

We will also be joined by the Capitol Historical Society, a great partner of ours and an organization that you all should be actively engaged with also. Over the years many of you have had a chance to meet and work with the Historical Society's president, Jane Campbell. Jane is also retiring. While she can't be with us this morning, I do thank her for her outstanding work and for her great partnership with FMC.

We are excited to welcome her replacement this morning, Roswell Encina, who spent many years with the Library of Congress and has been appointed president of the Society. We are excited to work with him in the years to come.

With that, I thank you all for joining us this morning, and I yield back my time to the Chair.

Ms. EDWARDS. Thank you so much, Barbara, for this report. Most importantly, thank you for your thoughtful and exemplary leadership of the FMC.

The Chair again wishes to thank the Former Members of the House for their presence here today.

On behalf of FMC, I thank all the congressional staff who have helped make today's presentation every year possible. You have been a terrific resource, and we really appreciate all you have done.

The meeting stands adjourned.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Utah) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, we seek Your encouragement and Your consolation, for as people of faith, striving side by side, we are deeply troubled by events at home and abroad that target believers of any faith. When those who celebrate the season of light and hope are extinguished like the very candles just lighted, we all suffer.

Let us not, O Lord, be intimidated by the opponent, the adversary, who seeks to silence the voices lifted up to You in prayer. Rather, may we persevere in prayer that would unite us to share in Your spirit, a spirit of compassion and sympathy, and foster mutual love among us and work together for the common good, that we may be of one mind to stand against evil.

Let it start here—that in our daily endeavors, we would do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit. But even here, may we look not to our own interests but to the interests of others. In humility, may we regard others as better than ourselves and serve You even as we serve them.

No matter how distant or close we may be to the events that have tran-

spired this weekend, may we each realize that within our own spheres of influence, if we are faithful to the example of love and sacrifice You have given us, then we also share in the divine power to bring forth peace.

In Your sovereign name we pray,  
Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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.

#### RECOGNIZING NITTANY LEATHERNECKS

(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 to recognize the Nittany Leathernecks' contribution to Christmas throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Nittany Leathernecks Detachment of the Marine Corps League is a community service organization composed of active, retired, and former Marines. Since 1947, the mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program has been to collect new, unwrapped toys through October, November, and December each year and distribute them as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community.

The Nittany Leathernecks Detachment coordinates Toys for Tots for Centre County. The detachment works with the Centre County Adult Services Office, which coordinates with the Centre County food pantries to identify needy children and to distribute toys.

The Nittany Leathernecks campaign annually provides a Christmas gift experience to more than 9,000 children.

Mr. Speaker, I thank these selfless Marines for their service to our country and their dedication to uplifting our communities.

#### AFFORDABILITY CRISIS IN AMERICA

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, today I express my outrage about the affordability crisis in American healthcare.

Republican leaders have failed to extend the expiring tax credits that help people afford their insurance. Consumers affected will face an average increase in their premium costs of 114 percent next year.

Rather than making healthcare more affordable and effective, Republican leaders and President Trump passed their big, ugly bill that kicks 10 million Americans off of Medicaid. It increases healthcare costs for 5 million small business owners and self-employed workers. It fails to extend critical tax credits. This is all to give billions of dollars of tax credits to the wealthiest Americans.

Time is running out, as we all know. I urge my Republican colleagues to do the right thing and work with Democrats to make healthcare more affordable and more effective for Americans.

#### EXPRESSING RECOGNITION FOR THOSE WOUNDED BY ISIS

(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, Americans join President Donald Trump in expressing heartfelt recognition of the three great patriots killed and those wounded by ISIS in Syria.

Iowa National Guard Sergeants William Nathaniel Howard and Edgar Brown Torres-Tovar, as well as a civilian interpreter, were remembered by Mouaz Moustafa of the Syrian Emergency Task Force, who condemned the ISIS, Iranian, and Russia collaboration.

President Trump is being proven a visionary to give Syria a chance with U.S.-Syria full military cooperation and pledged serious retaliation, while praising Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa for his efforts to defeat ISIS.

Ambassador Tom Barrack, the Trump envoy for Syria, correctly cites: "Defeating ISIS on Syrian soil . . . with local forces is actively shielding America from far greater threats."

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting and mocking Trump, as Putin attacks utility infrastructures to freeze Ukrainians as Stalin starved Ukrainians.

