

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN-ELECT LUKE J. LETLOW

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of our friend and colleague, Congressman-elect Luke J. Letlow. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in Congress and for my family and staff when I express how deeply saddened and heartbroken we were to learn of the passing of Luke on December 30, 2020. We lost him far too early, and our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Julia, and children, Jeremiah and Jacqueline.

Luke's interest in public service began at a young age on a field trip to Washington, D.C. As a fifth grader visiting Arlington Cemetery, he was chosen to place the wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier, and it was that moment that stuck with him for years to come. Understanding the ultimate sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform to protect the freedoms we enjoy as Americans inspired Luke. It was this inspiration that motivated him to fight for the principles that make America great during his time as chairman of the Louisiana Tech College Republicans and the Louisiana Federation of College Republicans. His passion for service continued after college as he served on the staffs of Congressman John Cooksey and Governor Bobby Jindal. A short time later, Luke returned to work in the office of Congressman Ralph Abraham, where he served as Chief of Staff for six years. Known as a servant's servant, in 2020, Luke made the decision to launch a bid to replace his boss and represent the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Louisiana.

After a successful campaign and election, Luke was looking forward to serving the people of Louisiana in Congress, and we were excited to welcome him into our delegation. He was ready to make an even greater impact on our state and our nation. Luke's favorite phrases were "win the day" and "go, fight, win," which he was fully prepared to do when he was set to be sworn into the United States House of Representatives on January 3, 2021. We are saddened that we could not share that day with Luke and his family.

While I wish I was standing here welcoming him to Congress, I rise today to honor all that Luke accomplished in his 41 years of life. He will be remembered in this chamber, in Louisiana, and across the nation for his servant's heart and the kindness he extended to all that had the chance to meet him. As Luke is looking down at us from Heaven, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring his life and accomplishments.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 447, NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP ACT OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 11, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary, on Homeland Security, on the Budget, and as the Member of Congress for a congressional district that has experienced the worst of COVID-19 as a public health emergency and economic catastrophe, I rise in strong support of the rule governing debate on H.R. 447, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021, and H. Con. Res. 11, as well as the underlying legislation.

The National Apprenticeship Act has the potential to yield \$10.6 billion in net benefits to U.S. taxpayers in the form of increased workers productivity and decreased spending on public-assistance programs and unemployment insurance and which bring America's investments in apprenticeship more in line with countries around the world.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation could not be more timely because during a time of record unemployment, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 creates an additional 1 million new apprenticeship opportunities and invests more than \$3.5 billion over 5 years in expanding opportunities and access to Registered Apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeships.

I also strongly support H. Con. Res. 11 because it reorders budgetary priorities to provide \$1.9 trillion to allow Congress to take immediate and decisive action to crush the virus and vaccinate our people, build the economy back better, reopen schools, and provide needed support and assistance to state and local governments that have been asked to do too much with too little for far too long.

Mr. Speaker, by an overwhelming margin (79 percent), the public wants and is demanding that we act to provide more economic relief to address the damage caused by the corona virus pandemic.

Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents believe an additional relief package is necessary, while more than nine in ten (92 percent) Democrats and Democratic leaners say more coronavirus aid will be needed.

Even the most conservative Republicans favor more relief by a 56 percent-44 percent margin.

Nearly nine-in-ten of all adults (88 percent) in lower-income households say an additional package is necessary, while 81 percent of Republicans in lower-income households (81 percent) say additional aid is needed now.

Let me make clear at the outset, Mr. Speaker, that nothing in this resolution precludes the reaching of a bipartisan and bicameral agreement to pass and fund the President's America Rescue Plan, which in nearly all material respects mirrors the Heroes Act passed by the House Democratic majority on May 15, 2020,

nearly nine months ago, only to languish on the Republican Senate Majority Leader's desk while hundreds of thousands of our fellow Americans succumbed to the virus and millions of others lost their livelihoods and businesses, and everyone faced an uncertain future.

It would send a powerful signal to the American people if our colleagues across the aisle would join us in this effort because nothing would better show them that elected representatives can put partisanship aside and put America first.

