

land and its history that has been kept alive by the families who have owned it and, now, by all those who visit it.

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 54 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

Pastor Jon Lands, Fellowship Baptist Church, Vienna, West Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, I thank You for Your hand of providence that has guided our Nation and protected us over these past 241 years. We are thankful for those who have gone before us and paid the price for our freedom from tyranny.

Recognizing Your blessing in our history, we now ask for Your continued favor and grace. We ask that You will protect those who even now place themselves in harm's way to preserve the liberty of our land.

I especially thank You for these dedicated men and women who gather today to do our Nation's business. We pray for all in authority that we may live in peace, and we ask You to lead this Congress to follow Your instruction given to the prophet Micah: To do justice, to love mercy, and walk humbly with You.

These things 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. PANETTA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PANETTA 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 JON LANDS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to introduce today's guest chaplain from Vienna, West Virginia, Pastor Jon Lands. Since taking over as senior pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in 1996, he has led the church through a period of tremendous growth. Attendance numbers have risen from 65 to approximately 740 with a membership of over 1,200. This is a testament to his dedication to faithfully serving our community.

He took his ministry to new heights when he started PraiseFM radio, FaithTalk 1450, and the Word for Life, a daily and weekly radio program now heard on 150 radio stations across the United States and two international stations.

His service to the community doesn't stop at the church's door. He is a member of the executive board of directors for the Wood County Christian School, a member of the board for the Family Policy Council, and serves on the board of the Women's Care Center of Mid-Ohio Valley, a crisis pregnancy center dedicated to offering alternatives to abortion and adoption services.

A husband and father of four, he is also a noted author, having written "Be Still: God's Strategy for Serenity," and "Life on the Level: The Balanced Christian Life."

I am honored to welcome Pastor Lands to the House of Representatives. He is a dedicated leader in the Parkersburg community, and his service to others is inspirational.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to welcome Pastor Lands. May God bless him, our Nation, and the church family at Fellowship Baptist Church.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

AMBASSADOR HALEY'S STERN WARNING TO NORTH KOREA

(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, on Tuesday, North Korea, ruled by a tyrannical dictator, tested an intercontinental ballistic missile that may have the capacity to reach the United States.

North Korea's latest nuclear missile test was its most provocative to date, putting American families at risk of nuclear attack, in addition to the families of South Korea and Japan, with also a threat to China and Russia of regional chaos.

During an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council, Ambassador Nikki Haley issued a stern warning to North Korea: "We have

never sought war with North Korea, and still today we do not seek it. If war comes, it will be because of the continued acts of aggression like we witnessed yesterday."

Ambassador Nikki Haley was absolutely right when she urged China and its President, Xi Jinping, to do more to stop North Korea from pushing the world closer to a nuclear war.

Ambassador Haley and President Donald Trump are promoting peace through strength to keep American families safe, and we should support the call for China to cut off oil to North Korea.

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

THE TAX SCAM

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, Franklin Roosevelt was a great President of the United States. He said once: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." That is still true today for people who follow morality and Judeo-Christian thought.

Yesterday in Missouri, the President said that the tax bill, which is in the Senate now—and unfortunately passed this House—would not benefit him at all. He said: Believe me, it won't benefit me.

You can't believe that. It benefits the billionaires, the millionaires, and the wealthy, and that is what it is about. The disparity in wealth in this country is growing and growing, and we can't continue to have that. The middle class needs major tax relief, and the wealthy don't. We could draw a bill to do that, and we could do it together.

Our country is in danger. We need more help in the inner cities to fight crime. We need help all over to fight against natural disasters. People all over our country need help.

As Paul Simon said: A nation turns its lonely eyes to you. JEFF FLAKE, BOB CORKER, and JOHN MCCAIN, save America.

RECOGNIZING BILL GIBBS FROM SPRINGPORT, MICHIGAN

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill Gibbs from Springport, Michigan, and congratulate him for being named Jackson County Veteran of the Year.

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of meeting Bill at VFW Post 6056 during their Veterans Day ceremony. It was a special evening with a room full of heroes, none more so than Bill.

When our country called during the Vietnam war, Bill answered with tremendous bravery. For his heroism in

harm's way, Bill was awarded the Purple Heart, four Bronze Stars with valor device, and a number of other service medals.

Over the years, Bill has done it all at Post 6056, including serving as post commander, trustee, post historian, and quartermaster for 33 years. When called upon, he performs as an honor guard member at military funerals in the community.

Mr. Speaker, for all this and much more, Bill is incredibly deserving of the Veteran of the Year award, and our Nation is eternally grateful for his service and sacrifice. Thank you, Bill Gibbs, and welcome home.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this House took a step to establish and maintain an environment where sexual harassment and discrimination is neither tolerated nor swept under the rug.

