

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

During this week, the National Defense Authorization Act is being debated on the floor of the House. May all Members be imbued with Your wisdom, that the results of their deliberations might redound to the benefit of our Nation.

Bless all those whose lives are dedicated to the defense and service of the United States, most especially those who serve in uniform in the Armed Forces. May they be safe in the execution of their duties, and their families blessed with Your comforting presence in their lives.

Thank You, O God, for the privilege of being able to serve, and may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

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 Utah (Mr. STEWART) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STEWART 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

STANDING IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA

(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, Saturday marked one month since the massive protests in Nicaragua began against Ortega's dictatorial regime: 76 people have been killed, 868 have been injured, and 438 have been detained.

Torture and degrading treatment have been reported, as well as media censorship and other forms of persecution, to prevent citizens from participating and exercising their God-given human rights.

The message is clear: The Nicaraguan people want Ortega out of power. They are calling for free, fair, and transparent elections, with credible international observers, and they want them now.

The U.S. can, and should, use all of our tools to aid the people of Nicaragua in their fight to end the repression and reinstitute democratic order.

I urge the administration to sanction those responsible for these abuses, and I will be submitting names of individuals who should be subject to immediate sanctions.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass my NICA Act now to help the people of Nicaragua.

RECOGNIZING EMS WEEK

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor all the dedicated EMS workers, especially in Houston County and Harris County, Texas, who served our community with distinction during Hurricane Harvey last August. This week is EMS Recognition Week across our country.

Nobody becomes an emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician, or paramedic to get rich. It is hard work, physically strenuous and stressful, and can involve life-or-death situations in certain circumstances.

This was the case during Hurricane Harvey, a historic storm that dropped over 50 inches of rain over Houston and southeast Texas.

While we honor the hard work and dedication of our EMS workers during EMS Week, we must make sure our emergency medical service workers are paid a fair, middle class wage and benefits, and are protected from worker fatigue so that they can deliver high-quality emergency care when it is most needed.

I also wish to recognize the hundreds of EMS workers who traveled from all over the country to help the people of Houston and southeast Texas during our time of need.

MODERNIZATION OF F-22 FIGHTER WING

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, which will accelerate the modernization of the F-22 fighter wing at Tyndall Air Force Base. This is one of only three F-22 training wings in the Air Force.

We have the most highly trained and dedicated military in the world. But if we are not giving them the resources to maintain their planes and training them in the most realistic environments possible, we are doing them a disservice. Over the last year, we have begun to correct that problem and rebuild our military and invest in our servicemembers.

Modernizing the training wing of F-22s at Tyndall Air Force Base is another step in that process and is essential to the safety and security of the airmen we ask to achieve air superiority over battlefields all around the globe.

We are giving certainty to our warfighters with this NDAA, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

INVEST IN NATION BUILDING IN AMERICA

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, there are 54,000 structurally deficient bridges in America. Every second of every day, seven cars drive on a bridge that is structurally deficient.

Earlier this month, New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli issued a report finding that our broken sewer systems are dumping billions of gallons of sewage into our lakes and rivers.

The American Society of Civil Engineers gives the Nation a D rating when it comes to infrastructure and estimates that it will cost \$2 trillion just to bring our infrastructure to a state of good repair.

Mr. Speaker, a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure plan over 5 years would create 34.5 million jobs, and infrastructure pays for itself with \$1.60 of new economic growth for every dollar invested: this, according to the Congressional Budget Office. That is 6.9 million jobs each of the next 5 years and 575,000 jobs each month for the next 60 months.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we get out of Iraq and Afghanistan and invest in nation building in America, with American workers and for the American people.

THE NDAA: REBUILD AND REFORM

(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, the National Defense Authorization Act passed the House Armed Services Committee with an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 60 yes to 1 no. I am grateful for the leadership of Chairman MAC THORNBERRY, with Speaker PAUL RYAN, promoted by Defense Secretary James Mattis.

The NDAA being considered today provides a critical increase in topline funding to support troops and readiness

recovery, consistent with President Donald Trump's commitment to rebuild the military as he keeps his promises.

This legislation makes major reforms to the Pentagon bureaucracy, while adding more military personnel to all services. The NDAA also includes the largest pay increase for the military in 9 years.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I am grateful that this legislation promotes rebuilding the military and supports readiness recovery by rehabilitating and replacing worn-out equipment, overcoming the crisis in military aviation, restoring America's strength at sea, and rebuilding crumbling military buildings and other infrastructure.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill that supports the men and women in uniform, along with military families, to promote peace through strength.

