

has given to the board, her fellow Members, and the Former Members of Congress staff has guided and grown the Association, and we are a better organization thanks to her."

Thank you, Barbara.

Ms. KENNELLY. As I accept this award—and we are not going to read the names of the memorial that we are going to have this afternoon—I think we all ought to just stand for a moment and just say a small prayer for what happened in Orlando.

Thank you.

Mr. STEARNS. Thank you, Barbara. And let me just conclude before we leave here to say we have a lunch today—and I hope all of you will come—to bestow the 2016 Distinguished Service Award on the current Senators and Representatives who are retiring after the 114th Congress. Our Association has decided that every 2 years, we will take our Distinguished Service Award and dedicate it to the retiring Members as an opportunity to thank them for their public service and to let them know that, through our Association, their service can continue.

And since we cannot hand a plaque to all of these people, we have decided to award a \$1,000 scholarship in their name to a graduating high school senior from a D.C. school. We invited students to compete for this scholarship by writing an essay about civic responsibility and what it means to be a citizen. Out of the many really outstanding submissions we received, we selected a very impressive individual who is graduating and is heading to Harvard. His name is Nicholas Stauffer-Mason, and he and his mother will join us for lunch later today. I hope all of you will attend.

Thank you, everybody, for this opportunity.

Mr. FROST. The Chair again wishes to thank the former Members of the House for their presence here today and also the leadership of the House of Representatives for hosting us once again in this revered Chamber.

Before terminating these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite those former Members who did not respond when the roll was called to give their names to the Reading Clerk for inclusion in the roll.

The meeting stands adjourned.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend Father Mina D. Essak, St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church, Troy, Michigan, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, thank You for our lives, our health, and the opportunity to serve our beloved United States of America. Send Your spirit for protec-

tion of her inhabitants as she continues to exist as the most powerful nation in the world.

Send Your spirit to touch the hearts of our Nation's leaders.

Endow the spirit of wisdom on President Obama and the Members here today with familiar words: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Accept the great goodness they strive for: trust, justice, and peace in our great Nation. Inspire our leaders with new approaches to increase the prosperity of those whom they represent. Grant each Member talent with which to multiply their fruits.

May we please You, O God, this day. Hear us, Almighty God.

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 Mississippi (Mr. KELLY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi 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 FATHER MINA D. ESSAK

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Father Mina and the Coptic community he represents in southeast Michigan. Egypt's Coptic Christians have been a staple in my district since they held their first liturgy at St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church in Troy almost 40 years.

Father Mina is an engineer by trade, but in 1991, he accepted God's calling and became a priest to serve the then-small congregation of Coptic Christians in southeast Michigan. Under the leadership of Father Mina, the Coptic community has grown from a handful of families to over 750 today.

The Copts are my neighbors and friends. They are our nurses, schoolteachers, public servants, and business leaders. The Copts represent what America represents. Their story is America's story: the story of people who dreamed of a better life, the story

of people who left everything they had ever known to come to this country for a new beginning.

I am proud to represent this vibrant and welcoming community, and, under the leadership of Father Mina and Father Maximus, the Copts will continue to serve an important role in southeast Michigan for a long time.

I want to thank, again, Father Maximus and Father Mina for leading the House in prayer today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE U.S. ARMY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the 241st birthday of the United States Army, a celebration for the strongest fighting force in the world. There are now more countries liberated and thriving in peace and democracy than in the history of the world because of the American military.

It is an honor to represent Fort Jackson in the Midlands of South Carolina, the largest initial entry training facility of the Army. I was grateful to meet the incoming commanding general of Fort Jackson, Brigadier General Pete Johnson. I appreciate departing Brigadier General Roger Cloutier, who served in the tradition of Major General Bradley Becker.

This is also a special day for my family, as the son of a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps, as a grateful 31-year veteran of the Army Reserves and the South Carolina Army National Guard. I especially appreciate the Guard service of my sons, Alan in Iraq, Julian in Egypt, and Hunter in Afghanistan. My fourth son, Addison, served as a Navy doctor with the Army Rangers in Iraq.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Happy 241st birthday, U.S. Army.

ORLANDO

(Ms. BROWNLEY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to the victims of the tragedy in Orlando. This act of terror and hate has reverberated across our Nation with a goal to divide us and instill fear against those who simply wish to express themselves and live their lives freely.

We cannot let fear lead us to single out an entire community or take our