

is little to no regulation, and fentanyl and its analogues are manufactured in both small- and large-scale production laboratories.

The STOP Act would require foreign postal operators to send advanced electronic data to the USPS, the Postal Service, for packages imported into the United States. This would enable Customs and Border Protection and other agencies to target high-risk shipments for screening.

This bill also gives the Postal Service more authority to scan arriving mail from places that are currently exempt from CBP protocol, helping to stop these packages from reaching U.S. borders in the first place. It is a vigilant Federal response, including the STOP Act, which is crucial to reversing the tide of addiction, helping to save lives in our community and across the country.

#### BURN PITS

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, burn pits, which are found on military bases, create substances that can be toxic. Tires, batteries, human waste, medical waste, and other garbage items are put into pits and set on fire, sometimes after being soaked with jet fuel. Burn pits were regularly used in Iraq and Afghanistan, so veterans of these wars are particularly at risk.

My colleagues and I have introduced legislation that says, if a veteran does not have visible wounds, it is often difficult to provide the proof that VA needs to process a claim—but it shouldn't be that burdensome for a veteran who has sacrificed so much for our country—to get the treatment they need when they come home. There are many reports of veterans who believe their illness was caused by their exposure to burn pits who have not been able to get the VA to provide them with coverage.

This epidemic is being compared to the major problem veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange had when they returned home from the Vietnam war, and we cannot let that happen again. So we have introduced legislation because veterans who are exposed to burn pits and subsequently have complications need to have the right diagnosis and treatment as soon as possible.

This bill would create a Center of Excellence at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which would provide research to be able to properly address the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of these veterans. It is important the men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting our country can access the care they need when they return home.

#### 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 Michael D. Gutierrez, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Baldwin Park, California, offered the following prayer:

God, source of goodness and mercy, today we pray that You touch the minds and hearts of the Members of Congress.

Grant them wisdom and insight to make effective decisions that benefit the common good of our Nation, respecting all ethnicities, genders, and faith traditions.

We pray, Lord, that our Representatives may listen to one another so that they may seek what is good and true for all people. We ask You, Lord, to guide them and grant them courage to act in peace and justice so that other nations may see the goodness of our Nation and our leaders.

God, may this day be a continual exchange of ideas and prosperous debate, that people may see that our Representatives are being guided by You, God, and that Your wisdom be reflected in their decisions.

We lift up this prayer in Your holy 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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BEATTY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### WELCOMING FATHER MICHAEL D. GUTIERREZ

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to introduce to the House and bid welcome to Father Mike Gutierrez today. He is the pastor at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and school in the city of Baldwin Park in California. Thank you, Father, for coming from Baldwin Park and for the wonderful prayer.

Father Mike, as he is known—he doesn't use Gutierrez—leads a parish of 10,000 families with a focus on Filipino and Hispanic communities. He has increased participation in religious and educational programs, youth and family ministry, and allows the church to bring attention and encourage activism on issues impacting the area.

He is an integral part of the 32nd District's, my district, annual immigration clinic event and is known for his joviality and smiling consistently.

Since my move to the California 32nd, he has been helpful in many issues and events that I have put forth, recognized by the California State Legislature and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for support of social issues.

Father, thank you. Thank you for today's blessing and for the work you do to spread and promote Gospel throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

May God continue to bless you and your ministry.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### AN ADMINISTRATION MARKED BY STRENGTH

(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, this Saturday marks 100 days in office for President Donald Trump, an important milestone for Congress and this administration.

Since being sworn in, President Trump has stood strong, upholding his pledge to protect the American people in the face of world threats. He has stood up to the dangerous regime in North Korea by supporting our allies in the region and deploying the THAAD missile defense system. He took swift, decisive action against the dictatorship in Syria by using military force and economic sanctions after the brutal dictatorship executed a chemical attack murdering innocent civilians.

Additionally, the President has taken strong action to win the global war on terrorism by destroying ISIL-controlled tunnels in Afghanistan.

I appreciate President Trump for being a strong President and a model of Ronald Reagan, promoting peace through strength. Congratulations to him on a remarkable first 100 days in office.

I look forward to continuing to work with the President to protect American families while successfully creating jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### PRESIDENT TRUMP PROMISES

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, throughout the Presidential campaign, Donald Trump promised to create good-paying manufacturing jobs, but nearly 100 days into his administration, we are learning that this is just another broken promise.

Since taking office, President Trump has failed to use American steel for the Keystone pipeline, proposed \$2.5 billion in cuts in the Labor Department, which will reduce funding for critical job training in advanced manufacturing, and proposed complete elimination of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a Federal initiative that provides critical matching grants to support regional manufacturing economies.

