

of the rectitude of our intentions, we fearlessly and confidently commit the issue to the decision of the Supreme arbiter of the destinies of nations.”

181 years ago, the Republic of Texas was born. God bless Texas.

□ 1045

#### NI TTANY THEATRE AT THE BARN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a true treasure in central Pennsylvania, actually in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, the Nittany Theatre at the Barn. This one-of-a-kind theater has a storied history which started in the late 1800s as the service barn on a working farm.

The Boal family settled the region for which the town Boalsburg is named. This town was on the main road for travelers from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. The Boal Mansion estate, which dates to 1789, is a national registered landmark.

The fourth generation of the Boal family, Colonel Theodore Davis Boal, married a descendant of Christopher Columbus and brought the Columbus Chapel to the Boal Mansion from Spain in 1909. This included an admiral's desk said to belong to Columbus himself. By the 1930s, the estate's aging barn was retired from farm use, but it would eventually take on a whole new life.

Pierre Boal retired from the diplomatic service for the country following World War II. He wanted to make the family's estate into a regional museum to display the family's vast collection of treasures and artifacts. Mr. Boal hired Lillian Dickson-Major, an English stage and film actress and lover of history, to be the first curator of the new Boal Mansion Museum. She arrived in 1953 and immediately began preparing the estate for museum service. Lillian looked at the emptied barn and saw its potential as the site for a “most unusual theatre.”

At the same time, theater professionals throughout the country and at nearby Penn State University wondered how theater would continue to survive in a world that was captivated by television and Technicolor motion pictures. Pierre and Lillian invited several Penn State professors and theater specialists to make their plans. To close the deal, Pierre Boal leased the old barn to the newly formed Centre County Theatre Association for the generous sum of zero dollars as a means to invite and encourage culture and theater in Centre County. Entrusted to oversee the construction of a state-of-the-art arena theater, the Centre County Theatre Association brought life to Lillian's vision of the barn as a “most unusual theatre.”

After several years of preparations and construction, the theater opened at the barn in the summer of 1959 and

was a tremendous success. Many audiences enjoyed the summer performances in the old barn for decades. After a long run, the community theater company let the old barn go dark, but it was only for a brief time before Nittany Theatre at the Barn took up the cause to breathe new life once again into the historic community treasure. State-of-the-art advancements were made at the barn, merging the latest technologies with good, old-fashioned summer stock theater.

The house is stocked with 99 seats, retaining all the charm and intimacy that made the barn legendary. In addition, to enhance audiences' experiences, brand-new, state-of-the-art LED lighting and Broadway quality sound systems were installed. Nittany Theatre also partners with Penn State's School of Theatre to allow Penn State's young actors to share the stage with local seasoned actors.

Mr. Speaker, this theater is full of history and full of life. For nearly 60 years, audiences in Happy Valley have enthusiastically embraced summer theater in Pennsylvania's oldest arena barn theater. I congratulate all those who have kept this community gem open for business throughout the years. As they say in the business, “break a leg” this summer.

#### 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 48 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

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We use this moment to be reminded of Your presence and to tap the resources needed by the Members of this people's House to do their work as well as it can be done.

Send, O God, Your healing grace upon those torn nations and upon the Members of this assembly who struggle to see the shared hope for a better future in those with whom they disagree.

For many Americans, the holy season of Lent begins tomorrow, and foreheads are marked this day in recognition of our limits as men and women and as a reminder of Your power to forgive and heal the harms done through our failures.

All this day and through the week may our Representatives do their best

to find solutions to pressing issues facing our Nation. Please hasten the day when justice and love shall dwell in the hearts of all peoples and rule the affairs of the nations of Earth.

May all that is done this day 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 Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BILIRAKIS 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.

#### RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 1, 2017.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: I would like to bring to your attention the attached resignation letter I have sent to Governor Steve Bullock of Montana.

I have enjoyed my tenure as Montana's sole Congressman, and I look forward to continuing my service to Montana and our nation as Secretary of the Interior.

If I can be of any assistance during this transition, please let me know. I would be glad to help however I can.

Sincerely,

RYAN ZINKE.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 1, 2017.

Gov. STEVE BULLOCK,  
Office of the Governor,  
Helena, MT.

DEAR GOVERNOR BULLOCK: I would like to inform you that I am resigning from my position as the United States Congressman for Montana's At-Large District on March 1, 2017, in order to assume the Secretary of the Interior position. Thank you for the support and partnership that you have provided my office during these last few years.

I have enjoyed my tenure as Montana's sole Congressman, and I look forward to continuing my service to Montana and our nation as Secretary of the Interior.

If I can be of any assistance during this transition, please let me know. I would be glad to help however I can.

Sincerely,

RYAN ZINKE.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the