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# Congressional Record

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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017

No. 31

## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2017, at 9 a.m.

## House of Representatives

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017

The House met at 2:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 21, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS J. ROONEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

Reverend Cara Spaccarelli, Christ Church Washington Parish, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

God of all the nations, You have called all people to lives of service. You have called all people to lives of peace and justice.

We confess that sometimes we have cared more for lofty places than we have for places of service. We confess that sometimes we have worked more for power than for peace.

Bless now those who gather in this place. Orient them to serve one another and our country towards the work of peace and justice for all. Grant them the wisdom, the vision, and the resilience that they need. And may this place be a sign of hope that we, Your people, can work together through

many difficulties to bring about Your intentions for creation.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 123, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 17, 2017.

HON. PAUL D. RYAN,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 17, 2017, at 2:46 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 609.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 23.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Ms. SÁNCHEZ, California  
Mr. GENE GREEN, Texas  
Mr. POLIS, Colorado  
Mrs. TORRES, California  
Ms. LOFGREN, California

### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(b) of House Resolution 123, the House stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, February 24, 2017.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, February 24, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

601. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health

□ 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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H1315

Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records; Delay of Effective Date [SAMHSA-4162-20] (RIN: 0930-AA21) received February 16, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

602. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Division of Select Agents and Toxins, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Possession, Use, and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins; Biennial Review and Enhanced Biosafety Requirements; Delay of Effective Date [Docket No.: CDC-2015-0045] (RIN: 0920-AA59) received February 16, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 998. A bill to provide for the establishment of a process for the review of rules and sets of rules, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-14, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 1004. A bill to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of information relating to pending agency regulatory actions, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-15). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 998 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. TURNER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. LEE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KATKO, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. BOST, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. MURPHY

of Pennsylvania, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. RUPERSBERGER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. BERA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HIMES, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. RICHMOND):

H.R. 1205. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MESSER (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. WALKER, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HECK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. STEFANK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KATKO, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. FASO, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H.R. 1206. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to include the cost of applying to an institution of higher learning as part of the benefits provided under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 1207. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 River Street in Tilden, Texas, as the "Tilden Veterans Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 1208. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9155 Schaefer Road, Converse, Texas, as the "Converse Veterans Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 1209. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 901 N. Francisco Avenue, Mission, Texas, as the "Mission Veterans Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 1210. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 W. Goodwin Street, Pleasanton, Texas, as the "Pleasanton Veterans Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 1211. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 400 N. Main Street, Encinal, Texas, as the "Encinal Veterans Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. ROTHFUS):

H.R. 1212. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase certain veteran funeral benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 1213. A bill to require, as a condition on the receipt of Federal funds, that States

require law enforcement agencies to have in effect a policy regarding the use of body-worn cameras and dashboard cameras; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.J. Res. 83. A joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Clarification of Employer's Continuing Obligation to Make and Maintain an Accurate Record of Each Recordable Injury and Illness"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 1205.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7, giving Congress the authority to control the expenditures of the federal government.

By Mr. MESSER:

H.R. 1206.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 1207.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7: To establish post offices and post roads;

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 1208.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7: To establish post offices and post road;

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 1209.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7: To establish post offices and post road;

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 1210.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7: To establish post offices and post road;

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 1211.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7: To establish post offices and post road;

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 1212.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 1213.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have power to . . . provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States . . ."; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper

for carrying into execution the foregoing powers . . .”

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.J. Res. 83.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 38: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 80: Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 81: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 82: Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 174: Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 390: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 449: Mr. DONOVAN and Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 457: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 464: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 530: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 539: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 544: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 627: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 721: Mr. WALZ, Mr. NOLAN, and Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 757: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 874: Mr. DESANTIS and Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 878: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 898: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 997: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 1005: Mr. DONOVAN and Mr. HECK.

H.R. 1013: Mr. ZELDIN.

H.R. 1015: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 1017: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 1059: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 1084: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. WELCH, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 1121: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. HUIZENGA, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 1143: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 1148: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.J. Res. 27: Mr. HILL.

H. Res. 15: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H. Res. 111: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF JUANITA  
"SHEBA" VELASCO

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 21, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize my constituent, Juanita "Sheba" Velasco, on receiving the World Experiences Foundation's 2017 Global Citizen Award in Indigenous Diplomacy. Ms. Velasco, originally a weaver from the highlands of Guatemala, maintains a strong passion for Mayan education and promoting indigenous diplomacy.

