

Imagine pouring everything you have emotionally and financially into an idea; then you watch it grow and thrive, but, through no fault of your own, it gets ruined because your local government shuts you down and the Federal Government refuses to help.

The Speaker can solve this problem today by allowing a vote to unleash over \$130 billion in already-appropriated leftover PPP funding.

In addition, the House should immediately consider the Small Business Expense Protection Act, which was introduced by my friend and fellow North Carolinian, GEORGE HOLDING. That bill would clarify the confusion at the IRS and make sure that recipients can deduct PPP-financed expenses on their taxes.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of our Nation's job creators and for the sake of our workers, it is time that we act to support our fellow citizens as we enter the final stages of our battle against this virus.

RECOGNIZING COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

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 celebrate Computer Science Education Week. In 2009, this opportunity for awareness was established to highlight the many ways computer science education benefits individuals as well as entire industries.

Computer Science Education Week is a chance for students of all ages to learn about the importance and benefits of computer science and the endless professional opportunities that abound with a skills-based education.

I am co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, and it has been a pleasure to work across the aisle to support important educational programs like investments in computer science.

Our Nation is in desperate need of skilled workers, and career and technical education is a win-win. It can offer rewarding professional futures for learners of all ages, while simultaneously closing the Nation's skills gap.

An industry that can particularly benefit from a skilled workforce, and especially those trained in computer science, is cybersecurity.

H.R. 1592, the Cybersecurity Skills Integration Act, is a bill I am proud to cosponsor with my Career and Technical Education Caucus co-chair, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN from Rhode Island.

The Cybersecurity Skills Integration Act seeks to develop a critical infrastructure workforce that is well-trained to handle cyber threats from bad actors. H.R. 1592 authorizes \$10 million to create a competitive grant program within the Department of Education to incorporate cybersecurity

education into new and existing career and technical education programs. The bill also requires the Department of Education to coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security to better support cybersecurity education programs.

COVID-19 demonstrated how much we rely on a skilled and trained workforce, and sadly, the personal lives and careers of many Americans have been uprooted as a result of the virus. Far too many people lost their jobs through no fault of their own. That is why I was eager to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 7032, the Skills Renewal Act.

This legislation would help displaced workers gain new skills and advance their careers upon reentry into the workforce. The bill would create a \$4,000 fully refundable skills training credit to cover a wide range of career and technical education programs.

Mr. Speaker, we need a workforce that can meet modern technical demands, and students who choose a career in technical education are best suited for that challenge. Through career and technical educational programs like computer science, we can begin to close our Nation's skills gap and help individuals restore the rungs on the ladder of opportunity.

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 11 o'clock and 13 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. CUELLAR) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask today that You bless the Members of the people's House to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve.

As this second session of the 116th Congress draws near its end, and legislative business once again weighs heavily on this Hill, withhold not Your spirit of wisdom and truth from this assembly. Give each Member clarity of thought and purity of motive, so that they may render their service as their best selves.

In this time of waiting, as people of faith prepare for holy celebrations, bless our Nation with peace and good will. May all Americans, of whatever faith or background, work together to build a commonweal—something which

can only be accomplished by Your grace.

May all that is done this day in the peoples' House 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 gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ 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 AND LEGACY OF ROBERT KRESSE

(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 to honor the life and legacy of Robert Kresse, a western New York champion for those who had none. Bob Kresse combined his lawyerly skills for estates and historic preservation to become a powerful force for good in Buffalo for 70 years.

Bob Kresse knew well that his vision went beyond the bricks and mortar of preservation; it was the restorative power of preservation on the hearts of the people and the community that he loved that mattered most.

Bob Kresse is survived by his beautiful family, including his beloved wife of 56 years, Mary Ann. Bob would often say that Mary Ann didn't just love him back; she was his chief collaborator and best friend always, especially in those last, most difficult days.

The Niagara River Greenway, the King Urban Life Center, the Roycroft, and the Darwin Martin House, among so many others, have a common thread, and that is Bob Kresse's uncommon vision, love, and perseverance.

NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY

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

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1250, to create a national artificial intelligence strategy.

For decades, American leadership in emerging technologies has created prosperity and security across the world, but this leadership is no longer guaranteed. As the Chinese Communist Party continues to use any means possible to become the next world power and world's leader in AI, it is all the more vital that the U.S. have our own strategic plan.

For almost a year, Representative ROBIN KELLY and I worked with policy experts, stakeholders, and the Bipartisan Policy Center to develop guidelines that will prepare America's workforce, counter our adversaries, promote research and development, and shape the ethics of AI based on America's values.

