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AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Bishop Joshua K. Lynn, Mastin Lake Church of God of Prophecy, Huntsville, Alabama, offered the following prayer:

Holy Father, You are the almighty, all-knowing creator. We submit to Your infinite wisdom.

On behalf of our Nation and these leaders, we seek Your forgiveness for placing other ways higher than Yours. Grant us Your amazing grace from our sin as we turn to You. Open the ears of this body, this Nation's leaders, and all who call this great land home to hear Your voice. Tenderize the soil of our hearts so we may receive Your guidance.

Heal our land of bitterness, hate, and evil against You and one another. Grant our Nation a spiritual renewal and awakening.

Give this Nation and its leaders wisdom today and the days that follow. As we follow You, let Your favor be with us.

Let Your name ring higher than any other name. For it is in Your holy, loving, merciful, and gracious name we pray.

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 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 BISHOP JOSHUA K. LYNN

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 a great privilege to welcome Bishop Joshua K. Lynn to the House of Representatives. I thank him for serving as today's guest chaplain.

Joshua is the senior pastor serving Mastin Lake Church of God of Prophecy in Huntsville, Alabama. He also serves as the area presbyter, regional overseer, of north Alabama.

Bishop Lynn earned his bachelor's degree and his master of arts in biblical studies from Clarks Summit University. He serves Huntsville not only as a pastor, but as a volunteer with the Covenant Christian Academy Athletic Committee.

Bishop Lynn and his wife, Chrissy, also direct a summer youth program at Camp Boothe in West Blocton, Alabama.

Bishop Lynn and Chrissy have been married for almost 18 years, and they have four children: Camille, Ava, Heidi, and Elias. I understand they are here with Joshua today. We welcome them to Washington.

I appreciate the work Bishop Lynn has done and the positive impact he has had on north Alabama by providing care and support not only for the spiritual needs, but also the social and physical needs of our community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING MICHAEL "MATT"
PATRICK RYAN

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life and faith of my friend, local Houston radio favorite, Michael "Matt" Patrick Ryan.

Matt came to Houston after stints in New York, Indiana, and Ohio. Boy, he just became a favorite of our region, his no-nonsense but so optimistic way of informing and entertaining us as host of KTRH Morning News and his syndicated afternoon show.

In September of 2015, Matt faced a new challenge—stage IV melanoma. He shared his struggle with us. Matt's battle with cancer ended last Sunday, July 9, but his inspiration is eternal.

So today, as a country, we all join Matt's family—especially his best friend and wife, Paula; children, Alexandra, Alanna, and Jake; his family, friends, and listeners in "the Sandbox"—to recognize his lifetime of service, his courage, and his absolute faith in God.

We love you, Matt. You will be missed, friend.

NOT A SOCIAL EXPERIMENT

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

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this House discriminating against transgender

Americans and restricting their ability to serve our country, saying now is not the time for a social experiment. I firmly believe that the privilege and responsibility to defend our country should not be denied to anyone based on gender identification.

Prior to the 1950s, the "not a social experiment" argument was used to deny African Americans from fully participating in our military. Today there is a long history of service and heroism by African Americans, including Generals Colin Powell and Vincent Brooks.

Prior to 2010, the "not a social experiment" argument was used to keep gays and lesbians from full participation in our military. Today there is a long line of distinguished service by gay and lesbian servicemembers, including Generals Randy Taylor and Tammy Smith.

Today there is a long line of transgender servicemembers who are ready to distinguish themselves. I welcome their service and appreciate their willingness to sacrifice for our Nation.

As a Member of Congress, I will never deny that privilege and responsibility to those who want to serve.

PROVIDING FOR THE COMMON
DEFENSE OF OUR NATION

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the fiscal year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act.

With the hard work of the Armed Services Committee, this year's NDAA will begin to rebuild our military after years of spending cuts. Our troops have been facing a readiness crisis due to consistent underfunding.

This important legislation will begin to address the crisis with key investments in military readiness, and it fully funds a 2.4 percent, well-deserved pay raise for our troops.

In the 12th District of Georgia, we are at the forefront of cyber innovation, with the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence located at Fort Gordon. I am happy to say that the NDAA will fully fund cyber operations with an increase of \$1.7 billion from fiscal year '17 and provides over \$85 billion in military construction and Army Family Housing funds.

It is our constitutional obligation as Members of Congress to provide for the common defense of the Nation. I believe that, with the passage of the fiscal year '18 NDAA, we are meeting our obligation to keep America safe, close the critical readiness gap, and rebuild the 21st century military.

SAVE AMERICAN JOBS

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding an issue that Congress