Over the course of her life, Ms. Velasco has worked in several museums, culture centers, schools, and universities around the world sharing her knowledge of the Mayan culture. In fact in 2016, Ms. Velasco was appointed the International Ambassador for peace and tourism by the Guatemalan government.

Most recently, Ms. Velasco conducted a goodwill tour in Oklahoma, in which she spoke at universities, schools, and churches in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. Her tour ended with a farewell reception at the University of Central Oklahoma hosted by President Don Betz.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Ms. Velasco for receiving the Global Citizen Award in Indigenous Diplomacy and for her dedication to Mayan culture. I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

### HOLY SEE ARTICLES

**HON. FRANCIS ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 21, 2017*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues several articles that I have written over the years regarding the Holy See. As a Member of the Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs, these pieces serve to outline and inform discussions that our Committee will cover in the 115th Congress.

#### REFLECTING ON POPE BENEDICT'S PAPACY

(By Francis Rooney)

The decision by Pope Benedict XVI to retire February 28 is a remarkable act of humility and selflessness, and should be seen as a fitting closure on a papacy that was quietly significant. When Joseph Ratzinger was elected in the 2005 conclave, many pundits viewed him as a temporary officeholder. Yet, Benedict XVI fulfilled the legacy he set out for himself when choosing the name of the World War I Pope. For nearly eight years, Benedict was a firm advocate of dialog with friend and foe. He bravely offered to the world a gift cherished by the Catholic faith—the union of faith and reason. In this capacity, the Pope was a bridge builder, and lived

up to his Latin title Pontifex Maximus. Much maligned, Benedict put the Church in the perilous but necessary position between extremist religious fundamentalism and extremist secular materialism.

As United States Ambassador to the Holy See (2005–2008), I met the Pope on several occasions to discuss the symmetry of values between the Holy See (colloquially referred to as the Vatican) and the United States. In those private meetings and his annual addresses to the diplomatic corps, Pope Benedict XVI exuded a humility that reflected the solemnity of his office. Elected to succeed the charismatic Blessed John Paul II, he is to be commended for continuing the Holy See's active role in promoting human dignity for all individuals. A great scholar, Benedict reminds us that religious values have an important role to play in the public square.

In the span of eight years, Benedict visited 24 nations and the Palestinian Territories. He is the oldest Pope to travel outside of Europe. In each pastoral visit, his diplomacy was understated and subtle, principally the act of Christian love. His influence on Catholics, and also "people of good will", is a testament to soft power. For example, the Pope's letter to Iranian president Ahmadinejad was decisive in resolving the disputed kidnapping of British sailors in 2007. In his trips to Cuba and Lebanon in 2012, Benedict asserted that politics is subordinate to moral considerations.

Two trips epitomize the theme of Benedict's papacy—Regensburg in 2006 and London in 2010. In the former, the erudite professor was quickly denounced by much of the international media for a criticism against a corruption of Islam that is intolerant and rejects human agency. The complex lecture inspired violent reprisals by some misinformed and radicalized Muslims around the world. Months later a Saudi prince visited the Holy See to foster and reciprocate the Pope's forthright dialog.

Four years later, Pope Benedict traveled to London despite vocal opposition from a small group of anti-Catholic critics. Displaying tremendous poise, Benedict graciously spoke in Westminster Hall. Learning from Regensburg the need for clarity and concision more than academic merit, Benedict shared his view that "the world of reason and the world of faith—the world of secular rationality and the world of religious belief—need one another and should not be afraid to enter into a profound and ongoing dialogue, for the good of our civilization." It was a high point for the Catholic Church, and a statement that religion and spirituality are not incompatible with modern life.

The decision to retire is an act of humility. Benedict has left an indelible mark on the Catholic Church, preserved his theme of bonding faith and reason, and even maintained integrity amidst a much-touted scandal over his trusted butler. The Servant of the Servants of God, a phrase introduced by Pope Saint Gregory I near the end of the sixth century, leaves office in an act of selflessness.

Soon after Benedict resigns, a papal conclave will be called in Rome. The College of Cardinals will meet in the Sistine Chapel and elect a new Pope. As decreed by Pope John Paul II, Cardinals more than 80 years old cannot vote. As of right now, 118 Cardinals are eligible to vote.

