

As one of the most decorated marines in World War II and with over 28 years of military service, Colonel Russell spent a life serving his country. And while his military career was second to none, Russell's humanitarian and philanthropic work was equally remarkable. Indeed, it was his commitment to service and serving others that made him a pillar for both the Nation's military and his local community, which encompasses much of central Pennsylvania and well beyond.

A graduate of Boston College, Russell was one of the first alternates for the 1940 U.S. Olympic track team in the 800 meters, a sport he loved with a passion.

Immediately following his completion of undergraduate studies, Russell began his career in uniform when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. During his service, Colonel Russell took part and played a role in seminal moments in the country's history.

As one of the youngest battalion commanders in World War II, at the age of 27, Russell was responsible for leading 1,000 troops during the first major offensive by Allied forces against the Empire of Japan—the Battle of Guadalcanal. Russell suffered shrapnel wounds during the campaign after being hit by Japanese aircraft during landing.

At the ripe age of 29, Russell landed in the third assault wave on Iwo Jima, Red Beach One, and fought for all 36 days. Again wounded during battle, Russell went on to witness the historical raising of the American flag on Mount Suribachi.

These are just a few of the many remarkable experiences of this amazing individual, Mr. Speaker.

Following his retirement from the Marine Corps, Russell went on to serve others through roles in academia and philanthropy, including as associate dean of the College of Health and Physical Education at Pennsylvania State University.

During this time and after, Russell was always a tireless community and volunteer advocate.

He was the founder and chairman of the local United Way Day of Caring, served as a member of the United Way board of directors, and played an active role in the Pennsylvania Special Olympics, the Centre Country Toys for Tots, and many other programs that benefit our local community.

Mr. Speaker, in all of these endeavors, Russell inspired so many to give back and pushed his community to do the same. He led a life built on service, sacrifice, and a commitment to others.

Colonel Russell once stated that he hoped that he would be remembered for the impact that his life had on others and that he made a difference. Well, Mr. Speaker, I rise today as one more voice among the countless others across Pennsylvania, the country, and the world to praise Colonel Russell for doing just that. We thank you for your unparalleled service to this Nation and our community. May you rest with God, my friend.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Jason Parks, Refuge Church, Huntsville, Alabama, offered the following prayer:

Father God, thank You for the rich blessings You've lavished on the United States of America.

We are so unworthy of Your grace and Your mercy. Today, we pray for the men and women of the United States House of Representatives.

Give them great wisdom, protection, and steadfast resolve. In their personal lives we ask that You replace turmoil with peace, bitterness with joy, and doubt with encouragement.

For our country, Father, we ask that You give us a renewed sense of gratitude, an unquenchable zeal for serving those who are in need, and unity toward the common purpose of liberty.

Above all else, Father, we honor You today. We humbly intercede on behalf of our country and her leaders.

In Jesus' name, 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 gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. JENKINS 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND JASON PARKS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, it is with great privilege that I welcome Pastor Jason Parks to the House of Representatives and thank him for serving as today's guest chaplain.

Jason is the lead pastor of Refuge Church in Huntsville, Alabama.

He received an undergraduate degree in communications arts from the University of North Alabama, an MBA from Liberty University, and a master of divinity from Rockbridge Seminary.

Pastor Jason currently serves on the ALS Association Patient Care Committee, Calhoun Community College EMS Advisory Board, and as faculty at Huntsville Bible College. He is also a former Crestwood Medical Center associate chaplain and is credentialed as a board-certified pastoral counselor.

Pastor Jason resides in Hazel Green, Alabama, with his wife and three children.

I appreciate the work he has done for our community and his passion for serving the people of north Alabama.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches from each side of the aisle.

K9S FOR WARRIORS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize K9s for Warriors, a remarkable Florida organization that is providing therapeutic service dogs for veterans suffering from issues like posttraumatic stress disorder, PTSD.

One in five of our heroes returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan have PTSD, a tragic epidemic that can disrupt the transition to civilian life and often causes the loss of hope, damage to family relationships, or harm to themselves and others.

Since its inception, K9s for Warriors has provided over 100 therapy dogs to veterans, at no cost to the veterans, teaching, certifying, housing, and feeding each warrior as they learn to train the dog to address their specific disabilities and assist in mitigating posttraumatic stress.

K9s for Warriors is not only healing invisible disorders and putting suffering veterans on the path to recovery, but it is also giving new hope to the heroes and their families who put their lives on the line to defend ours.

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station is one of western New York's most critical resources. It is not only an asset to our region's economy, but also to our Nation's security. Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station employs over 3,500 western New Yorkers and has an economic