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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Rabbi Shlomo Segal, Kehilat Moshe, Brooklyn, New York, offered the following prayer:

Master of the universe, we humbly ask You to bless the endeavors of this noble and dedicated body, the United States House of Representatives. Guide the Members of this House with Your wisdom so that they may approach the complex challenges of our day with forthrightness, integrity, and, above all, compassion.

Endow us with Your goodwill, O Lord, so that we may build bridges of hope which make us strong and tear down barriers of division which make us weak. Grant us a listening and full heart so that we may each understand one another and recognize the divine image inherent in every human being. We pray for this vision now.

In the words of the psalmist, "May the Lord give you grace and glory." In that spirit, may we each find the strength and courage to bring God's honor and glory to this great Nation.

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 Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ABRAHAM 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 RABBI SHLOMO SEGAL

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to welcome our guest chaplain, Rabbi Shlomo Segal of Kehilat Moshe synagogue from Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Rabbi Segal and his wife, Adina, founded the synagogue 5 years ago, and they have since created a vibrant community not only for the diverse group of Jews who attend their services, but for people of all faiths throughout Brooklyn.

Rabbi Segal is a leader in our community who works hard to build bridges of understanding and tolerance. He serves on the board of governors of the New York Board of Rabbis and is a rabbinical consultant to the Kings Bay Y, a Jewish community center in the Eighth Congressional District that I proudly represent.

Through his work, he celebrates the diversity of Brooklyn, bringing together different religious and ethnic groups to emphasize what we all have in common—as New Yorkers and as Americans and, most importantly, as human beings.

Rabbi Segal has brought together Jews, Christians, and Muslims to break fast for Ramadan and worked hard to bring together and strengthen ties between the Black and Jewish communities of central Brooklyn. Rabbi Segal's efforts are geared toward making religion the greatest possible force that it can be in our community and in our Nation.

He is here today with his wonderful wife, Adina, and two tremendous children, Shira and Rayna. It is my honor to welcome them to the people's House and to our Nation's Capital.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ABRAHAM). After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet in joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, April 17, 2018, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1037

JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY EMMANUEL MACRON, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

During the recess, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint meeting will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Emmanuel Macron into the Chamber:

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS);

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH);

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY);

The gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. SÁNCHEZ);

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS);

The gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF);

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS);

The gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY); and

The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Emmanuel Macron into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN);

The Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER);

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER);

The Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN);

The Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY);

The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR);

The Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN);

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ); and

The Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Serge Mombouli, Ambassador of the Republic of the Congo.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable Paul D. Irving, announced His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic.

The President of the French Republic, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

President MACRON. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, honorable Members of the United States Congress, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor for France, for the French people, and for me to be received in this sanctuary of democracy, where so much of the history of the United States has been written. We are surrounded today with images, portraits, and symbols, which reminds us that France has participated with heart in hand in the story of this great Nation from the very beginning.

We have fought shoulder to shoulder in many battles, starting with those that gave birth to the United States of America. Since then, we have shared a common vision for humanity.

Our two nations are rooted in the same soil, grounded in the same ideals of the American and French revolutions. We have worked together for the universal ideals of liberty, tolerance, and equal rights; and yet this is also about our human, gutsy, personal bonds throughout history.

In 1778, the French philosopher Voltaire and Benjamin Franklin met in Paris. John Adams tells the story that, after they had shaken hands, they embraced each other by hugging one another in their arms and kissing each other's cheeks. It can remind you of something.

And this morning, I stand under the protective gaze of Lafayette right behind me. As a brave young man, he fought alongside George Washington and forged a tight relationship, fueled by respect and affection.

Lafayette used to call himself "a son of the United States," and in 1792, George Washington became a son of America and France when our first Republic awarded citizenship to him.

Here we stand in your beautiful capital city, whose plans were conceived by a French architect, Charles L'Enfant.

The miracle of the relationship between the United States and France is that we have never lost this special bond deeply rooted not only in our history, but also in our flesh. This is why I invited President Donald Trump for the first Bastille Day parade of my Presidency on the 14th of July last year. Today, President Trump's decision to offer France his first state visit to Washington has a particular resonance because it represents the continuity of our shared history in a troubled world.

