

sensor activations, conducting surveillance on skyboxes or other observation posts, and operating vehicles. This will free up law enforcement resources to patrol the border and make arrests.

We must have a mix of both physical and virtual barriers on the Texas-Mexico border. For example, Laredo needs about 30 more camera towers to actually secure the border. Border Patrol needs to see the illegals and adjust manpower needed for the threat.

The United States needs to prevent people from crossing into the United States in the first place by having boats in the Rio Grande River. Remember, the center of the river is the international border, not the shoreline in the United States. Once a person crosses and they are on the shore, they are in the United States. They are not on the border. Boats from Customs and Border Patrol, the State of Texas, and the Coast Guard should patrol the border.

I have traveled the Rio Grande River with Texas law enforcement, and where there is a boat present, illegals do not cross. Our longtime policy was to let people cross into the United States, then apprehend as many as we could and send a few back to their native country. That philosophy needs to change by keeping illegals, drugs, and gangs from crossing in the first place. Patrol the river.

Also, we must use more aerostats. Those are small blimps that have cameras that look 20 miles in each direction. We must further use the new high-tech fiberoptic lines that run under the shoreline that detect any movement crossing that line, whether it is human, whether it is an animal, whether it is an airplane, whether it is a tunnel beneath or even a bullet.

Our Border Patrol agents are on the front lines and the number of agents is dwindling. There are more officers in the city of New York than there are in the entire Border Patrol. There is no doubt the National Guard deployment will be a welcome relief for our Border Patrol agents.

The greatest country on Earth, Mr. Speaker, must have the moral will to stop illegal entry into the United States. We must address America's border security because it is a national security issue. Secure America first.

And that is just the way it is.

QUESTIONS OF WAR SHOULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once again, I rise because I love my country. I love what it stands for. I love the concept of government of the people, by the people, for the people.

And, Mr. Speaker, because I believe in this and because I believe in the Constitution of the United States of America, I rise to announce that I do not approve of nor do I support of the

notion that we should have war by Twitter, that we should announce that we are going to war with a tweet. I disapprove. I do not support it.

Questions of war should be brought before the Congress of the United States of America for our input, our debate, and our vote. It is easy to say what you would do when you don't have to vote to do it. I believe Congress has a responsibility, a duty, and an obligation to stand up in times like these and make our positions known on questions of war and peace.

This is the Congress of the United States of America. This is our responsibility, and, Mr. Speaker, I am having my staff, as I speak now, tweet out my opposition to that tweet. I want to make sure the people that read Twitter are aware of my position.

I don't know what others will do, but I know this: I am making my demand that Congress have this opportunity to have input.

And, Mr. Speaker, because I love my country, because I love the Constitution, I believe that, if this President should fire Mr. Mueller, Mr. Speaker, he should be impeached. Whether he will be or not is a question to be decided in the House of Representatives, but I can guarantee you this: there will be articles of impeachment if he fires Mr. Mueller. Whether someone else will bring them or not, I do not know. But if no one else does, there will be articles of impeachment because I will bring them.

I love my country. I am not going to watch this President decimate the Constitution.

I love my country. We didn't act when he fired Comey. We should act if he fires Mueller, and I plan to take that action.

I say this in closing: We have seen, under this President, a deterioration of respect for the rule of law. This country is great because no one is above the law. Are we now going to allow the President to be beyond justice?

This is a moment in time, a crucial, critical moment in time for every person to determine whether they are going to be the true patriots that we claim to be. This is our moment. Let us stand up for the Constitution and the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONNECTICUT'S NAVY INSTALLATION

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today, April 11, 2018, is a special day in southeastern Connecticut. It marks the 150th anniversary of when the State of Connecticut and the city of New Lon-

don conveyed a deed of gift to the U.S. Navy that today still stands as the Naval Submarine Base New London, which has had a glorious, distinguished career in terms of our national defense.

Again, on that date in 1867, when the deed was signed and given to Gideon Welles, who was the Secretary of the Navy at the time, himself a native of the State of Connecticut, Glastonbury, Connecticut, it was the result, again, of an effort by one of my predecessors, Congressman Augustus Brandegee, who got an authorization and an appropriation through the Naval Appropriations bill in 1867 that set up this conveyance.

Congressman Brandegee was a distinguished Member of this body. He was a strong supporter of abolition. He voted in favor of the 13th Amendment, and he was somebody who was a frequent friend of President Lincoln at the time. They rode horseback together in the morning, and he was a very strong ally of the President.

After that deed of gift was signed, the Navy base was a coaling station that provided a way station for Navy ships in New England waters to again get refueled. It also was a place that Civil War Navy ships were stored in the wake of that conflict.

Again, fast-forward to 1915. That is when the Navy actually designated that base as a submarine base. It was a timely event because, very shortly thereafter, with the U.S. involvement in World War I where U-boat activity, obviously, was the driving force for why the U.S. got into that conflict, the submarine base in New London became a critical part of our effort in terms of that conflict.