#### A PAPAL BULL FOR FOGGY BOTTOM

(By Francis Rooney and Dan Mahaffee)

Met by crowds inspired by both adoration (for the Pope) and indignation (towards their government), the visit of Pope Francis to Brazil provides valuable insights for how the United States can better approach its Latin American neighbors.

The pronouncements of Pope Francis, a Pope of many firsts (first Jesuit, first from the Western Hemisphere), reflect a new Catholic evangelization based around human rights, social justice, and basic dignity. His austere lifestyle, stretching back to his days as a Jesuit priest in Buenos Aires, reflect his desire to refocus the Catholic Church towards its social mission of providing both physical and spiritual nourishment to the masses.

The message he sent to tens of thousands of Brazilians and pilgrims from all over the world was one that sought to balance the pressures of rapid growth in both economic and geopolitical heft with the abject poverty in which many reside. Not far from gleaming high rises and the sandy stretches of Copacabana, he spoke to the favelas where many feel that the economic boom of the past decade has left them behind.

While his message was to those gathered in Rio, it resonates in Caracas, La Paz, Managua, Quito, and beyond. For those steering U.S. policy in the region, it hopefully resonates there as well.

Similar to the Catholic Church, United States foreign policy has been inconsistent and episodic concerning Latin America. Distracted by the continued turmoil in the Middle East and the complexities of the "pivot" towards Asia, we have only furthered a belief that U.S. policy towards Latin America remains unchanged since the days of the Cold War. As the joke often goes, "there are only two real differences in U.S. Latin America policy: whether it is based in the 1960's or the 1980's."

Without understanding the broader dynamics of the region we will continue to view the region solely through the lenses of counter-narcotic operations, illegal immigration, and competition with China. Just as the Pope has taken the message of the Catholic Church directly to the people of Latin America, we must also show how the interests of the United States align with those of the people of Latin America.

While the anti-American leaders in the region certainly have mastered the use of the democratic process, albeit at times under suspicious circumstances, and deploy vigorous anti-American rhetoric, the coalitions they muster are not inspired by a "struggle against the yanqui, the enemy of mankind." Instead, as all politics are local, these anti-American leaders are leveraging a public eager for greater economic and social equality and opportunity.

Despite the poor performance of these leaders (ask any Venezuelan about their access to basic staples such as cooking oil and toilet paper), the U.S. lacks a counter narrative to those espousing socialist or Bolivarian ideologies.

Just as the Pope said that "no one can remain insensitive to the inequalities that persist in the world," U.S. policy must better reflect how we can assist the people of Latin America and better encourage partnerships based on equitable growth and shared interests. While we have strong ties with the

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globalized elites of these nations, we must also reach out to those left behind.

Again, the church provides the model in the various social and educational missions conducted by Jesuits, Franciscans, and countless other religious orders. These are the type of programs that provide real benefits to Latin Americans, and they can improve both perceptions of the United States and regional stability.

The United States can focus on aid programs that encourage bottom-up development and reduce the corruption inherent in top-down projects. We can provide assistance to promote better policing and social services, in many ways supporting the spread of innovative indigenous programs that ensure social welfare.

We can nurture investment in the people instead of capital assets, and pursue projects that support open and fair economic competition, and equal and transparent enforcement of the law. Through improved access to U.S. markets, we can empower small business owners and entrepreneurs and show that the benefits of economic growth can be equitably distributed. Finally, we can demonstrate through deeds, not words, how the U.S. investments in the region stand in stark contrast to the exploitative, mercantilist approach of China's state-owned industries.

In listening to the Pope's message, we can build our own 21st century approach towards a region that can no longer afford to neglect.

#### HOLY SEE DIPLOMACY IN THE MODERN ERA (By Francis Rooney)

In the increasingly secular environment of the developed western world, driven by rapid information exchange and an unprecedented degree of inter-personal connectivity, one might consider the role the Holy See might play in the affairs of states and international relations as a quaint anachronism, a vestige of a distant past, and seek to consign the Holy See to obscurity. However, to do so would ignore the ageless foundation upon which Holy See diplomacy is based, and its relevance to humanity in the 21st century just as in the past. It would also fail to account for the unique role the Holy See plays now, lacking a territorial agenda, in the cultural and religion-inspired conflicts in our world today.

