

so everyone has the opportunity to study it and understand it.

Who knows, maybe that studying of that data will find better ways, smarter ways, more efficient ways to protect the environment, more rational ways; but we will never know until the EPA finally steps up and makes that data available to every American.

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 43 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 Dr. Benny Tate, Rock Springs Church, Milner, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, we bow our heads in Your presence. The Bible teaches us, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity, because a House divided will not stand."

May Your servants in this body not look to parties, personalities, preferences, or press, but may they focus on principles and people. Let no personal ambition blind them to their responsibilities and accountability.

God, we call our Representatives politicians, but You call them ministers. May all the Members of this body make full proof of their ministry. I ask for Your guidance on their decisions and grace on their families.

I pray the Members of this body will seek Thy will and ways and have the spiritual courage and grace to follow it. Lift them above the claims of politics unto the dimension of a higher calling and mission.

We pray this prayer, respecting all faiths, but pray it in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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 California (Mr. McNERNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNERNEY 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 BENNY TATE

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Benny Tate, the senior pastor of Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia. Under the leadership of Dr. Tate, Rock Springs Church grew from just 60 members to its current congregation of over 6,000.

Dr. Tate began numerous ministries at Rock Springs Church, including the Rock Springs medical clinic to care for those who cannot afford medical insurance; The Potter's House, which ministers to women battling drug and alcohol abuse; Rock Springs Christian Academy, offering quality education to kids K-12; and the Impact Street Ministries, which helps the homeless by serving meals and providing clothing and housing to those in need.

James 1:27 says:

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this, to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Dr. Tate's work is a shining example of what Scripture tells us the role of the church should be: to care for the poor, the fatherless, and widows.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Benny Tate, pastor of Rock Springs Church, for his 25 years of outstanding leadership and service to his community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

ARKANSAS' STORM RECOVERY

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

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask the Members of this House and all Americans to lift up Arkansas in their prayers as we recover from the storms that devastated much of central Arkansas on Sunday evening. Fifteen people lost their lives in these storms, and many more saw their homes and neighborhoods destroyed. The communities of Mayflower and Vilonia, vibrant, thriving towns, were particularly hard-hit.

I want to thank the first responders and all those on the ground in Arkansas who continue to assist with rescue

and recovery operations. We are deeply grateful for your service.

I know my sorrow and grief for the devastation and loss of life is shared by all Arkansans and all Americans. We have a long road ahead of us, but Arkansans are a tough, hardworking people, and together we will come out stronger.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HARD-WORKING SHIPYARD WORKERS IN GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AND NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last evening the U.S. Navy and two shipyards, the electric boat shipyard in Groton, Connecticut, and Huntington Ingalls shipyard in Newport News, Virginia, entered into an \$18 billion contract to build 10 submarines over the next 5 years.

This event did not happen by itself. It was the result of exhaustive national security reviews that started under Secretary Gates, continued with the Nuclear Posture Review, and continued with the Quadrennial Defense Review. In every instance, the findings were that we needed to bolster our undersea fleet, which has declined from 100 ships at the end of the cold war to 53 today.

With rising maritime challenges in the Asia Pacific, with the decision by Vladimir Putin to recapitalize his military to the tune of \$700 billion, we must bolster our undersea fleet, which is the one area where the United States still has undisputed domination of that domain.

I want to congratulate the shipyard workers who have shown the Virginia class program is ahead of schedule and under budget, whether it was the USS *California*, the *Hawaii*, or, most recently, the *North Dakota*. Again, they have set, in my opinion, an example for Navy shipbuilding across the board and commercial shipbuilding, which the U.S. has got to step up its game and become part of.

Again, congratulations to the hard-working shipyard workers in Groton and Newport News, Virginia.

GET SERIOUS ABOUT REDUCING THE REGULATORY OVERBURDEN UPON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, Federal agencies in Washington, D.C., are setting new records. Unfortunately, these are not records that they should be proud of. In 2013, the Federal Register contained nearly 80,000 pages of new rules and regulations imposed on American businesses. We know that the result of this is that it stifles jobs, it slows economic growth, and it hurts