Moving forward, even from 1915 when the first G-boat subs arrived at the Navy base in World War II, as Admiral Nimitz, who headed up our efforts particularly in the South Pacific, stated frequently in the wake of Pearl Harbor: It was, in fact, the submarine force that really held the line against the Japanese onslaught that took place in that area.

The Groton base was a site where a lot of the submarines that were part of that conflict actually took on that struggle; again, tragic and catastrophic losses. Nonetheless, I think most historians, particularly in the Pacific region, will affirm it was, in fact, the submarine force that was critical in terms of holding the line, particularly in 1942 and early 1943.

After World War II, the Groton base played another huge role in our national defense with the development of the nuclear Navy. Admiral Hyman Rickover developed the USS *Nautilus*, which was launched in the 1950s. That all took place in Groton and New London, Connecticut. Electric Boat was the shipyard where the *Nautilus* was built.

Today, our submarine force is completely nuclear powered. We have 15 attack submarines at the Groton-New London base which are doing important work both in the European theater, in terms of Putin's much more

aggressive naval resurgent activities, as well as other combatant commands around the world.

So the wisdom of my predecessor, and certainly the State of Connecticut, to site a Navy base—a submarine base—now, today, in a place that is very strategic in terms of critical regions of the world is still paying important dividends for our national defense.

As I am standing here today, there is a ceremony that is taking place to commemorate Congressman Brandegee's vision, Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles' participation, and all the great service that has taken place in the wake of that historic moment.

So to all of you up in the State and to all of the 10,000 sailors that serve at the Groton Navy Base today, I thank you for keeping this incredible legacy and important future mission alive because our national defense depends on 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 31 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

Chaplain Scott Foust, U.S. Air Force, Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Lord, when King David of old faced a seemingly insurmountable mountain of problems to solve, questions to answer, and obstacles to overcome, he uttered a brief yet powerful prayer: "Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to You I pray."

Similarly, after our very first President and Commander in Chief took his very first oath of office, he must have felt the weight of the daunting task before him, so he went off script and uttered a brief yet powerful prayer: "So help me God."

I can only begin to imagine the weight of care and the gravity of concern that this body carries, day after day, publicly and privately. With that in mind, before this session begins, we pause to acknowledge our utter dependence upon You, O God, and we humbly echo that powerful sentiment with this brief prayer: Help us, Lord.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. 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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. 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 gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HIGGINS of New York 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 CHAPLAIN SCOTT FOUST

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Chaplain Scott Foust for his opening prayer and message this morning.

Scott resides in Virginia's First District and serves as an Air Force chaplain at Arlington National Cemetery. He has answered the call to serve by helping Air Force families lay loved ones to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, both through coordinating funeral arrangements and providing grief counseling. He served as a pastor for 12 years before receiving a direct commission in 2007.

God calls on us to serve Him in many ways, and I commend Chaplain Foust on his service to our Nation, our airmen, and their families. I pray for Christ's guidance as the House convenes and we try to do His will in serving the American people.

May God always bless Chaplain Foust and his family as they continue to spread Christ's Word and remain a light within the community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

THANKING GEORGE ELLIS FOR DEDICATED SERVICE TO PENNSYLVANIA

(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, I rise today to thank Mr. George Ellis for his dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

At the end of March, George retired as the executive director of the Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association. He served in the role since 2015.

The organization has accomplished much during that time, and a lot of credit goes to George for his dedicated efforts and service.

George started his career in 1974 as a staff member, and shortly thereafter, became executive director of the House of Representatives' Mines and Energy Management Committee.

In 1982, George accepted the position of executive vice president of government affairs with the Keystone Bituminous Coal Association, which in 1988 became the PA Coal Mining Association.

In 1996, George was appointed president of the Pennsylvania Coal Association before joining ARIPPA in 2015.

Mr. Speaker, George Ellis has been a highly respected resource in the Pennsylvania coal industry, and his knowledge and dedication are unparalleled. He has had a long and outstanding career, and I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

STUDENTS ARE UNITED IN THEIR FIGHT TO GET WEAPONS OF WAR OFF OUR STREETS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, 8 weeks ago, a lone gunman entered the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and in just 6 minutes, killed 17 students and staff and injured 17 others: 1 shooter, 6 minutes, 17 dead, and 17 injured.

In the weeks since, I have stood alongside students at the March for Our Lives in Buffalo, New York, sat down and listened to students from schools across western New York, and participated in a town hall panel discussion by Students for Action.

These students are respectful of the Second Amendment and of those good, law-abiding citizens of gun ownership.

Congress can learn from the thoughtful, reasoned, respectful, and passionate approach demonstrated by each of the students I have encountered. They have come from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds and different communities, rural, suburban and urban, but they are unified in their fight to get weapons of war off our streets and to end mass school shootings.