In fact, many leaders at Vatican II urged elimination of the diplomatic role of the Holy See, arguing that the Church should exclusively devote itself theological and pastoral issues. In his papal letter of 24 June 1969, *Sollicitudo Omnium Ecclesiarum*, Pope Paul VI articulated the rational for continued diplomatic engagement as a means of helping the community of nations "achieve the implementation of great human hopes, peace between nations, the domestic tranquility and progress of each country." These words call to mind the Preamble to our Constitution and the lofty goals of U.S. foreign policy of protecting human rights and dignity and spreading the essential freedoms around the world.

A leading Vatican diplomat, Cardinal Jean Louis Tauran, describes the diplomatic force of the Holy See more tangibly as a "moral authority" able to "contest systems or ideas that corrode the dignity of the person and thus threaten world peace."

As the only nation founded from its beginnings on the principle that man is endowed with inalienable rights, emanating from his being and not by the grant of some government, and the creators of the 1st Amendment's protection of the freedom of religion, often called "the first freedom" from which others derive, the United States is a natural partner to the Holy See and can leverage its own goals and policy objectives by continued alignment with it.

The Holy See is most effective when using its platform to denounce actions which undermine human dignity, inhibit freedom and oppress people. It has influence by moral persuasion, often called "soft power," which can accomplish results hegemonic authorities often cannot on their own. It is also effective in working quietly and bi-laterally on certain types of issues which relate to its human rights orientation, and in using the power of its global network of clergy and Catholic organizations to advance its agenda. In countries of high Catholic populations, there is even more potential to have an impact.

The successful alignment of President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II's efforts to undermine communism in the 1980's is well known. As Premier Gorbachev said, "Everything that happened in Eastern Europe would have been impossible without the pope." In fact, the Russian KGB had identified the future pope as a strong anticommunist in 1971 and upon his election, the Communist Party of Poland called him "our enemy" against whom "all means are allowed" in opposing him.

There are many less obvious examples of important work on the part of the Holy See on conflict resolution and the stimulation of dialogue. Pope John XXII played a critical role in creating a window for conciliation during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, via a subtle, clandestine exchange of communications among the pope, President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev, using the editor of the *Saturday Review*, Norman Cousins, as an intermediary. This effort culminated with the well-known papal message on Vatican Radio on 25 October 1962 and its publication on the front page of *Pravda* then next day.

The work of Myron Taylor at the Holy See during World War II, as President Roosevelt's personal representative, is well documented. In addition to the use of Vatican neutrality to maintain his routine visits to Pope Pius XII and to allow his assistant, Harold Tittmann, to remain in country throughout the war, the Holy See diplomatic pouch was used to send messages to the U.S. through Switzerland, all of which served to maintain a robust and valuable channel of information exchange throughout the war. The role the Holy See played soon thereafter in nudging newly elected (over strong U.S. opposition) Argentine President Juan Peron to send food to alleviate post war famine in Europe is not so well known.

Recently, while I was serving as ambassador, we engaged the Holy See to work to unify the Christian block in Lebanon prior to the 2006 war, so as to fortify the power sharing coalition of Druze, Hezbollah and Christian which had brought relative stability to the country for several years, and to bring the Holy See's influence to bear in Latin America as several leaders, Hugo Chavez, Rafael Correa and Evo Morales in particular, became increasingly hostile to U.S. interests. It was also during my time in Rome that Pope Benedict intervened to help a group of sailors from Britain who had strayed in to Iranian waters, at the request of Prime Minister Tony Blair.

It is worth noting that in June 2009 when Manuel Zelaya, having been removed after provoking a constitutional crisis, attempted to return to Honduras and contest the successor government of Roberto Micheletti, Cardinal Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga played a significant, if not decisive role in keeping him out of the country.

While these examples of tactical diplomatic engagement are interesting, and demonstrate how effective the Holy See can be, the more sustaining and impactful recent expressions of the Holy See's exercise of its "soft power" come from Benedict XVI's

Regensburg speech and subsequent visits to the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany.

