

and reflects an empty gesture intended only to surrender to the pressures of political correctness.

In order to do right by its employees, customers, suppliers, and communities, a business must first be successful and profitable. A business that mistreats its employees or shuns its responsibilities to its communities would not survive in today's market environment.

So why the change? This is nothing more than a public relations exercise designed to preempt any charges from the opponents of free enterprise who suggest businesses should be advancing specific partisan causes.

Unfortunately, the changes resulted only in more ire and attention from officials it was likely intended to satisfy. Charges from the far left suggest that businesses haven't done enough to help their communities. One Senator even used the restatement of a corporation to suggest that she "expects" business leaders to support her far-left corporate governance bill that would take our free-enterprise system on a path toward socialism.

The lesson here is this: If you give them an inch, they will take a mile.

Recent developments suggest this remains true. In September, the Business Roundtable called for "market-based solutions" to fight climate change and urged businesses to work together on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I have no issues with businesses setting public goals that mitigate risk and promote long-term growth if they are in the best interest of their shareholders and business goals, but it wasn't enough for the business community's strongest opponents.

Earlier this month, the senior Senator from Massachusetts, ELIZABETH WARREN, sent a letter to the chairman of the Business Roundtable and the chair of its Energy & Environment Committee. The letter alleged that they were not doing enough and suggested that they should be required to publicly document how companies are supporting emissions-reducing public policy.

Instead of prioritizing their firms' response to the economic and health crisis, keeping their employees safe during the pandemic, and ensuring their customers' needs are met, these CEOs of major U.S. corporations must allocate time and resources to responding to calls from politicians on the far left to be more green.

Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of the classic children's book, "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie," in which a boy gives a mouse a cookie and the mouse keeps asking for more and more and more and more. In this analogy, the radical left is the mouse, never satisfied, and corporate America is the young boy, bleeding resources to fulfill the mouse's ever-expanding demands.

By ceding shareholder primacy, the Nation's business leaders began down a slippery slope. The radical left will not be placated until they remake free en-

terprise to align with their misguided, socialist goals.

Mr. Speaker, the business leaders of this country would be well served to heed the admonishment of Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman when he wrote:

"When I hear businessmen speak eloquently about the 'social responsibilities of business in a free-enterprise system,' I am reminded of the wonderful line about the Frenchman who discovered, at the age of 70, that he had been speaking prose all his life. The businessmen believe that they are defending free enterprise when they decclaim that business is not concerned 'merely' with profit but also with promoting desirable 'social' ends; that business has a 'social conscience' and takes seriously its responsibilities for providing employment, eliminating discrimination, avoiding pollution and whatever else may be the catchwords of the contemporary crop of reformers. In fact, they are—or would be if they or anyone else took them seriously—preaching pure and unadulterated socialism. Businessmen who talk this way are unwitting puppets of the intellectual forces that have been undermining the basis of a free society these past decades."

Mr. Speaker, this is a stark warning to those who lead America's largest companies that attempts to appease socialists and radical environmentalists are on a fool's errand. The agenda of the far left is fundamentally incompatible with free enterprise and a free society. The sooner that America's CEOs realize this and the sooner they return to a focus on shareholder value maximization, the sooner we will liberate the American people from the dangerous and morally bankrupt ideas of the socialist far left.

I will conclude, Mr. Speaker, with a final admonishment from Milton Friedman, when he said:

"There is one and only one social responsibility of business—to use its resources and engage in activities designed to increase its profits so long as it stays within the rules of the game, which is to say, engages in open and free competition without deception or fraud."

Profitable businesses help society. Profitable businesses increase employment. Profitable businesses are good for America.

RURAL HEALTH DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize November 19, today, as Rural Health Day. Each year, the third Thursday in November is an opportunity to highlight both the challenges and the triumphs of rural healthcare.

Nearly 60 million Americans call rural America home. It is a great place to live, to work, and to raise a family.

To ensure the vitality and the vibrancy of rural America, investments in infrastructure, technology, and, of course, healthcare are critical.

Americans in every corner of the Nation deserve access to reliable, quality healthcare, but rural America faces its own unique health challenges that need to be addressed. Long distances to the nearest hospital, many uninsured and underinsured residents, and a growing elderly population, these are just a few obstacles that rural residents face when it comes to healthcare.

This year, COVID-19 has placed an incredible strain on our healthcare systems, and rural hospitals have been particularly hit hard.

Telehealth has emerged as a critical tool to better serve rural communities. The pandemic has underscored the value telehealth adds to communities across the Nation, particularly in rural America.

This summer, I was pleased to introduce the bipartisan Helping to Ensure Access to Local TeleHealth Act, or the HEALTH Act. The HEALTH Act seeks to extend benefits and access to this critical healthcare medium to more seniors regardless of their geographic location.

As a lifetime resident of rural Pennsylvania and having spent nearly three decades as a therapist and a licensed nursing home administrator, I have been amazed how telehealth services make life easier for rural and underserved communities, particularly older Americans. The HEALTH Act will cut red tape and provide community health centers and rural health clinics the ability to offer these vital health services to their patients on a more permanent basis.

