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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, February 10, 2020, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

We thank You for every day You give us to be here at the seat of participative government. Bless the work of all the men and women who represent the people of the United States. Fill them with wisdom and good will, that they might better work together for the benefit of our Nation.

Bless all the leaders of all the branches of our government at the end of a difficult week when the divisions in our polity and our faith have been on open display for all the world to see.

Father, forgive us and send us Your spirit, that we might indeed heal the divisions and learn to love those with whom we disagree, even our enemies.

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

Amen.

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 South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota 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

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

RECOGNIZING GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize National Gun Violence Survivors Week and the 58 percent of Americans who have experienced gun violence in their lifetimes.

Gun violence kills nearly 40,000 Americans every year; more than half of those deaths are suicide. Another 100,000 people are physically caught wounded in the crossfire.

Entire communities suffer, too—those that may never shake the trauma, fear, anxiety, and sadness of violent tragedy, like my friends Marge Sexton, Jami Amo, Jennifer Lugar, Julia Spoor, gun violence survivors who live with the scars of unimaginable tragedy and yet continue to fight for sensible gun violence prevention legislation.

Our communities should be safe, joyful places. We should not live in fear of gun violence at our public schools, our places of worship, movie theaters, music venues, night clubs, or even in our homes.

This National Gun Violence Survivors Week, let's hold survivors closer in prayer, in love, and in action and promise we will do more and everything we can to end the crisis of gun violence in this Nation.

THE FLANNEL CHECK CHALLENGE

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

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of the need for annual physicals through my participation in the Flannel Check Challenge.

The goal of Flannel Check is simple: Wear flannel; schedule your annual physical screening; and cure diseases early.

Some may ask, why flannel? The answer is that every individual disease has a color to raise awareness, like pink for breast cancer, light blue for prostate cancer, red for heart disease, and so on. Flannel and plaid patterns, which come in countless color combinations, create one identifiable pattern for all diseases.

The unfortunate reality is that disease is all around, and the key to defeating any disease is by catching it early through annual physicals. However, only 20 to 25 percent of males and

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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60 to 65 percent of females go in for physicals every year.

Madam Speaker, we must work together to raise awareness on this important issue. So I encourage everyone to participate in Flannel Check's challenge by wearing flannel and scheduling an annual physical today.

Together, we can help save lives.

PROVIDING YELE SOWORE WITH DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

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

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, this morning, hardworking families across northern New Jersey woke up, made breakfast, and wished each other good-bye before leaving for work or school.

But our thoughts are with one family that was unable to be together this morning, this Sowore family from Haworth in Bergen County. That is because Yele Sowore, a husband, father, and neighbor, remains in Nigeria awaiting the outcome of his pending trial.

For months, members of the New Jersey delegation, including Senator MENENDEZ and Senator BOOKER, have been closely following Mr. Sowore's case and working together with the Haworth community to advocate on behalf of our neighbor and friend.

We were relieved when, in December, after months of detention, Mr. Sowore was finally released on bail. But we continue to urge the Government of Nigeria to follow its own laws and to do the right thing: providing Yele with the due process rights he deserves.

I want to recognize Yele's family, especially his wife, Ope, who has dealt with a trying situation with extraordinary courage and determination.

As Representative of the Fifth Congressional District, I am very proud to stand beside Yele's many friends and neighbors throughout north Jersey whose hope is that he will soon be able to be reunited with his family. We are thinking of him, praying for him, and I will not stop working until he comes home.

HONORING JAMES BLACKBURN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mr. James Blackburn, who passed away on January 22 at the age of 94.

Mr. Blackburn dedicated his life to practicing law and using his craft to make the Savannah area a better place to live. He was sworn in to the bar over 70 years ago and worked as the city attorney for the city of Savannah until he was 86. He even continued to legally represent the Savannah Airport Commission until just last year, when he was 93 years old.

But his service to the public went much further than the law. He served in the United States Navy during World War II as a radarman on a tugboat, was a recorder with the Allee Shrine, and was a former president of the Kiwanis Club of Savannah. Through all of his work, he believed in treating all people with fairness, dignity, and compassion.

His family and friends will be in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

HONORING KEVIN HARDEN

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

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the story of my State of the Union guest, Kevin Harden, a West Philly native, a successful attorney, and a gun violence survivor.

When Kevin was in college, he survived five gunshot wounds during an altercation at the Myers Recreation Center in Southwest Philadelphia.

Kevin's life had not been easy. His mother suffered from addiction, and his father juggled several jobs to make ends meet. His neighborhood lacked economic and educational opportunity. In the 2 years after the shooting, he lost both parents to cancer and assumed responsibility as primary caretaker for his younger siblings.

Kevin's turbulent childhood did not diminish his spirit. He was fortunate to find mentors. He graduated from college and decided to pursue law school. He became a successful lawyer and now works in his community to extend a helping hand to others like him.

We know there isn't a one-size-fits-all solution to gun violence, but every day that we fail to act, we fail our children and our country. It has been 345 days with no action or vote from the Senate on commonsense gun safety measures passed by the House.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TROOPER JOSEPH BULLOCK

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

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, I speak to honor the life of Trooper Joseph Bullock, whose watch ended on the morning of February 5, 2020, when fatally shot in the line of duty.

Trooper Bullock's life was devoted to protecting those he had never met, in the Air Force and the Florida Highway Patrol for 19 years, and he paid dearly that others would be safe.

There are no words or actions that can repay the debt we each owe heroes like Trooper Bullock. It would be fruitless for me to attempt words to remove grief from his family or fellow troopers.

I can only offer from our Nation the most ardent thanks for sharing him as

a protector and pray to our Father in Heaven that every thought of him is a cherished memory and pride that he was a man who laid down his life for others.

HONORING BOB MARLEY

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, yesterday was the birthday of Bob Marley.

Born on February 6, 1944, in Jamaica, he became a reggae pioneer. From humble beginnings, Marley went on to sell more than 20 million records and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994.

His music has served as an inspiration and mantra for social movement. Let's hear some of those words now:

How can you be sitting there
Telling me that you care—
That you care?
When every time I look around,
The people suffer in the suffering
In every way, in everywhere.

And:

Emancipate yourself from mental slavery,
None but ourselves can free our minds.
Have no fear for atomic energy,
'Cause none of them can stop the time.
How long shall they kill our prophets
While we stand aside and look?
Some say it's just a part of it,
We've got to fulfill di book.
Won't you help me sing
These songs of freedom?
'Cause all I ever had,
Redemption songs.

We need redemption.

Happy birthday to Bob Marley.

INDIANA'S EARLY COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize seven high schools located in Indiana's Sixth District for their extraordinary Early College Development Program that I observed when I was at Lawrenceburg High School.

Participating in this program are also high schools in Greensburg, Connersville, Richmond, Muncie Central, Delta, and the New Castle Career Center.

The Early College Development Program provides students the ability to earn both a high school diploma and an associate's degree or up to 2 years' college credit towards a bachelor's degree. The Early College Development Program also provides higher learning at a much lower cost, with early college tuition waived for some students.

I am proud to see the Hoosier State being a leader in education, preparing our students for the future, and finding solutions to fight the rising cost of higher education.