And let me thank your President and the First Lady for this wonderful invitation to my wife and me. I am so very grateful. And I would like, also, to thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for welcoming me on this occasion. And I would like to especially thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your invitation. I want you to know how much I appreciate this unique gesture. Thank you, sir.

The strength of our bonds is the source of our shared ideals. This is what united us in the struggle against imperialism during the First World War, then in the fight against Nazism during the Second World War. This is what united us again during the era of the Stalinist threats, and now we lean on that strength to fight against terrorist groups.

Let us, for a moment, transport ourselves to the past. Imagine this is July 4, 1916. Back then, the United States had not entered World War I; and yet a young American poet enlisted in the ranks of our Foreign Legion because he loved France and he loved the cause of freedom.

This young American would fight and die on Independence Day at Belloy-en-Santerre, not far from Amiens, my hometown, after having written these words: "I have a rendezvous with death." The name of this young American was Alan Seeger. A statue stands in his honor in Paris.

Since 1776, we, the American and French people, have had a rendezvous with freedom, and with it comes sacrifices. That is why we are very honored by the presence today of Robert Jackson Ewald, a World War II veteran. Robert Jackson Ewald took part in the D-day landing. He fought for our freedom 74 years ago.

Sir, on behalf of France, thank you. I bow to your courage and your devotion.

In recent years, our nations have suffered wrenching losses simply because

of our values and our taste for freedom, because these values are the very ones those terrorists precisely hate.

Tragically, on September 11, 2001, many Americans had an unexpected rendezvous with death.

Over the last 5 years, my country and Europe also experienced terrible terrorist attacks, and we shall never forget the innocent victims nor the incredible resilience of our people in the aftermath. It is a horrific price to pay for freedom, for democracy.

That is why we stand together in Syria and in Sahel today, to fight together against these terrorist groups who seek to destroy everything for which we stand. We have encountered countless rendezvous with death because we have this constant attachment to freedom and democracy.

As emblazoned on the flags of the French Revolutionaries, “live free or die,” “vivre libre ou mourir.”

Thankfully, freedom is also the source of all that is worth living for. Freedom is a call to think and to love. It is a call to our will. That is why in times of peace, France and the United States were able to forge unbreakable bonds from the grist of painful memories.

The most indestructible, the most powerful, the most definitive knot between us is the one that ties the true purpose of our peoples to advance, as Abraham Lincoln said, the “unfinished business” of democracy.

Indeed, our two societies have stood up to advance human rights for all. They have engaged in a continual dialogue to unpack this “unfinished business.”

In this Capitol rotunda, the bust of Martin Luther King, assassinated 50 years ago, reminds us of the inspiration of African-American leaders, artists, writers, who have become part of our common heritage. We celebrate, among them, James Baldwin and Richard Wright whom France hosted on our soil.

We have shared the history of civil rights. France’s Simone de Beauvoir became a respected figure in the movement for gender equality in America in the 1970s. Women’s rights have long been a fundamental driver for our societies on both sides of the Atlantic. This explains why the Me Too movement has recently had such a deep resonance in France.

Democracy is made of day-to-day conversation and mutual understanding between citizens. It is easier and deeper when we have the ability to speak each other’s language. The heart of Francophonie also beats here in the United States, from New Orleans to Seattle. I want this heart to beat even harder in American schools all across the country.

Democracy relies also on the faculty of freely describing the present and the capacity to invent the future. This is what culture brings.

Thousands of examples come to mind when we think of the exchanges be-

tween our cultures across the centuries: from Thomas Jefferson, who was Ambassador to France and built his house in Monticello based on the building he loved in Paris; to Hemingway’s novel, “Movable Feast,” celebrating the capital city of France; from our great 19th century French writer Chateaubriand bringing to the French people the dream of America’s open spaces, forests, and mountains; to Faulkner’s novels, crafted in the Deep South, but first read in France, where they quickly gained literary praise; from jazz coming from Louisiana and the blues from Mississippi, finding in France an enthusiastic public; to the American fascination for impressionists and the French modern and contemporary art.

These exchanges are vibrant, in so many fields, from cinema to fashion, from design to high cuisine, from sports to visual arts.

Medicine and scientific research as well as business and innovation are also a significant part of our shared journey. The United States is France’s first scientific partner. Our economic ties create hundreds of thousands of jobs on both sides of the Atlantic.

