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House of Representatives

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: Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of this assembly as they return to their districts to listen to and communicate with their constituents about the issues and affairs currently being considered in Congress.

It is the weekend our Nation remembers its veterans, upon whom we ask Your blessing. May our Nation be faithful to those still with us, providing whatever their needs may be after they gave years of their lives in service to our country rather than dedicated to personal gain. They are an inspiration to us, and we should not forget nor neglect our responsibility to them.

As the Nation pauses to show its respect, may we be forever grateful for the blessings You have bestowed upon the United States of America. May our Nation continue to be a beacon of hope for the world, and may all we do 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 his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WESTERMAN 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.

HONORING ARKANSAS MILITARY VETERANS' HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 15 men and women recently inducted into the Arkansas Military Veterans' Hall of Fame.

Of the 15 inductees, the Hall of Fame selected 10 "exclusively for their brave military service to our country," while it selected an additional 5 for their "combined military and civilian service to our community, State, and Nation."

I am proud to note that 8 of these 15 American heroes hail from the Fourth Congressional District of Arkansas, serving in conflicts ranging from World War II to Vietnam, as well as Iraq and Afghanistan. This speech simply is not enough time to recognize their courage and sacrifice for our Nation.

I extend my thanks to all those who served as we recognize Veterans Day.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a brief biography of each of the Fourth District heroes honored by the Arkansas Military Veterans' Hall of Fame.

HONORING ARKANSAS MILITARY VETERANS' HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Rep. Bruce Westerman/November 9, 2017

Biographies of Fourth Congressional District Inductees (as provided by the AMVHOF):

Chief Petty Officer Adam Lee Brown, deceased (Killed in Action), Hot Springs, U.S. Navy, Iraq (two tours), Afghanistan (two tours). Awards include the Silver Star Medal for Gallantry in Action, the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, the Purple Heart Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and three Navy Achievement Medals.

Specialist Four Roger K. Hollinger, Sr., deceased, Prattville, U.S. Army, Vietnam. Awards include the Silver Star Medal with First Oak Leaf Cluster for Gallantry in Action, the Bronze Star Medal for Exceptionally Meritorious Combat Achievement, and the Army Commendation Medal for Valor.

Major General Billie (Bill) Branham Lefler, deceased, Hot Springs Village, U.S. Army, Vietnam. Awards include two Distinguished Service Medals, the Legion of Merit Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal.

Major General Sidney Sanders McMath, Deceased, Magnolia, U.S. Marine Corp, World War II. Awards include the Silver Star Medal for Gallantry in Action, and the Legion of Merit Medal for Valor.

Colonel Billie Ray Wood, Mena, U.S. Army, Vietnam. Awards include the Legion of Merit Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Army Soldier's Medal, the Bronze Star Medal for exceptionally meritorious combat achievement, two Meritorious Service Medals, 22 Air Medals, and three Army Commendation Medals.

Technician Fourth Grade Doyle Ray Collie, deceased, New DeRoche, U.S. Army, World War II. Awards include the Purple Heart Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, and the European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Service Stars.

Lieutenant Colonel Mary Virginia Erdman, Hot Springs Village, U.S. Army Reserves, Desert Storm. Awards include two Army Commendation Medals, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal. Erdman has been very active in several veteran's service organizations, and was the commander of the Arkansas State Legion Department from 2012 to 2013.

Lieutenant Commander John Roger Rickard, Alma, U.S. Navy, Vietnam. Awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, three Navy Commendation Medals, and the Navy Achievement Medal. During the Vietnam War, Rickard served three cruises as a torpedo mate on fast frigates. Upon retiring from the Navy, Rickard founded the Alma High School JROTC program and served 17 years.

□ 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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SUPPORTING IMMIGRANTS GRANTED TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

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

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of every immigrant who has been granted temporary protective status in my district and across the Nation. We have nearly 23,000 in Maryland, the sixth highest in the country, and 4,000 in my district, one of the top five districts in the country.

Many people with TPS fled countries such as Haiti, El Salvador, Somalia, and Syria, ravaged by armed conflict or environmental disasters. For over 20 years, they have raised their families here in the United States. They are our neighbors and our coworkers. Their kids attend our schools. TPS holders have been woven into the fabric of our communities.

Earlier this week, those from Nicaragua were told they will be deported. Those from Honduras are next. Deporting people and giving them mere months to pack their bags after 20 years in the United States is cruel and isn't who we are as Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as the Trump administration puts the lives of thousands in legal limbo, I urge my colleagues to ensure TPS holders can stay and pursue an earned path to citizenship.

