United States. These men and women may not take an oath to defend our liberty, but they are the forces behind our frontlines. They are the faces of courage and the steadfast models of resolve right here at home.

Their contributions to our national security are indisputable, and because of them, America continues to shine as a beacon of hope throughout this world.

I salute all our military families in the 25th District and across our Nation and thank them for the sacrifices they have made.

May God bless all these families. May God continue to bless the United States of America. Most importantly, in God we trust.

WE ARE BETTER THAN THIS

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, this week the Supreme Court heard oral arguments surrounding DACA. Now 800,000 lives hang in the balance.

Mr. Speaker, 800,000 is a big number, and in the face of abstract figures it is easy to lose touch with the human reality.

So let's think of, maybe, just one person, one young woman who has lived virtually her entire life in this country; whose friends, family, and community are here; who attends school and plays on the soccer team and volunteers at a food bank; who speaks English and no other language.

Which one of us would take that child to the border and send her across alone?

Which one of us would banish her to a place she has never been?

Which one of us would force her to build a life and a language she does not even know?

Which one of us could abandon that child with a clear conscience?

I suspect the answer is very few of us. And, if that is right, if in our hearts we would not permit us to behave with such coldness and cruelty, then we cannot allow our government to do so either.

As our dear colleague Mr. Cummings said, we are better than this.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week.

I am proud the Trump administration has, once again, placed an emphasis on these crucial skills development and employee advancement programs.

The Department of Labor has continually recognized the importance of apprenticeships to the future of work in our Nation and, for the fifth year in a row, dedicated a week to highlighting the need for expanded access to these educational and career opportunities.

It is essential we increase awareness of the benefits of these crucial programs which link our education system with our workforce development initiatives.

As I travel throughout Kentucky's First Congressional District, I hear from employers of all sizes and industries that say they are unsatisfied with recent graduates' credentials and they are lacking workers with the skills necessary to perform the duties of their job.

As a new member to the Committee on Education and Labor this Congress, I am proud of the bipartisan pieces of legislation we have advanced and look forward to future opportunities to support employers, provide skills development for those already employed, and enhance the jobs and generations of the future.

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BRING DOWN PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a call to action to bring down prescription drug prices.

Some say a drug company should be able to charge any price because that is just how the market works. But the market for many prescription drugs is broken.

As a diabetic, I know how the price of insulin has skyrocketed for no good reason. Medicare spent 3½ times more on insulin per patient in 2016 than in 2007.

Many Americans depend on other drugs to survive: EpiPens for life-threatening allergies, emergency inhalers for asthma, chemotherapy drugs for cancer. Patients relying on life-sustaining drugs can't simply vote with their wallet to fight back against price gougers.

That is why I introduced H.R. 5039, to give Medicare the tools it needs to bring down the price of life-sustaining drugs, similar to other developed countries.

American families deserve better than the Big Pharma status quo. Let's pass H.R. 5039 and give that to them.

CALLING FOR CAUTION ON IMPEACHMENT

(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 highlight

the unfortunate position this institution has been placed in over the past several weeks. Long before Speaker PELOSI launched this impeachment inquiry, many of my colleagues had already made it clear that their number one priority was impeaching the President.

Congress should rightfully use its oversight powers to ensure laws are executed faithfully, but this exercise has shown itself to be the ultimate manipulation of the legislative branch's oversight to achieve political gains.

I caution my colleagues from placing political expediency ahead of moderation. A vote for impeachment will forever change this institution. Imagine a future where this body utilizes the most severe of its constitutional tools to continually put the minority party on trial.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have elected their representatives to be their voice and vote on matters most important to this country. We must collectively focus on these issues, not the political impulses of a few.

For the sake of this institution, and for the good of the Nation, this cannot become the new normal.

THANKING VETERANS FOR SERVICE

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I recently spent time visiting schools throughout the Virgin Islands.

While it is always exciting to spend time with our young people, it was sad to see that the school libraries across the territory are in dire need of books and librarians to provide students and teachers with educational resources, including territory-specific material that will enlighten our young people about their rich heritage. We all have to do better.

My office also hosted two townhalls with officials from the VA and the U.S. Postal Service to discuss issues facing our veterans and the community at large. Within the next few months, it is my hope that both the Postal Service and the VA will make measurable progress.

I thank members of my community for coming out, particularly our veterans, because, on Monday, we commemorated Veterans Day, paying tribute to men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Elmer Davis once said it "will remain the land of the free only for so long as it is the home of the brave."

I am proud that the Virgin Islands has one of the highest rates of military service in our country, including my father.

I thank every veteran across the Nation for your service to America and to freedom.