Telehealth services, however, are not possible without reliable access to high-speed, uninterrupted broadband connectivity with sufficient bandwidth to be able to handle these platforms.

Now, I have long been an advocate of rural broadband. Investing in the critical infrastructure needed to deliver this critical resource for all Americans must be a top priority.

From telehealth to telework, content streaming to online shopping, tele-education, now, more than ever, we depend on a reliable broadband and high-speed internet connectivity for our everyday lives. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the digital divide affecting rural America has never been more apparent.

In time, the coronavirus will be a thing of the past, but a national need for reliable broadband connectivity is not going anywhere. By continuing to encourage investments in broadband, we can strengthen the rural healthcare system and keep the people who call it home healthy.

CONGRATULATING LEGENDARY GENE ARRINGTON ON HIS LIFE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special constituent, a legendary west Texan, and a great American and the most recent inductee into the Texas Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame, Gene Arrington.

At 6-foot-6, "Big Air," as his friends call him, is a giant of a man with a larger-than-life story.

He was raised by a single mom on the south side of Amarillo, Texas, with little more than a roof over his head. In spite of his humble beginnings, God blessed him with an abundance of athleticism and drive that helped him achieve tremendous success in the sport of basketball.

In 1956, Arrington led the Palo Duro Dons to their first State championship basketball title, averaging 20 points a game, and named to both the all-State and all-tournament teams. He was the only Texan to be invited to play in the North versus South All-Star Game in Murray, Kentucky.

After high school, Arrington joined Polk Robison's Texas Tech Red Raiders, where he started for 3 years, scored 652 points, and pulled down 409 rebounds in 71 games.

His greatest feat, Mr. Speaker, while playing ball at Texas Tech was winning the heart of a young coed from Austin, Texas, Betty Lee Cook, who is now his wife of over 50 years.

If you asked my dad about his greatest achievements, he wouldn't reference championship titles, all-star games, or all-State and all-conference teams. He wouldn't mention a single athletic achievement or accolade.

Instead, he would talk about the day he met Jesus and joined God's kingdom team and what joy and blessing and peace and purpose he experienced from that relationship.

He would talk about his most impressive score of convincing my mom to marry him and spend over 50 years doing life with him and how she has been such a faithful friend and partner and such a hardworking woman and an amazing mother.

He would talk about coaching three boys to be men and how proud he is of all three of us and how he prayed every day—every day—for our happiness in life and in the Lord.

He would talk about his all-star friends and what a blessing they have been and how sweet life has been and how they have helped him be more successful.

I am proud of my dad's induction into the Texas Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame, but, Mr. Speaker, the most important thing to my dad is not being a Hall of Fame athlete. It is being the best husband, father, and friend that he can be.

So I congratulate my dad on his Hall of Fame honor. But, more importantly, I congratulate him on realizing his deepest desires and his biggest dream of being a world-class father and teaching his boys the game of life, the love of God, and the true meaning of success.

He is our hero. God bless, and go West Texas.

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 45 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 (Ms. HOULAHAN) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God of Heaven and Earth, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House with focus and purpose as they gather these few days before Thanksgiving. May their efforts give true cause for Americans to gather to give thanks.

As infections continue to spread and hospitals nationwide are pressed to their limits, look with mercy upon Your people. May we all, together, be mindful of the part we can play in addressing the spread of coronavirus.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WILLIAMS 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 MARIA CERDA

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on November 8, we lost a trailblazer for the Latino community due to COVID-19.

Maria Cerda was the first Puerto Rican woman and first Latina appointed to the Chicago Board of Education.

In that role, she secured funding for bilingual education programs and culturally responsive curricula that helped children like me, whose first language was not English, succeed.

She went on to cofound the Latino Institute and later served as an appointee to President Jimmy Carter's National Council on Educational Research.

In the 1980s, Mayor Harold Washington appointed Maria Cerda to head the Office of Employment and Training to oversee Federal job training programs.

The role she played in turning Chicago into a sanctuary city also deserves recognition.

Maria was once accosted by immigration agents in a clear case of racial profiling. The incident prompted Mayor Washington to issue the Nation's first ordinance preventing harassment of people of immigrant backgrounds.

We celebrate her for her outstanding commitment to social, educational, and economic equity for Latinos in Chicago and throughout our country.

Rest in power, Maria Cerda. We are eternally grateful for your work.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Rural Health Day and to commend our healthcare providers across the 25th District of Texas for their determination during this once-in-a-generation public health crisis.

Throughout COVID-19, these men and women have stepped up to continue serving Texans and protecting the well-being of our families.

I am proud to closely partner with rural health facilities in our district like Goodall-Witcher in Clifton and Baylor Scott & White in Marble Falls, and to provide them with tangible relief and resources under the CARES Act.

To further support their mission, I introduced the Ensuring Telehealth Expansion Act that would help ensure ease of care for both physicians and their patients, especially during the pandemic.

As our world becomes more dependent on technology for healthcare delivery, it is crucial we adapt by creating policies that ensure the highest quality of care possible.

To our central Texas doctors, nurses, physicians, first responders, and all other medical professionals, we simply say thank you.