WE NEED TO PUSH FORWARD ON TAX CUTS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, as the House contemplates the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, a lot of misinformation is getting around the country on that.

The intent here is to make the Tax Code simpler; the ability for Americans to spend instead of billions of hours and billions of dollars combined in dealing with their taxes, to get it down to a simple form, perhaps a postcard for many Americans, and the ability to weed through their taxes and get them done and put more money in their pockets.

What our plan does is put approximately \$1,200 into the average middle-income family's pocket, leaves it there instead of taking it out; also, restoring more opportunity on Main Street for small businesses, medium businesses, and the jobs that we want to come back home to this country, those trillions of dollars we can repatriate back to this country and help the middle class, help middle-income Americans, help everybody to have a stronger, more vibrant economy, which helps everybody, instead of a complicated Tax Code put together by lobbyists.

We need to push forward on this and have a success for the American people.

THE TRICK TRICK TRICK ACT

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, also known as the "Trick Trick Trick Act."

This bill, Mr. Speaker, includes a \$1.5 trillion cut to Medicare and Medicaid, raises taxes on middle-income families, and gives the biggest tax cuts to corporations and the wealthiest Americans.

This bill eliminates personal deductions for medical expenses, creating further hardship for people facing illnesses; eliminates deductions for State and local income taxes, resulting in higher taxes for people who can't afford it; and eliminates deductions for interest paid on student loans, making quality education less accessible.

Proponents of the bill, Mr. Speaker, will have you believe that these tax cuts will benefit working families, grow our economy, and decrease the Federal deficit. That is fake news. This bill does nothing more than destroy the hopes and dreams of middle Americans seeking a stable career, a fulfilled life, and a brighter future.

The American people deserve better. I remain willing and able to work across party lines to achieve responsible tax reform.

I say to my Republican colleagues: Do not pass this bill as a Republican bill. It must be bipartisan. If you do it, you will regret it.

HONORING L. STEPHEN GAITHER

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Mr. Stephen Gaither for his dedication and service to our Nation's veterans.

After over 40 years of service, Mr. Gaither is retiring as the public affairs officer at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital in Columbia, Missouri.

Mr. Gaither has spent his entire life serving this great Nation. In addition to his numerous years serving our veterans at the Truman VA, Mr. Gaither served in the United States Air Force, the Utah Air National Guard, and the Army Reserves.

Since 1989, he has been an active volunteer for the Heart of Missouri United Way, a nonprofit organization that works to improve the economic and social conditions of those who reside in our local community. His passion for serving others will forever leave a mark on the Truman VA and the city of Columbia.

So, Mr. Gaither, this week, as we celebrate Veterans Day, I want to thank you for your devotion and your work on behalf of our Nation's veterans and our community, and I want to wish you the very best in your retirement.

COMMEMORATING VETERANS OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS AND THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my family and staff, I want to salute and commemorate the veterans of the U.S. Virgin Islands and throughout the United States on this Veterans Day.

The Virgin Islands along with the other territories send more men and women per capita to serve in the U.S. military than anywhere else in this Nation.

I would like to personally recognize Task Force Alpha on St. Croix, Task Force Bravo on St. Thomas, and St. John Responders.

On Veterans Day, we salute the men and women who have proudly worn the uniform and the families who have served alongside them. We affirm our sacred duty as citizens to express our enduring gratitude, both in words and actions, for their service.

As part of Veterans Day this year in the Virgin Islands, we will be honoring female veterans in the territory. Being honored as parade marshal and guest speaker on the island of St. Croix is Major Kathleen Parris; on St. Thomas, Sergeant First Class Laurel Maloon-Francis, serving as parade marshal; and serving as guest speaker on the island of St. Thomas will be former military spouse, Monique Y. Ferrell, director of the Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program.

Mr. Speaker, just as we vow to leave no soldier behind on the battlefield, we vow not to forget any veteran when they return home.

A MESSAGE FOR THE MEDIA

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have a message for the liberal so-called mainstream media.

You are essential to democracy. You have an almost sacred responsibility to inform the American people, but they don't believe you anymore.

Your coverage of the President and conservative Republicans is now obviously so slanted, so biased, that you have lost your credibility; in fact, polls show that it is at a record low.

In trying to destroy this President, you are destroying yourself. Is that what you want?

Remember the Chinese proverb: "When you set out on a journey of revenge, dig two graves."

Why not trust the American people with the facts and let them make up their own minds rather than telling them what to think? I don't know of