

homophobe to practice homophobia, the anti-Semite to practice anti-Semitism, the Islamophobe to practice Islamophobia.

There are those who think that hate can wait, Mr. Speaker. I am not one of them. When hate emanates from the highest office in the land, when hate emanates from a person who has more power than any other person in the world, when hate emanates from the Presidency, the solution is impeachment.

Impeachment will be voted on before Christmas. I rise to stand against hate.

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 26 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS) at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Ron Dunn, New Hope Ministries, Akron, Michigan, offered the following prayer:

Our Father and our God in Heaven, we praise You for Your goodness to this great Nation, giving us blessings far beyond what we deserve. Direct the elected leaders of this governing body to meet the many challenges that this Nation faces today and in the future. Give them wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to act upon it. Set their feet on the path of Your righteousness and peace. Strengthen their determination to give witness to these truths by the way we should live.

Give them harmony that puts an end to disunity, love for one another that extinguishes hatred, and compassion that overcomes hostility. Inspire all people to pursue Your commandment of love for one another.

We pray this in the name of God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and my God, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCKINLEY 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 PASTOR RON DUNN

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Ron Dunn from Akron, Michigan, who delivered that wonderful opening prayer.

Pastor Dunn is an ordained bishop with the Church of God, and is senior pastor of New Hope Ministries in Akron, Michigan, not Ohio.

His work is well known beyond the walls of the church. Pastor Dunn has led New Hope Ministries to assist those in need in the Akron community. Under Pastor Dunn's leadership, New Hope Ministries has provided food, clothing, counseling, and even assisted local families in sending their children to summer camp. His service and work is truly an example for all of us here and across the country.

Pastor Dunn is also known in our community as the head football coach of the Akron-Fairgrove Junior/Senior High School, where he has mentored the team to grow into upstanding young men.

Pastor Dunn's life of service extends back to his service in the United States Army. Pastor Dunn is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Mr. Speaker, our community and our Nation are grateful for Pastor Dunn's service and sacrifice. It is an honor to welcome him to the Capitol today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

A TRIBUTE TO ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR GREG STANDRIDGE

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, over the Thanksgiving holiday week, the State of Arkansas and our Nation lost a devoted public servant with the passing of State Senator Greg Standridge of Russellville, Arkansas.

He was a 1985 graduate of Russellville High School. He was a Cyclone through and through.

Greg was coowner of CSI Insurance Agency in his hometown, was a longtime active member of First Baptist Church, and a member of the Russellville Football Booster Club. He found time to serve on boards for Workforce

Investment, Pope County 911, Teen Challenge Women's Ministry, and the Pope County Fair. He was active with the Pope County Emergency Services Rescue Unit and was a volunteer firefighter.

Greg was elected to the Arkansas State Senate in a special election in 2015 and selflessly dedicated himself to improving Arkansas while fighting his long battle with cancer.

Mr. Speaker, as former President George H.W. Bush said many years ago, any evaluation of having lived a successful life must include a measure of service to others. Senator Standridge may have died young at the age of 50, but his life was truly well lived.

I join his wife of 26 years, Karen Standridge; their children, Hunter, Lakin, Cameron, and Breonna; his mother, Jewel Simcox; his late father, Marvin Standridge; his sister and my classmate, Jeania Evans; and other extended family members in celebrating Greg's life.

Mr. Speaker, we will always remember his infectious smile that could fill every room.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT MUST STOP

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, for too long, survivors of sexual harassment and assault have been isolated, shamed, and bullied into silence, while their abusers walk away scot-free with the privilege of anonymity and with no personal or financial accountability.

This has been happening right here in Congress, in media, in many sectors in our society. No one, whether it be a Capitol Hill staffer, a Hollywood actor, a schoolteacher, a soldier, or anyone in any profession, at no time should they have to choose between their job and personal safety.

Congress needs to act now to end the practice of taxpayer-funded sexual harassment settlements, expose perpetrators of sexual harassment and assault, and provide a fair and transparent path to justice for survivors. This behavior is absolutely unacceptable. It has no place in Congress or in our society. It must end.

STATE COLLEGE GREW THE ROCKEFELLER CENTER CHRISTMAS TREE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tonight, one of the biggest Christmas events will take place in New York City: the lighting of the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree.

This historic event has ushered in the holiday season since the first official tree lighting in 1933. Tonight's event is the 85th tree lighting, and

while it will be a star-studded event with various entertainers performing on the plaza, the biggest star of all is from State College, Pennsylvania: the Christmas tree.

The 75-foot-tall Norway spruce was chosen as the yuletide centerpiece. The 12-ton tree was trucked into Midtown Manhattan earlier this month from State College. Rockefeller Center's head gardener was visiting State College a few years ago for a high school football game. He saw the tree from the road and knocked on the homeowner Jason Perrin's door to ask about the spruce.