The story of France and the United States is a story of an endless dialogue made of common dreams, of a common struggle for dignity and progress. It is the best achievement of our democratic principles and values. This very special relationship, this is us.

But we must remember the warning of President Theodore Roosevelt: “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, handed on for them to do the same.”

This is an urgent reminder indeed, because now, going beyond our bilateral ties, beyond our very special relationship, Europe and the United States must face together the global challenges of this century.

We cannot take for granted our transatlantic history and bonds. At the core, our Western values themselves are at risk.

We have to succeed facing these challenges, and we cannot succeed in forgetting our principles and our history.

In fact, the 21st century has brought a series of new threats and new challenges that our ancestors might not ever have imagined. Our strongest beliefs are challenged by the rise of a yet unknown new world order. Our societies are concerned about the future of their children.

All of us gathered here in this noble Chamber, we elected officials, all share the responsibility to demonstrate that democracy remains the best answer to the questions and doubts that arise today.

Even if the foundations of our progress are disrupted, we must stand firmly and fight to make our principles prevail, but we bear another responsibility inherited from our collective history.

Today, the international community needs to step up our game and build the 21st century world order based on the perennial principles we established together after World War II. The rule of law, the fundamental values on which we secured peace for 70 years, are now questioned by urgent issues that require our joint action.

Together with our international allies and partners we are facing inequalities created by globalization, threats to the planet, our common good, attacks on democracy through the rise of illiberalism, and the destabilization of our international communities by new powers and criminal states. All these risks aggrieve our citizens.

Both in the United States and in Europe, we are living in a time of anger and fear because of these current global threats, but these feelings do not build anything. You can play with fears and anger for a time, but they do not construct anything. Anger only freezes and weakens us. And as Franklin Delano Roosevelt said during his first inaugural speech: “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

Therefore, let me say we have two possible ways ahead. We can choose isolationism, withdrawal, and nationalism; this is an option. It can be tempting to us as a temporary remedy to our fears. But closing the door to the world will not stop the evolution of the world. It will not douse but inflame the fears of our citizens.

We have to keep our eyes wide open to the new risks right in front of us. I am convinced that, if we decide to open our eyes wider, we will be stronger. We will overcome the dangers. We will not let the rampaging work of extreme nationalism shake a world full of hopes for greater prosperity.

It is a critical moment. If we do not act with urgency as a global community, I am convinced that the international institutions, including the United Nations and NATO, will no longer be able to exercise a mandate and stabilizing influence. We would then inevitably and severely undermine the liberal order we built after World War II.

Other powers, with a stronger strategy and ambition, will then fill the void we would leave empty. Other powers will not hesitate one second to advocate their own model to shape the 21st century world order.

Personally, if you ask me, I do not share the fascination for new, strong powers, the abandonment of freedom, and the illusion of nationalism.

Therefore, distinguished Members of the Congress, let us push them aside, write our own history, and birth the future we want. We have to shape our common answers to the global threats that we are facing.

The only option then is to strengthen our cooperation. We can build the 21st century world order based on a new breed of multilateralism, based on a more effective, accountable, and results-oriented multilateralism, a

strong multilateralism. This requires, more than ever, the United States' involvement, as your role was decisive for creating and safeguarding today's free world.

The United States is the one who invented this multilateralism. You are the one now who has to help preserve and reinvent it. This strong multilateralism will not outshine our national cultures and national identities. It is exactly the other way around. A strong multilateralism will allow our cultures and identities to be respected, to be protected, and to flourish freely together. Why? Because precisely our own culture is based, on both sides of the Atlantic, on this unique taste for freedom, on this unique attachment for liberty and peace. This strong multilateralism is a unique option compatible with our nations, our cultures, our identities.

With the U.S. President, with the support of every 535 Member of this Joint Session, representing the whole American Nation, we can actively contribute together to building the 21st century world order for our people.

The United States and Europe have a historical role in this respect because it is the only way to defend what we believe in; to promote our universal values; to express strongly that human rights, the rights of minorities, and shared liberty are the true answer to the disorders of the world.

I believe in these rights and values. I believe that, against ignorance, we have education. Against inequalities, development. Against cynicism, trust and good faith. Against fanaticism, culture. Against disease and epidemics, medicine. Against the threats on the planet, science.