And that bipartisan achievement would portend success for similar initiatives in the area of infrastructure, energy, national and homeland security, and criminal justice and immigration reform, all of which I am ready and willing to reach across the aisle to find common ground.

So if our Republican colleagues are amenable to reaching an agreement on a legislative response that is commensurate to the challenge facing Americans, nothing in the legislation before will preclude that from happening.

But have no doubt, if they refuse to be part of the solution, the unified and bicameral Democratic congressional majority, in coordination with the new Democratic Administration, will take the lead and act boldly to address and overcome the present crisis.

I would urge my Republican colleagues to heed the words of Republican Governor of West Virginia who said colorfully just a few days ago, "At this point in time in this nation, we need to go big. We need to quit counting the egg-sucking legs on the cows and count the cows and just move. And move forward and move right now."

The same sentiment was expressed more eloquently by Abraham Lincoln in 1862 when he memorably wrote:

"The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew."

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan action we took last December was a step in the right direction but only a long-delayed down payment; we cannot afford any more delays, especially since Republican stalling already caused a painful lapse in critical unemployment assistance last year, and additional unemployment assistance is set to expire in March.

That why this resolution, which creates a failsafe alternative to debating, voting, and passing the American Rescue Act, is absolutely crucial and the right thing to do, right now.

The American Rescue Plan proposed by President Biden takes a multiprong approach to tackling the public health and economic crises stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To beat the virus and safely reopen schools, the plan will mount a national vaccination program that includes setting up community vaccination sites nationwide and makes the investments necessary to safely reopen schools.

It will also take complementary measures to combat the virus, including scaling up testing and tracing, addressing shortages of personal protective equipment and other critical supplies, investing in high-quality treatments, and addressing health care disparities.

The American Rescue Plan delivers immediate relief to working families bearing the

brunt of the crisis by providing \$1,400 per person in direct cash assistance to households across America, bringing the total (including the \$600 down payment enacted in December) to \$2,000.

Additionally, the plan will also provide direct housing and nutrition assistance to families struggling to get by, expand access to safe and reliable child care and affordable health care, extend and expand unemployment insurance so American workers can pay their bills, and give families with children as well as childless workers a boost through enhanced tax credits.

Mr. Speaker, the American Rescue Plan provides much needed support for communities struggling with the economic fallout, including hard-hit small businesses, especially those owned by entrepreneurs from racial and ethnic backgrounds that have experienced systemic discrimination.

Last, the plan also provides crucial resources to protect the jobs of first responders, frontline public health workers, teachers, transit workers, and other essential workers that all Americans depend on.

The 2021 budget resolution is not a comprehensive fiscal blueprint for the next 10 years; it is designed solely to provide the option of using reconciliation to deliver critical relief and achieve the goals of the American Rescue Plan.

As such, the total spending and revenue levels in the resolution simply reflect current-law projections adjusted for the estimated costs of the American Rescue Plan.

Once the American Rescue Plan becomes law, Congress will begin its work on a forward-looking, comprehensive budget resolution for 2022 that will provide urgently needed economic support and address longstanding deficits in our communities and underlying inequities in our society, which have been so starkly revealed and exacerbated by COVID-19.

Mr. Speaker, the Rule provides for the adoption of H. Res. 73, which authorizes and directs the Sergeant-at-Arms to fine Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner for failure to complete security screening for entrance to the House Chamber.

The Sergeant-at-Arms is authorized and directed to impose a \$5,000 fine against a Member, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner for the first offense of failing to complete security screening for entrance to the House Chamber.

The fine for this major breach of security shall be doubled to \$10,000 for any subsequent offense and is to be paid from the personal funds of the Member, Delegate, or Resident Commission involved; neither the Member Representational Allowance (MRA) or campaign funds may be used to satisfy any fine levied for entering the House Chamber without undergoing security screening.