When I got here a year ago, I was surprised that there was no antisexual harassment training that was mandated. In every professional position that I have held, there always was this type of training. In the Navy, as a law student, and as a prosecutor, antisexual harassment training was a given.

So this month—before yesterday—I had an ethics attorney come into my office and conduct that type of training with my entire D.C. staff. I am proud to have done that. I am proud to be an original cosponsor, and I voted for the legislation yesterday which makes antisexual harassment training mandatory in all offices for all Members and their employees.

Although this bill should have been passed a long time ago, it is a small step in the right direction in the large fight against sexual harassment, and I look forward to being a part of that fight.

WORLD AIDS DAY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, December 1 is World AIDS Day, so we celebrate our many accomplishments in the fight against HIV/AIDS around the globe.

As Americans, we can look back and be proud that our Nation has been a transformative force in the global fight against AIDS and a ray of hope for millions of lives around the world.

Globally, our efforts through programs like PEPFAR are currently supporting treatments for more than 1 million people and have averted more than 16 million HIV infections around the world. However, there is still much

work to be done. Currently, more than 36 million people in the world are living with HIV, and nearly 1,000 girls are infected with HIV every day.

Mr. Speaker, December 1, World AIDS Day, reminds us to redouble our efforts on behalf of those suffering from this terrible disease. Now more than ever, it is essential that we remain committed to creating a future without HIV/AIDS.

REPUBLICAN TAX SCAM

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is fact: the Republican tax scam is an attack on America's senior citizens. According to the AARP, 5.2 million senior citizens, many on fixed incomes, will see a tax hike under the Republican bill. Meanwhile, over 60 percent of the tax benefits go to the top 1 percent.

Plus, the bill will trigger an automatic cut to Medicare—\$25 billion in 2018 alone. In 2019, Americans 50 to 64 years old buying health insurance through the individual market will see their premiums increase \$1,500 on average, according to the AARP. For the first time, the bill changes the way Social Security COLA is calculated, reducing Social Security benefits.

Seniors lose in the Republican tax bill, and so does pretty much everybody else. Who wins? Millionaires, billionaires, and the wealthiest corporations. We should say no to the Republican tax scam. Americans deserve a better deal.

TERROR ATTACK IN EGYPT

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, just last week, Egypt experienced the worst terror attack in its country's history. Islamic terrorists set off explosives that took over 300 innocent lives and injured over 100 more.

What made this tragedy even worse is that it happened at a place of worship in the northern Sinai region. In their effort to wreak havoc on the Middle East and other parts of the world, the Islamic State and other terror groups have targeted Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

President Trump was right to say, after the attack in Egypt, that we should strengthen our efforts to defeat terrorism and extremism in all of its forms. In the past year, we have made progress in deterring the Islamic State's so-called caliphate in Syria and in Iraq, and while their shadow in those two countries isn't nearly what it was a couple of years ago, this doesn't mean a radical Islamic insurgency won't remain in that area.

Mr. Speaker, if military progress isn't coupled with a thought-out strategy of reconstruction, a vacuum will be

left for these groups to return. As the beacon of freedom around the world, the United States must stay vigilant in our ongoing war on terror.

THE TAX BILL

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the President said yesterday that these massive tax cuts for corporate America will be rocket fuel for the economy—rocket fuel for corporate America and for the Trump empire for certain, and a rocket-fueled hit to the heart of middle America for sure.

If you are in college and you are trying to become better and self-sufficient to thrive in the global economy, you are getting a big tax hike. If you have a medical illness that you were born into and your costs exceed your insurance coverage, you will be getting a big tax hike. If you are 1 of 13 million Americans to lose your healthcare coverage and the millions more who will see their premiums explode because congressional Republicans needed another \$300 billion for their deficit-exploding corporate tax cuts, you will be taking a big hit on top of a big tax hike.

Mr. Speaker, this tax cut bill is a massive takeaway from middle America and a massive giveaway to corporate America. The deficit will rise by \$1.5 trillion, and both the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation confirmed that, in less than 10 years, Americans making between \$40,000 and \$50,000 will pay \$5.3 billion more in taxes.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2017 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Montana veterans who have served our country and continue their service in our communities.

I recently asked Montanans to nominate a veteran for the 2017 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation, a tribute to recognize those who have served honorably in uniform and in our communities. The response from Montanans was overwhelming. Fourteen veterans are receiving the 2017 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Richard Allgood of Big Sky;
Gene Bell of Belgrade;
William Charles of De Borgia;
Richard Gale of Bozeman;
Gary Germundson of Scobey;
Theron Gertz of Butte;
Michael Lawson of Butte;
Phillip Lyons of Butte;
Daniel Ritter of Bozeman;