I believe in concrete action. I believe the solutions are in our hands. I believe in the liberation of the individual and in the freedom and responsibility of everyone to build their own lives and pursue happiness. I believe in the power of intelligently regulated market economies.

We are experiencing the positive impact of our current economic globalization with innovation, with job creation. We see, however, the abuses of globalized capitalism and digital disruptions which jeopardize the stability of our economies and democracies. I believe facing these challenges requires the opposite of massive deregulation and extreme nationalism.

Commercial war is not the proper answer to this evolution. We need a free and fair trade for sure. A commercial war opposing allies is not consistent with our mission, with our history, with our current commitments for global security. At the end of the day, it will destroy jobs, increase prices, and the middle class will have to pay for it.

I believe we can build the right answers to legitimate concerns regarding trade imbalances, excesses, and overcapacities by negotiating through the World Trade Organization and building cooperative solutions.

We wrote these rules; we should follow them.

I believe we can address our citizens' concerns regarding privacy and personal data.

The recent Facebook hearings highlighted the necessity to preserve our citizens' digital rights all over the world and protect the confidence in today's digital tools of life.

The European Union passed a new regulation for data protection. I believe the United States and the European Union should cooperate to find the right balance between innovation and ethics and harness the best of today's revolutions in digital data and artificial intelligence.

I believe facing inequalities should push us to improve policy coordination within the G20 to reduce financial speculation and create mechanisms to protect the middle class' interest because our middle classes are the backbone of our democracies.

I believe in building a better future for our children, which requires offering them a planet that is still habitable in 25 years.

Some people think that securing current industries and their jobs is more urgent than transforming our economies to meet the global challenge of climate change. I hear these concerns, but we must find a smooth transition to a low-carbon economy.

Because what is the meaning of our life, really, if we work and live destroying the planet while sacrificing the future of our children?

What is the meaning of our life if our decision, our conscious decision, is to reduce the opportunities for our children and our grandchildren?

By polluting the oceans, not mitigating CO₂ emissions, and destroying our biodiversity, we are killing our planet.

Let us face it: There is no planet B.

On this issue, it may happen we have disagreements between the United States and France. It may happen, like in all families. But that is, for me, a short-term disagreement.

In the long run, we will have to face the same realities, and we are just citizens of the same planet. So we will have to face it.

So beyond some short-term disagreements, we have to work together with business leaders and local communities. Let us work together in order to make our planet great again and create new jobs and new opportunities while safeguarding our Earth.

And I am sure one day the United States will come back and join the Paris Agreement. And I am sure we can work together to fulfill with you the ambitions of the global compact on the environment.

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe in democracy. Many of our forebearers were slain for the cause of freedom and human rights. With the great inheritance they gave us comes the responsibility to continue their mission in this new century and to preserve the peren-

nial values handed to us and assure that today's unprecedented innovations in science and technology remain in the service of liberty and in the preservation of our planet for the next generations.

To protect our democracies, we have to fight against the ever-growing virus of fake news, which exposes our people to irrational fear and imaginary risks.

And let me attribute the fair copy-right for this expression "fake news," especially here.

Without reason, without truth, there is no real democracy because democracy is about true choices and rational decisions.

The corruption of information is an attempt to corrode the very spirit of our democracies.

We also have to fight against the terrorist propaganda that spreads out its fanaticism on the internet.

It has a gripping influence on some of our citizens and children. I want this fight to be part of our bilateral commitment, and we discussed with your President the importance of such an agenda.

I want this fight to be part of the G7 agenda because, here again, it deeply harms our rights and shared values.

The terrorist threat is even more dangerous when it is combined with the nuclear proliferation threat. We must, therefore, be stricter than ever with countries seeking to acquire the nuclear bomb.

That is why France supports fully the United States in its efforts to bring P'yongyang through sanctions and negotiations towards denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

As for Iran, our objective is clear. Iran shall never possess any nuclear weapons. Not now, not in 5 years, not in 10 years. Never.

But this policy should never lead us to war in the Middle East. We must ensure stability and respect sovereignty of the nations, including that one of Iran, which represents a great civilization.

Let us not replicate past mistakes in the region. Let us not be naive on one side. Let us not create new walls ourselves on the other side.

