

in our arsenal to save lives across America.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 487. An act to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

HONORING ROGER M. SCHRIMP

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a very good and personal friend, Roger Schrimp, who died unexpectedly on Wednesday, February 10, 2016.

Roger and his wife Delsie live in Oakdale, California, in my district. Roger has been a shareholder and a partner in the firm Damrell, Nelson, Schrimp, Pallios, Pacher, & Silva.

Roger is most known for being very passionate, not only about his practice, but in addressing many different areas within our community. Within his practice, he addressed cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, U.S. District Court, and the U.S. Tax Court of Claims. In addition, he has gone before several State and local agencies.

Roger was also an active leader in many different local, State, and national organizations. Since 1976, he was a member of the elite group out of Santa Barbara, California, the Rancheros Visitadores. He was appointed in 1996 by Governor Wilson. Roger served a 6-year term on the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. He also served on the Executive Board of the California State Parks Foundation.

Ever since joining the Boy Scouts of America in 1948, Roger has been dedicated to the organization throughout the years. The Eagle Scout has held a variety of voluntary positions within the group, including serving on the National Executive Board.

From 2007 to 2015, Roger was named one of the top attorneys in Northern California by the Northern California Super Lawyers Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing my good friend, Roger Schrimp, who will be missed by many. God bless him always.

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the story of Texas Southern University. It started out in Houston, Texas, in the early 1920s to educate then, of course, the colored or Negro population, and they have grown into the 21st century.

In the 1940s, they were expanded because a young man by the name of Heman Sweatt attempted to attend the University of Texas School of Law and he was prohibited, he was prevented. So by a court, the law school was established which is now named Thurgood Marshall.

I really rise to say that this school is a Texas asset, and yet the State of Texas publicly has underfunded this university. In 2000, I helped settle a desegregation lawsuit of which that school had sued because it was discriminated against.

Sadly, I rise today to ask for another investigation by the Department of Education, Civil Rights Division, because the State of Texas is now again discriminating against the students and faculty of Texas Southern University by not funding them equally with other majority-based institutions. It is sad to rise today to say that. But in that school, Barbara Jordan graduated, our colleague; Mickey Leland graduated. Of course, Barbara Jordan was a colleague. Many outstanding scientists and doctors.

Stop discriminating against Texas Southern University. We need to investigate it again to make this school whole.

RECOGNIZING THE BEACON PLACE COMMUNITY CENTER IN WAUKEGAN

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Beacon Place Community Center in Waukegan and Executive Director Barb Koracic.

Beacon Place focuses on the power of neighbors helping neighbors by offering a variety of services to the community. They recently received a grant from the Community Purse, which will help them expand neighborhood cooking classes, improve technology for after-school tutoring programs, and obtain fresh produce for children in the summer.

I visited Beacon Place in July and was inspired by the educational activities offered for the children. These programs help children sustain their math and reading skills throughout the summer.

I had a great time participating in the learning by reading and painting with some of these children, and I saw firsthand the benefit that these re-

sources will have in the Waukegan community.

Beacon Place is truly a much-needed and inspiring program, which is why I am honored to be able to recognize them today.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Black History Month and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which was founded 107 years ago today.

Black History Month is an opportunity for Americans to reflect on the contributions of the African American community to this country, on the injustices that they have endured through American history, and how far we have gone and still need to go to end discrimination and racism in America.

This past weekend, I attended the Orange County Heritage Council's 36th Annual Orange County Black History Month Parade and Cultural Fair. I was honored to meet a lot of veterans there, including Mr. Warren Bussey, a World War II hero, and, at 103 years old, the oldest African American living in Orange County today.

Mr. Bussey and others like him are a testament to the enduring legacy of African American commitment to the military service. They went, yet they came back, and there were no civil rights for them.

This month we honor their contribution.

ANIMAL SHELTER

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the ASPCA in celebration of their event Paws for Love, and bring attention to the importance of animal shelters throughout our country.

Paws for Love is an annual event, hosted by the ASPCA, as well as many local animal shelters here in Washington, D.C., featuring adoptable pets, along with providing information about adoption.

As a proud parent of an adopted pitbull of my own and co-chair of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, I know firsthand the value that local animal shelters offer and how they offer a second chance and loving homes to animals in need.

As we have seen through natural recent disasters, animal shelters were placed in difficult situations when families evacuated and were forced to separate from their pets. These shelters need our help.

Ensuring adequate funding for these programs is incredibly important. I am

proud to be an outspoken advocate for animal welfare. I look forward to working with my colleagues on these issues in the future.

□ 1215

AMERICA'S RULE BOOK: THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, we have got our Presidential primary coming up in Georgia in the first week of March, and everybody is talking about what it means to be an American and where it is we want America to go. I love that conversation. I love that it is happening on the Democratic side of the aisle. I love that it is happening on the Republican side of the aisle. I love that it is happening in every household in America.

What I don't hear as much conversation about—and I wish that I did—is about that rule book for how America is supposed to be run, called the United States Constitution. Folks seem to have a firm grasp on it when they want to be the President of the United States. They lose that grasp when they get to be President of the United States, because they want to serve. They so badly want to serve.

What I have here, Mr. Speaker, are a couple of quotes from President Obama.