This resolution outlines specific steps and actions the Federal Government should take to ensure our global leadership in this emerging technology. If we don't take advantage of AI, Mandarin and the yuan—not English and the dollar—could dominate the global economy.

Vladimir Putin once said that whoever masters AI will master the world. That is why America—not Russia and not China—must be at the helm.

I came to Congress to make our Nation safer, and I am proud one of my last pieces of legislation before this body will do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend, ROBIN KELLY, for partnering with me on this critical effort and our staffs for making this happen. I hope all of our colleagues will join us in supporting this resolution.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MONICA RUSSO

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the remarkable career of Monica Russo.

After decades of service, Ms. Russo is retiring as executive vice president of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, the largest local union in the Nation, representing more than 400,000 healthcare workers in five States and more than 25,000 healthcare workers in Florida.

Under her leadership, 1199SEIU Florida has grown to represent more than 30,000 healthcare workers and retirees, becoming the largest union of healthcare workers in Florida and the Southern United States. She also serves as international vice president of the SEIU and as president of SEIU Florida State Council, where she politically unites more than 55,000 active and retired SEIU members, from bus drivers and janitors to healthcare workers.

Her emphasis on multicultural leadership development and grassroots, member-driven organization building has given a voice and power to healthcare workers, women, immigrants, and the working class.

Monica Russo's commitment to our Nation's working families is exemplary, and I am proud to call her my sister and dear and treasured friend. I will miss her guidance and wisdom, but our loss is her family's gain. I wish her a hearty congratulations on her retirement and am grateful for her invaluable work.

PROTECT THE GREAT LAKES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the 2020 Water Resources Development Act.

In southeast Wisconsin, the Great Lakes are vital to our environment, our economy, our health, and our way of life. Let me put it this way: If the Great Lakes region were a country, it would have the third largest economy in the world.

We must pass WRDA to protect the Great Lakes, invest in America's water infrastructure, and generate economic growth.

Earlier this year, I urged the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to include the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study and the Brandon Road project in WRDA. Both programs are included in today's bill. These programs detect vulnerabilities along the Great Lakes shoreline and prevent invasive species in the Great Lakes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Congress to pass WRDA and support the Great Lakes for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, FREE RAIIF BADAWI

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, December 10 is recognized around the world as Human Rights Day.

This year marks the 72nd anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In that spirit, I am here today to call on the Government of Saudi Arabia to release blogger and human rights activist Raif Badawi.

In 2014, Raif Badawi was sentenced to 1,000 lashes and 10 years in prison for operating a website that encouraged debate on religious and political issues in his country.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is claiming to be a reformer intent on modernizing Saudi Arabia. Raif Badawi's case plainly disproves that claim.

Raif Badawi will soon celebrate his 37th birthday in prison, the ninth

birthday he will have spent away from his wife and children.

Mr. Speaker, the Saudi Government must immediately and unconditionally release Raif Badawi and all other Saudi prisoners of conscience.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MARC LEE

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marc Lee, who was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart for his heroic actions on August 2, 2006, in Ramadi, Iraq. Today, the House will pass my bill, H.R. 6016, to rename a U.S. Post Office in his honor.

Marc's mother, Debbie Lee, from Surprise, Arizona, in my district, had the following to say on this momentous occasion:

"Marc Lee, the first Navy SEAL killed in Iraq, loved deeply and was deeply loved. He selflessly sacrificed his life to save his teammates. Naming this post office will keep his legacy alive and remind us to live lives worthy of their sacrifices."

It was my honor to introduce this legislation to remember the service and sacrifice of Marc Lee.

NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate passage of H. Res. 1250, recognizing the principles that should guide the national artificial intelligence strategy of the United States.

In early 2018, Representative HURD, as chair of the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Information Technology, and myself, as the ranking member, held the first congressional hearing on artificial intelligence.

This resolution is born out of those hearings and the culmination of over a year's work with the Bipartisan Policy Center, bringing together experts from government, the private sector, and civil society to outline priorities to ensure the United States remains a leader in AI.

AI has the potential to fundamentally change our society. The U.S. needs a national strategy now to invest in our workforce, R&D, national security, and oversight agencies to ensure AI is a positive tool that will benefit all of society.

I am particularly pleased that this legislation was able to pass before my friend and close IT partner for the past 6 years, Representative HURD, retires from this body.

This Chamber has been made better by his spirit of bipartisanship and desire to protect our Nation and prepare