Mr. Perrin is a Penn State graduate who worked for the State College Area School District for 17 years. He believes the tree is about 80 years old.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to State College's tree playing a starring role in tonight's festivities. Merry Christmas.

WE NEED BIPARTISAN TAX REFORM

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, look, I, like every Member in this House, recognize that we need to do something about taxes. We need bipartisan tax reform that actually works for everybody, but what the Senate passed through committee and what the House passed here a couple of weeks ago is not tax reform. It is a great big tax cut financed by middle class Americans and huge debt that will be passed on to our kids.

It is just not right. We shouldn't do this just to put points on the board. I mean, if we are going to get this right, we should do it in a bipartisan way, and many of us stand ready to do that.

What this shows—and the facts matter—is that every independent analysis, including our own analysis here in Congress that we have depended upon for years, shows that millions, tens of millions, over 80 million middle class Americans, will get a tax increase, all to finance massive tax cuts for billionaires and corporations, people at the very top of the economy.

This is a massive shift of wealth from hardworking Americans to people at the very top. We ought to do this right. We ought to do it right. We ought to stop this nonsense, go back to the process that we were elected to follow, and get this done in a way that is good for all Americans. This bill is not that.

THANKING DR. ROBERT MARTINO

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dr. Robert Martino of Clarksburg, West Virginia.

In 2013, Dr. Martino began a unique program, generously providing one day of free dental services to local Active-Duty military and their families. He

wanted to give back to those who have sacrificed so much, and he has continued to do so each and every year, thereafter, and has spread this idea throughout his professional network.

This day of service has now swept across the Nation, with over 500 businesses now offering our soldiers everything from dental services to accounting. It has become known as Freedom Day.

But that isn't enough. I want to challenge more businesses to participate. Visit freedomday.usa.org to find out how to get involved.

Dr. Martino, thank you for the example you set for America. You are truly a great American.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALL NATIVE AMERICAN CODE TALKERS

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

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, Native American Heritage Month affords us the opportunity to honor the Native American veterans who fought for this great country.

I rise today to celebrate the indispensable contributions of all Native American code talkers. Throughout much of the 20th Century, Native American soldiers used their native languages to develop unbreakable codes for military operations. Their actions were critical for many Allied victories.

Every day, I am reminded of the contributions of the code talkers who served at Iwo Jima. A tribute to their service hangs in my office, and it contains this quote from Major Howard Connor, a signal officer for the Navajo code talkers: "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines never would have taken Iwo Jima."

I want to extend my sincere thanks to all the brave code talkers who served with honor and our veterans.

One of the founding principles of this country is the celebration of the diversity of its people. When we recognize that, we truly are a more perfect union.

TAX RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN TEXAS

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, across America, was Small Business Saturday, a yearly event that highlights American Main Street businesses by encouraging consumers to shop in their local shops.

Forty-five percent of all companies in Texas are small businesses. They provide jobs to 4 million Texans. They are our neighbors, our family members, and our friends. They provide jobs to more than 4 million families as well as the 4 million Texans.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provides small businesses in my north Texas

district with the lowest tax rate since World War II, allowing them to invest in their community, hire more people, and, as the National Federation of Independent Business says: This tax bill will lead small businesses into a better position.

We highlighted small businesses last weekend, and the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act follows through with a Tax Code built for increased wages and long-term growth.

□ 1215

TAX BILL IS A LOSS FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the lost opportunity for real bipartisan tax reform. There were lots of Democrats, Mr. Speaker, who were ready to make a deal to make our Code simpler and more competitive. There were lots of Democrats who would have said, yeah, let's lower rates, but let's do it responsibly so that we don't balloon the deficit. And there were lots of Democrats who said let's eliminate that incentive for companies to operate abroad.

But instead, we are where we are today, where we have a bill here and in the Senate that will raise taxes on millions of middle class Americans, that will deliver a huge windfall to the wealthiest Americans, and that will send a tsunami of cash to American corporations.

For what purpose?

American corporations, today, are swimming in cash. They are profitable like never before. There is this fantasy that they will hire more people, but let's actually listen to the corporations. Cisco, Pfizer, and Coca-Cola have said they will take this money and they will return it to shareholders as, quite frankly, they probably should, since it is shareholder money. It is not going to go to new jobs. And remember—this is the kicker—35 percent of shareholders of American corporations are foreigners.

This is not a win. This is a loss for the American people.

RECOGNIZING LUBBOCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce and congratulate them and their 2,000-plus members as they gather for their annual awards ceremony this week.

For over 100 years, the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce has brought these hardworking men and women together to better our community. Their commitment to excellence has earned them national recognition as America's first and only chamber to be two-