He says:

I taught constitutional law for 10 years, and I take the Constitution very seriously. The biggest problems that we are facing right now have to do with George Bush's trying to bring more and more power into the executive branch and not go through Congress at all; and that is what I intend to reverse when I am President of the United States of America.

Now, that was at a Pennsylvania townhall meeting, Mr. Speaker, when the President was running for office.

As a Senator, he could see clearly that, in article I, the House and the Senate were in charge of passing the laws, and that, in article II, the White House was in charge of enforcing the laws. During the 8 years that George Bush was President, time and time again, charges were made that the White House was taking the people's power from article I and carrying it down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House.

Again, I quote from President Obama:

I taught the Constitution for 10 years. I believe in the Constitution, and I will obey the Constitution of the United States. We are not going to use signing statements as a way of doing an end run around Congress.

That was at a Montana campaign event back in 2008.

The President was absolutely right, and Republicans in this institution were absolutely wrong, during his 8

years in the White House, for not holding George Bush more accountable to his article II responsibilities and staying out of Congress' article I responsibilities; but it was hard, Mr. Speaker. It was after 9/11.

I will forever wonder what America would have looked like but for that fateful day. The President was off, focusing on his agenda. We were not campaigning on 9/11 issues in that election. We were campaigning on domestic issues, on economic issues. The economy was on fire, and then everything changed.

I would argue that many of my Republican colleagues—you and I were not here at that time, Mr. Speaker—cut President Bush a lot of slack. America was in crisis, and the Nation was under attack; and we said: Do you know what? The Constitution does give the President special responsibilities during these times of national crisis, and I am willing to allow him to adopt a little more authority—I am willing to be a little more deferential—to the President during these difficult times.

President Obama saw that as then-Senator Obama, and he said: That is wrong. Republicans are not supposed to be Republicans first. Republicans in Congress are supposed to be Congressmen first. Republicans in the Senate are supposed to be Senators first. Our obligation first is to our constituents back home, to the United States Constitution, not to someone who may or may not hold the same party title at the White House.

As a candidate, the President saw that clearly, but we all know how that transpired, Mr. Speaker.

As President, the President has said this:

We can't wait for an increasingly dysfunctional Congress to do its job. Where they won't act, I will.

We can't wait for that Constitution, which was specifically designed to be slow and painful, because every act that we pass here, Mr. Speaker, takes freedom or power or money from someone in America and gives it to someone else. It was designed to be hard; but as President Obama says: I can't wait. Where Congress won't act, I will.

I continue to quote, Mr. Speaker, from a different speech during a Cabinet meeting in 2014:

But one of the things that I will be emphasizing in this meeting is the fact that we are not just going to be sitting, waiting for legislation, in order to make sure that we are providing Americans with the kind of help that they need. I have got a pen and I have got a phone. I can use that pen to sign executive orders and take executive actions and administrative actions that move the ball forward.

Mr. Speaker, one of my great disappointments in this administration is that President Obama had an opportunity to lead America in ways that no other President could have led. He had an opportunity when he was elected, with all of his personal charisma and popularity, to lead public opinion in ways that no other President could. He

was not my choice for President, but when America chose him, America chose opportunity to do things that we could not have done otherwise.

All we are in this Chamber is a reflection of that public opinion back home. All we are the voices of our individual districts back home—435 voices representing millions of constituents back home. The President could have come and changed the minds of those in this Congress. He could have come and changed the minds of the people. Instead—do you know what?—he said: I have studied the Constitution for 10 years. It is really hard to move Congress. It is really hard to move public opinion. So I am going to use my phone and my pen, and I am going to do it alone.

This isn't just in the White House, Mr. Speaker. This idea that the people's voice in Congress is a nuisance and gets in the way of getting the real business done permeates the entire administration.

I quote from EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy:

But I will tell you that I didn't go to Washington to sit around and wait for congressional action. I have never done that before, and I don't plan to do it in the future.

Forbid the thought. Forbid the thought you would be on the Federal Government's payroll, charged with enforcing the laws of the land, and you might sit around and wait for Congress to pass the laws of the land. Forbid the thought. If you have got a phone and if you have got a pen, just go ahead and rewrite those laws of the land, Mr. Speaker. It is dangerous when Republicans do that. It is dangerous when Democrats do that. It is dangerous when Independents do that.

We have a Constitution as our rule book for a reason, and that is that changing the law should be hard. Taking power from one group and giving it to another should be hard. Taking money from one group and giving it to another should be hard. The power is not ours, Mr. Speaker. The power is the people's. They allow us to administer it for a short period of time, and there is a long and difficult process to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to focus on some EPA regulations today. In the past, Presidents have acknowledged how hard it is to get it done, but they have committed to going out there and getting it done. I will remind you, Mr. Speaker, that the EPA was created by a Republican President. There is no one who cares more about clean water and clean air in the great State of Georgia than I do. I am a hardcore, Deep South Republican, Mr. Speaker, and we play outside a lot. Our kids are outside a lot. We are drinking a lot of water, and we are playing in a lot of grass. We care about a clean environment. So did President Richard Nixon when he created the EPA.

He said this:

The reorganizations which I am proposing afford both the Congress and the executive branch an opportunity to reevaluate the adequacy of existing programs involved in these consolidations.