If President Trump were serious about putting working people first, he would work with Democrats to pass bills we have already introduced to strengthen manufacturing, bills like Make It In America Manufacturing Communities Act that I have introduced to revitalize manufacturing economies and legislation to modernize and strengthen Buy America provisions.

If Donald Trump wants to keep the promises he made to working people, then he needs to start working with Democrats to deliver results. We are ready to go. We have introduced bills to strengthen American manufacturing. All we need now is a real partner in the White House, a President who is more concerned with results than TV ratings.

#### CONGRATULATING CONGRESSMAN STEVE STIVERS ON HIS PROMOTION

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues in the Ohio delegation, to congratulate Congressman STEVE STIVERS on his promotion from colonel to brigadier general of the Ohio National Guard.

Ohio is a State rich in history and a long list of American leaders who call

it home. STEVE's promotion marks another milestone in our great State's history.

STEVE STIVERS, a native of Ripley, Ohio, and proud Ohio State Buckeye, is the first brigadier general since Rutherford B. Hayes to represent Ohio in Congress.

Rutherford B. Hayes represented my district, the Second District of Ohio, from 1865 to 1867, before going on to serve as Governor of Ohio and then President of the United States.

On behalf of the Ohio delegation, we offer congratulations and our gratitude for STEVE's service.

Mr. Speaker, STEVE STIVERS' leadership adds to our State's storied legacy of servant leaders and citizen soldiers. Our State and our Nation are fortunate that STEVE STIVERS has dedicated his life to defending the cause of freedom both in the ranks of the National Guard and in the Halls of Congress.

#### CONGRATULATING CONGRESSMAN STEVE STIVERS ON HIS PROMOTION

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my Ohio colleagues to congratulate Congressman STEVE STIVERS on his promotion from colonel to brigadier general of the Ohio Army National Guard.

His promotion comes after more than 30 years in the National Guard. He is now one of the highest ranking National Guard members to also serve as a Member of Congress. Congressman STIVERS served the United States overseas during Operation Iraqi Freedom in Kuwait, Iraq, and Djibouti where he was awarded the Bronze Star for leadership throughout the deployment.

We are proud to have him leading the National Guard soldiers who protect us at home and abroad.

Congressman STIVERS, on behalf of the Ohio delegation and the citizens we represent, congratulations on this distinguished honor. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call STEVE a colleague and Ohioan and a friend.

#### CONGRATULATING CONGRESSMAN STEVE STIVERS ON HIS PROMOTION

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in congratulating STEVE STIVERS on his promotion to brigadier general. I served for 26½ years in the United States Air Force, and I can tell you that every officer who puts on the uniform, in the quiet moments of their own minds, they dream of the day that maybe someday they might aspire to become a flag officer or to attain the rank of general officer.

I can tell you that, from my perspective, it is a lot easier to get elected to

the House of Representatives than it is to earn the rank of general—at least that is what my experience shows. I can tell you, I never served under STEVE STIVERS and his command, but if his military leadership and performance is anything like his performance here in the House, he is going to represent the State of Ohio and our Nation very well.

Congratulations to my colleague, STEVE STIVERS. God bless you, and thank you for your service to our country.

#### NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN AN EXPENSIVE WALL

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, while the President continues to drone on about his southern border wall, a wall that he told America Mexico would pay for—which, of course, they will not—a wall that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology reports will cost Americans \$40 billion, there is no discussion of a promised \$1 trillion infrastructure bill.

This week, a Reuters report named my hometown of Buffalo, New York, as among the most dangerous lead hotspots in America. The lead waterlines in places like Buffalo, New York, and Flint, Michigan, are more than 100 years old, and they need to be replaced. Forty percent of kids in lead hotspots could suffer from cognitive delays and other neurological problems.

Mr. Speaker, the President needs to stop talking about an expensive and ineffective wall and start taking action on removing the toxic levels of lead from our Nation's drinking water systems, particularly in places like Buffalo, New York, and Flint, Michigan.

#### CONGRATULATING CONGRESSMAN STEVE STIVERS ON HIS PROMOTION

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

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate my colleague, my friend, and fellow Buckeye, Congressman STEVE STIVERS, on his promotion to brigadier general. I am thankful to be joined by my colleagues in the House and our Senators, Senator BROWN and Senator PORTMAN, as we applaud our colleague.

He is the first Ohio National Guard officer in more than 100 years to concurrently serve as a Member of Congress and one of the few people in U.S. history to have held both positions simultaneously. Congressman STIVERS joined the National Guard in 1985, and has served for over 30 years.

I, and many other Ohioans, appreciate his years of service, both in the military and in the United States Congress.