When the pope spoke at Regensburg, Germany, in September 2006 against the misuse of religion to incite violence and advance extremism and intolerance in the Islamic world, he used a poignant and controversial metaphor to make his point, and brought the attention of the entire world to bear on the question of how to temper the religious fervor of some interpretations of Islam with the reason and rationality of the modern world. Subsequent to this speech a group of 38 Muslim scholars has convened and explored avenues toward accomplishing this goal, seeking "a consonance between the truths of the Koranic revelation and the demands of human intelligence." While there is much to achieve in this regard, the position of the Holy See, as both global interlocutor and one of the three Abrahamic faiths, has a special role to play.

In a similar vein, the pope and clergy from around the world have discussed the risks to freedom and democracy from degradation of religion in modern society and its replacement with a material secularism. Pope Benedict XVI summarized the position in an address to the German parliament on 22 September 2011, "Politics must be striving for justice, and hence it has to establish the fundamental preconditions for peace . . . systems of laws have almost always been based on religion: decisions regarding what has to be lawful among men were taken with reference to the divinity." Whether the internal national politics of a country, or the external pursuit of relations among states, the thesis is that without the "moral compass" and values of human decency and respect for individual rights inspired and taught by religion, it is difficult to have justice and freedom for long. The 20th century examples of totalitarianism, in Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia come to mind.

We will see how the new pope, Pope Francis, takes these principles forward just as Pope Benedict expressed them in a context different from his predecessors, but nonetheless they remain the same, fundamental principles. Popes have consistently applied these concepts through the years, John Paul II focused on Communism, Benedict XVI on radicalization secularism, John XXIII on nuclear war and Benedict XV and Pius XII on the evils of the two World Wars which dominated their papacies.

I am hopeful that this "new world" pope, appearing to be more conversational and less formal, will be able to broaden and deepen the message, and deploy the "soft power" of the Holy See more effectively than ever to challenge abhorrent and oppressive behaviors in the world. So far, his emphasis on the social mission of the Church squares well with a diplomacy based on the inalienable rights of man and the protection of human dignity for all.

#### HONORING KATHERINE (KITTY) MARY GEISSLER

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 21, 2017*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, communities thrive when hard work, dedication, and sacrifice are set by voluntary example. Katherine (Kitty) Mary Geissler has served her community with honor, and it's a pleasure to wish her well on her 104th birthday year.

Kitty was born in County Limerick, Ireland. She immigrated to the United States in 1930,

where she met and married her husband George R. Geissler on October 7, 1942.

Kitty joined the LAOH, Division 9 in Portchester, and transferred to the Tarrytown Division in 1951 when she and her family moved. The division was renamed The Kitty Geissler Division 11 following her tenure, a testament to her work there. Kitty served at every level of leadership, including ten consecutive terms as President. She held several offices on the County level, and has been a delegate to many of the New York State and National Conventions.

In addition, Kitty has been a delegate to the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, while also being an active member of the American Irish Association of Westchester, the Catholic Daughters of America, The Ladies of Charity, The Ladies Auxiliary of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the Tarrytown Senior Citizens.

In 1979 Kitty was honored by the American Irish Association and became the First A.I.A. Irish Woman of the Year. In 1986, Kitty was Aide to Grand Marshall Patrick Grimes in the Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade to Grand Marshall Bill Burke in the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Kitty was the first Grand Marshall of the Sleepy Hollow St. Patrick's Day Parade, served again in honor of her 100th birthday. Kitty's dedication was recognized by the New York State LAOH after she was awarded the Mother Teresa Medal.

Kitty's real love though is family. She is the proud Grandmother of eight and great Grandmother of nine. Kitty's life is a true inspiration, and it is an honor to celebrate her incredible 104th birthday in Congress. I am honored to represent such a special constituent, and I am thankful for all she has done in the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF HENRY SHILEY

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 21, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor my constituent of Middletown, Virginia, Volunteer Fire Chief Henry Shiley, who recently retired from the Middletown Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company after 53 years of dedicated service, and also to congratulate him on receiving the status of Fire Chief Emeritus, awarded to retired fire chiefs of extraordinary distinction.

Middletown, Virginia, located in the northern Shenandoah Valley, is home to Lord Fairfax Community College and also the site of the

Battle of Cedar Creek during the Civil War. However despite the college and strong history, Middletown would not be the close-knit, caring community that it is without the Middletown Volunteer Fire Station and its long-time leader, Chief Shiley.

For 53 years, Chief Henry Shiley dedicated his life to his community without any compensation, regularly putting himself and his fellow volunteer first responders at risk as they attempted to aid people—neighbors and strangers alike—during some of the most desperate moments of their lives.