This is a common-sense measure to provide for the physical safety and security of Members and staff, made all the more necessary by the horrific events of January 6, 2021, when the 45th President of the United States incited an insurrection against the United States by exhorting his mob of loyalists, many of whom were armed and wearing Kevlar vests, to storm the U.S. Capitol and lay siege to this Citadel of Democracy, and in the process cause the deaths of at least six persons, one of whom was a uniformed officer to the United States Capitol Police, who was bludgeoned to death by the incited mob.

I hope this is the first of many actions that must be taken by the Congress, including providing more resources and training to the United States Capitol Police, to increase the security and protect the sanctity of this sacred institution that has stood as a beacon of freedom and hope to people the world over for more than two centuries.

I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

HOUSE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF VIRAL
DISEASES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a House Resolution calling for the establishment of a new unit of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to be known as The National Institute of Viral Diseases, to increase federal research in the field of viral diseases. As viral diseases are unique to infectious diseases, we must strengthen our scientific understanding and the government's role in discovering viral diseases causes, prevention and treatments.

I am introducing this resolution to build upon our federal governments' investment in scientific research and to consider expanding the scope of NIH's excellent work. Through my Appropriations Committee work across various subcommittees, I have become increasingly concerned that federal funding in the field of biomedical sciences in particular, has lagged behind the clinical work of NIH and the physical sciences of the National Science Foundation. Research methodology takes a unique approach, and as our nation continues to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic, there is a need for more investment in biomedical research related to viral diseases.

The benefits of federal funding for biomedical sciences can be seen beyond just the patients whose lives are saved. In 2012, Dr. Francis Collins the Director of the NIH cited data that shows for every \$1 of NIH health research funding, it returns \$2.21 in goods and services in a single year. Additionally, according to analysis by Families USA, every NIH grant generates an average of seven high-quality jobs. Investing in science pushes the boundaries of taxpayer dollars and delivers positive outcomes for consumers.

COMMENDING THE MEMBERS OF
THE GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to extend my heartfelt thanks to the members of the Georgia National Guard who were deployed to the District of Columbia and the National Capitol Region for the inauguration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr. as the 46th President of the United States and

KAMALA D. HARRIS as the 49th Vice President of the United States.

Since 1636, the National Guard has consistently served the American people in much-needed roles that range from homeland defense, overseas combat, humanitarian aid, and defense support for civil authorities.

As all of us are aware, sustained military operations worldwide, coupled with declining numbers of active-duty personnel, have required the Department of Defense to rely more and more on the use of the Georgia National Guard. Following the violent and deadly attempted coup at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, 2,284 members from the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 121st Infantry Regiment, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Georgia National Guard, and the 116th and 165th Security Forces Squadrons of the Georgia Air National Guard selflessly arrived in Washington, D.C. in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic—risking their health and safety in multiple ways to do their duty. Their mission was to aid and support the United States Capitol Police, the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, the United States Secret Service, the United States Park Police, and other Federal law enforcement agencies as they worked to keep our nation's capital secure after its occupation by domestic terrorists.

In keeping with the National Guard's motto of "Always Ready, Always There," these citizen-soldiers from Georgia were committed and ready on a moment's (short) notice to protect the U.S. Capitol and ensure that there was a peaceful transfer of power on January 20 in response to their deployment orders. Thanks to these brave men and women from Georgia, there were no incidents of violence that threatened the inaugural ceremonies. There is no doubt in my mind that their service prevented further loss of life and threats against our democracy. At one of our darkest times, the Georgia National Guard was there to protect America—from all enemies foreign or domestic.

Madam Speaker, I am very proud of the Georgia National Guard. Because of their service, the will of the People was honored, and the institutions of our government remain intact. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me and the people of Georgia, in extending our sincerest appreciation, pride, and utmost gratitude to the Georgia National Guard, the Adjutant General of Georgia Thomas Carden, and his staff, for their outstanding work, morale, and dedication to duty during the inauguration.

HONORING MAGGIE SMITH

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Margaret Smith, on her twenty-four years of service as an employee of the United States Congress.

A native Texan, Maggie received her Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of North Texas. Following graduation, she began her career with then-United States Senator, Phil Gramm, where she dutifully served as the State Administrator assisting in the management of seven regional offices across the