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

ENDANGERED SALMON PREDATION PREVENTION

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, the Pacific Northwest is facing an unprecedented and growing problem of sea lions who are decimating our endangered salmon and steelhead runs in the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.

Right now, in front of my district office in Oregon City, there are 24 sea lions sitting at the base of Willamette Falls gorging themselves on the spring salmon run. This is 127 miles from the Pacific Ocean, their natural habitat.

This salmon buffet of endangered fish costs Northwest ratepayers nearly \$1 billion a year: a third of our electric bill.

We need to pass H.R. 2083, the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act, now. I introduced this bill, along with my Northwest colleague, JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER.

It will provide Oregon and Washington wildlife managers with the tools they need, that they requested, to quickly act to remove problem sea lions to protect these endangered fish.

If we don't act now, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife says that there is a 90 percent chance the Willamette winter steelhead run will go extinct in the next few years.

Mr. Speaker, it would be unconscionable to let this happen. We know the problem, and it is identified. Let's take action.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL JAMES BROWN

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel James Brown, a friend of mine, who has faithfully served the Tooele Army Depot and the United States Army. It is my honor to recognize the years of service Colonel Brown has given to our Nation prior to the upcoming change of command. Colonel Brown has been instrumental in expanding Tooele Army Depot's mission of readiness, as well as ensuring a safe and secure worksite for its employees.

I offer my sincere thanks to all those who served at the Tooele Army Depot, as well as those who have had the privilege to serve with Colonel Brown. I understand the sacrifices of our military men and women on behalf of our Nation. I am humbled by the work these men and women do every day to protect our freedom and our Nation's freedom as well. And we have to remember their families because their families—their spouses and children—also sacrifice.

Defending honor, duty, and country is the greatest service one can achieve in the United States military. Colonel Brown's courage and dedication is enduring, and his work will continue to support generations to come.

HONORING LISA LA RUSSO

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our Nation's emergency medical service workers.

When crisis strikes, we turn to EMS workers. They are first on the scene to provide vital medical care when we need it most. Their lifesaving work requires skill, is often dangerous, and takes a great deal of courage.

We rely on people like Lisa La Russo, a paramedic with American Medical Response in Riverside County and proud member of AFSCME Local 4911. Lisa has been saving lives for nearly three decades and, like many in her field, goes above and beyond in service to her community. Her work responding to emergencies compelled her to start Splash Medics, a nonprofit dedicated to the prevention of drowning injuries and deaths through education about water safety.

I salute Lisa La Russo, her fellow union members, and all of the EMS workers across the Nation. They are the reason Americans rest assured that help is just a phone call away.

ALL AMERICAN WEEK

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

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of All American Week, the annual celebration of the 82nd Air-

borne Division's mission and the paratroopers who serve to uphold it.

Based in my district at Fort Bragg—the epicenter of the universe—the 82nd Airborne Division is our Nation's Global Response Force. These rapid reaction forces can mobilize, load, and deploy at a moment's notice. It is truly incredible.

There is ready, and then there is Airborne ready. As the old saying goes: When the President dials 911, the phone rings at Fort Bragg.

Since its inception, the 82nd Airborne has, time and again, answered the call of duty when our Nation needs it most.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fort Bragg, I am so proud of the 82nd Airborne's legacy, of our paratroopers, and especially their families.

As the Airborne spirit takes flight this week, I ask my fellow Americans to join me in praying for our service members who are currently deployed and for their families. These heroes put country before self, and we are so grateful. God bless you. Airborne, all the way.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(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, May is National Foster Care Month, a time to renew our commitment to the thousands of children in our Nation's foster care system. That is why I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Youth Foster Caucus, which is dedicated to strengthening our Nation's child welfare system.

Today, we are celebrating the Congressional Foster Youth Shadow Day, a special day when more than 100 foster youth from across the country come to D.C. to spend a day with Members of Congress as we conduct our Nation's business.

I have the privilege today of hosting Esmeralda Masco, who is from my district in Stockton, California. Esmeralda is currently a student at Grand Canyon University, where she is studying public policy and aspires one day to become a civil rights lawyer. She is passionate about helping current and former foster youth and wants, one day, to open a resource center to help others in the foster care system to graduate and achieve their full potential.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Esmeralda and all of the participants in the Congressional Youth Shadow Day to our Nation's Capital.

□ 1215

ONLINE PLATFORMS THREATEN FREE SPEECH

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