There is an existing framework called the JCPOA to control the nuclear activity of Iran. We signed it at the initiative of the United States. We signed it, both the United States and France. That is why we cannot say we should get rid of it like that.

But it is true to say that this agreement may not address all concerns, and very important concerns. This is true. But we should not abandon it without having something substantial, and more substantial, instead. That is my position.

That is why France will not leave the JCPOA, because we signed it. Your President and your country will have to take, in the current days and weeks, its own responsibilities regarding this issue. That is what I want to do. And once we decide it together, with your

President, we can work on a more comprehensive deal addressing all of his concerns.

That is why we have to work on this more comprehensive deal based, as was discussed with President Trump yesterday, on four pillars: the substance of the existing agreement, especially if you decide to leave it; the post-2025 period, in order to be sure that we will never have any nuclear activity for Iran; the containment of the military influence of the Iranian regime in the region; and the monitoring of ballistic activity.

I think these four pillars, the ones I addressed in front of the General Assembly of the United Nations last September, are the ones which cover the legitimate fears of the United States and our allies in the region.

I think we have to start working now on these four pillars to build this new, comprehensive deal and to be sure that, whatever the decision of the United States will be, we will not leave the floor to the absence of rules. We will not leave the floor to these conflicts of power in the Middle East. We will not fuel ourselves in increasing tensions and potential war.

That is my position, and I think we can work together to build this comprehensive deal for the whole region for our people, because I think it fairly addresses our concerns. That is my position.

And this containment I mentioned in one of the pillars is necessary in Yemen, in Lebanon, in Iraq, and also in Syria. Building a sustainable peace in a united and inclusive Syria requires, indeed, that all powers in the region respect the sovereignty of its people and the diversity of its communities.

In Syria, we work very closely together. After prohibited weapons were used against the population by the regime of Bashar al-Assad 2 weeks ago, the United States and France, together with the United Kingdom, acted to destroy chemical facilities and to restore the credibility of the international community. This action was one of the best evidences of this strong multilateralism.

And I want to pay a special tribute to our soldiers, because they did a very great job in this region and on this occasion.

Beyond this action, we will, together, work for humanitarian solutions in the short-term on the ground, and contribute actively to a lasting political solution to put an end to this tragic conflict.

I think one of the very important decisions we took together with President Trump was precisely to include Syria in this large framework for the overall region and to decide to work together on a political deal for Syria and for the Syrian people, even after our war against ISIS.

In the Sahel, where terrorist networks span a footprint as large as Europe, French and American soldiers are confronting the same enemy and risking their lives together.

Here, I would like to pay special tribute to the American soldiers who fell this past fall in the region and to their French comrades who lost their lives earlier this year in Mali. Better than anyone, I think our troops know what the alliance and friendship between our countries mean.

I believe facing all these challenges, all these fears, all this anger, our duty, our destiny is to work together and to build this new strong multilateralism.

Distinguished Members of Congress, ladies and gentlemen, on April 25, 1960, General de Gaulle affirmed in this Chamber that nothing was as important to France as “the reason, the resolution, the friendship of the great people of the United States.” Fifty-eight years later, to this very day, I come here to convey the warmest feelings of the French nation and to tell you that our people cherish the friendship of the American people with as much intensity as ever.

The United States and the American people are an essential part of our confidence in the future, in democracy, in what women and men can accomplish in this world when we are driven by high ideals and an unbreakable trust in humanity and progress.

Today, the call we hear is the call of history. This is a time of determination and courage. What we cherish is at stake. What we love is in danger. We have no choice but to prevail; and together, we shall prevail.

“Long live the friendship between France and the United States of America,” “vive les Etats-Unis d’Amerique.”

“Long live the Republic,” “vive la République.” “Long live France,” “vive la France.” “Long live our friendship,” “vive notre amitié.”

“Thank you,” “merci.”

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 11 o’clock and 52 minutes a.m., His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The members of the President’s Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 53 minutes a.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1230

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO) at 12 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 844

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Mitchell.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4, FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3144, PROVIDING FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE FEDERAL COLUMBIA RIVER POWER SYSTEM; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 30, 2018, THROUGH MAY 4, 2018

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 839 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 839

Resolved, That (a) at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as