We extend our sympathies for Brown University college Republican vice president, Ella Cook, of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, Alabama; and Uzbek American, Mukhammad Aziz Umurzokov, of Virginia.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 284) to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 284

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act”.

#### SEC. 2. TERMINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 108 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 808) is amended by striking “October 1, 2023” and inserting “October 1, 2028”.

(b) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2023.

#### SEC. 3. OTHER AMENDMENTS.

Section 102 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 802) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “Each medal shall consist of gold-plate over bronze, rhodium over bronze, or bronze and shall be struck in accordance with subsection (f).”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1), in the second sentence, by striking “Subject to subsection (a), the” and inserting “The”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 284.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 284, the Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act.

The Congressional Award Act encourages young people between the ages of 14 and 23 to challenge themselves in ways that not only benefit themselves but also the communities they live in. The award is not given based on past achievement but, rather, an individual is honored for setting goals, creating an action plan, and meeting those goals.

Earning an award means young Americans completed self-designed programs focused on four key goals. They

are volunteer service, personal growth, exploration, and physical fitness.

Upon completion, participants are awarded a Congressional Award certificate or medal in one of three levels: gold, silver, or bronze. These are important recognitions of the hard work and dedication of America's young leaders. The Congressional Award has empowered over 500,000 participants nationwide and is the highest honor Congress bestows on American youth.

By reauthorizing this program, we honor the countless hours of hard work and dedication of so many past and present participants.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1410

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 284, the Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act.

Since its inception in 1979, the award program has honored young people for their remarkable achievements through volunteering in their communities, personal development, physical fitness, and exploration.

The Congressional Award is a unique initiative, completely voluntary and noncompetitive, allowing young individuals who are ages 13 to 24 to set and achieve personal goals at their own pace.

It encourages them to engage with their communities and strive for excellence in all areas of life. By providing this recognition, we give young people the motivation and push they need to realize their potential, reminding them that they are the future of this country.

This bill reauthorizes the program through 2029. The award operates solely on private donations overseen by a bipartisan Congressional Award Board, which underscores the collective commitment to fostering the potential of our Nation's youth.

At a time when our youth face unprecedented challenges, it is essential that we continue to uplift and recognize their efforts. By supporting the bill, we can take a small step to reaffirm our commitment to supporting the youth, nurturing their potential, and celebrating their achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON), a man who has consistently been committed to encouraging young people to achieve, beginning with his own son, as well.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 284, which is identical to the bill I introduced in the House, H.R. 860, and I urge the House to pass this important bill.

This bill simply reauthorizes the Congressional Award program, Con-

gress' official youth recognition program and the highest honor that Congress can award our Nation's youth.

This program has helped generations of young people set goals, serve others, and push themselves to achieve more. Specifically, young Americans have to set and complete rigorous personal goals focused on volunteer service, personal development, exploration, and physical fitness.

One of my constituents, Caroline Harris, from Greensboro, North Carolina, has spent more than 3 years working toward her goal, earning a Gold Medal at the age of 17. She is one of the youngest to earn the Gold Medal.

Caroline is a very impressive young woman. She spent 400 hours volunteering to help our military families, volunteering with youth in her community, and volunteering with her peers. Caroline completed a physical fitness challenge. She even learned a new language while planning a trip abroad.

In 2025, Caroline joins a long list of impressive young Americans from North Carolina's Ninth District to earn this award. Among them, Amaria Youmans of Fayetteville and Connor Ambrose from Raeford were Bronze Medalists in 2022, and Fred Vinson from Pinehurst was a Bronze Certificate earner in 2024. It is a great honor to represent these hardworking young people.

This bill will ensure the Congressional Award program continues to challenge young Americans like Caroline, Amaria, Connor, and Fred to set goals and dedicate themselves to their community and to their own success and self-improvement.

There are over 48,000 Americans enrolled in this program throughout the country in every single congressional district. These young people give back to their communities and make investments in themselves. It is very important that we reauthorize this successful program so that we can continue to inspire and reward our young Americans and encourage each of them to reach their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote in support of S. 284.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my strong support for S. 284, the Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to co-lead it with my colleague, Representative HUDSON, whom you just heard from, and also Congressmen MIKE LEVIN and JOHN RUTHERFORD.

This bill will reauthorize the Congressional Award program, which has been responsible for printing and distributing awards to young Americans across this country since 1979. This important program expired nearly 18 months ago, and it is in desperate need of reauthorization.

The Congressional Award is the highest award for youth legislated and presented by the United States Congress