Over the course of his career, Chief Shiley has watched Company 12 progress and grow immensely. What was once a small, volunteer unit has morphed into a group of volunteer professionals that have gone through extensive training, including becoming emergency medical services (EMS) certified.

The members of Company 12 are proud of their reputation of excellence and professionalism and attribute it largely to their leader, Chief Shiley. In fact the group unanimously voted to grant Chief Shiley the status of Fire Chief Emeritus—a true testament to his extraordinary knowledge, steady leadership, kindness, and most importantly, sense of humor.

On behalf of Virginia's 10th District, I thank Chief Shiley for his half-century of service to Middletown and the Shenandoah Valley. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Volunteer Fire Chief Henry Shiley for his years of selfless service and heroism and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LEOMA LOVEGROVE

**HON. FRANCIS ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 21, 2017*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a creative visionary in Florida's 19th district—Leoma Lovegrove. As an excerpt from the Fort Myers News-Press says, "Walking into Lovegrove Gallery & Gardens is like walking into a rainbow full of eye-popping neon pinks, oranges, purples, greens and blues . . . She applies her paintbrush to everything from cats to hearts to The Beatles."

Leoma Lovegrove is an impressionist-expressionist painter known for her vivid paintings and colorful imagery. Leoma first started her art career making pottery, belt buckles and even decorated cow skulls. Then, a little over 20 years ago, she made her way to Matlacha—a small island community that became her home and her headquarters. Her

artwork is represented in numerous galleries all over the world, including England and France. In fact, Leoma was the first American to paint on the replica of Claude Monet's floating studio in Giverny, France and the first American painter to have an exhibition in the famous Pierre Bonnard home in Vernon, France.

I applaud Leoma and her art studio, Lovegrove Gallery & Gardens, which has brought thousands of visitors to Matlacha and all of Southwest Florida. Leoma is inspired to paint with endless imagination, and her contribution to the arts, culture and economy of Southwest Florida deserves our recognition. She has inspired artists in us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF ERIN HUGHES

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 21, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor my constituent and Rock Ridge High School's very own, Erin Hughes, for her impressive academic achievements and volunteer work.

Over the last 3 years, Erin has volunteered over 100 hours between Rosa Lee Carter Elementary School and Legacy Elementary School through both Educators Rising and the National Honor Society. As a mentor to these young students, she teaches them basic studying skills, helps them prepare for exams, and works with them to strengthen their reading and writing abilities.

Recently, Erin received the Virginia State Conference Educators Rising award for Lesson Planning: Delivery of the Arts. This is a true testament to the interest Erin has taken for education at a young age. In addition to this achievement, Erin has been a member of the National Honor Society throughout high school, which requires maintaining a very competitive grade point average. In college, Erin hopes to study elementary education in the hopes of acquiring a teaching job at an elementary school in Loudoun County.

Coming from a family of educators, I appreciate the invaluable role that educators play in inspiring our students and communities. The work Erin has done, and continues to do at Rosa Lee Carter Elementary School and Legacy Elementary School, will inspire and shape the lives of countless young men and women for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Erin for her achievements and dedication to education. The interest she has taken at a young age is impressive, and I wish her all of the best in her future endeavors.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 9 a.m., on Thursday, February 23, 2017.

### Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

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## House of Representatives

### Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 14 public bills, H.R. 1205–1213; and 1 resolution, H.J. Res. 83, were introduced. **Page H1316**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page H1317**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 998, to provide for the establishment of a process for the review of rules and sets of rules, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–14, Part 1); and

H.R. 1004, to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of information relating to pending agency regulatory actions, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–15). **Page H1316**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Thomas J. Rooney (FL) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1315**

**Guest Chaplain:** The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. Cara Spaccarelli, Christ Church Washington Parish, Washington, DC. **Page H1315**

**Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Representatives Sánchez, Gene Green (TX), Polis, Torres, and Lofgren. **Page H1315**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1315.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 2:30 p.m. and adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

### Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

### Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

### House

No hearings are scheduled.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

9 a.m., Thursday, February 23

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9:30 a.m., Friday, February 24

## Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

## House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9:30 a.m.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

## HOUSE

Comstock, Barbara, Va., E223, E225, E225  
Engel, Eliot L., N.Y., E224  
Rooney, Francis, Fla., E223, E225



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