

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILMER 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

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

NATO COMMITMENT

(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 Friday, The Washington Times correctly reported on the front page about the NATO conference that "President Trump's bare-knuckles diplomacy paid off."

"Mr. Trump declared that the U.S. remained committed to the military alliance."

The Brussels Declaration of July 11 itself confirmed: "We will share fairly the responsibilities of defending each other. Real progress has been made across NATO. . . . But even if we have turned a corner, we need to do more, and there will be further progress."

Today, I am grateful to welcome a delegation from Bulgaria as a valued NATO ally. Chairperson of the Foreign Policy Committee, Dzhema Grozdanova of the National Assembly, who also is chair of the Friendship group Bulgaria-USA, is leading a delegation of assembly members to Washington, coordinated by Ambassador Tihomir Stoytchev. It is inspiring to see young Bulgarians and Americans training together at the base at Novo Selo to establish peace through strength.

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

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, in 1961, in the face of a challenge from the Soviets, President Kennedy visited the University of Washington and said we are neither "warmongers nor appeasers. Neither hard nor soft. We are Americans, determined to defend the frontiers of freedom."

He pointed out the university's motto is: "Let there be light," and asked: "What more can be said today, regarding all the dark and tangled problems we face, than: Let there be light."

It is the unanimous view of the United States intelligence community that Russia used social media to influence our elections in 2016. After yesterday, Americans from all viewpoints called on Congress to stand up for our interests to protect our elections from Russian influence.

I offered the Honest Ads Act as an amendment to the bill we are voting on today. This bipartisan bill simply establishes the same disclosure requirements for online ads that currently apply to political ads on television and radio.

So today, Congress had the chance to stand up to Russia and pass the Honest Ads Act, but like the President a day ago, this body failed to act.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has a duty to defend the frontiers of freedom. So, let there be light. Let's pass the Honest Ads Act and shine a light on the darkest corners of our election systems so that Russia can never again use our news feeds to influence our elections.

INVESTING IN AMERICAN WORKERS

(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 recently introduced the Skills Investment Act of 2018 with Congressman DEREK KILMER to allow American workers to invest in their own futures.

This bill would create lifelong learning accounts workers could use to pay for skills-based education, career-related learning, and professional development. In an ever-changing economy, I know that such accounts would be put to good use.

As co-chair of the bipartisan House Career and Technical Education Caucus, I fully support expanding access to skills-based educational opportunities and professional development.

The tax treatment of these savings accounts would be similar to a health savings account. Mid-career workers could contribute up to \$4,000 tax free each year, with a maximum contribution limit of \$10,000. Employers would receive a 25 percent tax credit for contributions to a worker's account. Workers of all ages can use the account at any time to learn skills to make them more competitive as the economy changes.

This bill is a commonsense approach to investing in the American worker. I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor it today.

SURRENDERING OUR VALUES

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, like many Americans, yesterday I watched and was dumbfounded by the words and the actions of the President of the United

States as he betrayed our principles and our national interests on the world stage.

Never before have we seen a President of the United States so quickly surrender our longstanding values and our national security interests to an adversary like Vladimir Putin. The President's pathetic performance was an embarrassment for the United States.

Just last week, of course, his own Justice Department indicted 12 Russian intelligence agents for the very act that he denied ever took place. When he had a chance to take sides between American interests and the American intelligence community, he wrapped his arms around Vladimir Putin, a KGB spy with a history of jamming his opponents and killing journalists. This is outrageous.

NORTH KOREA BRUTALIZES ITS PEOPLE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, North Korea's nuclear program is perhaps the greatest threat to U.S. national security, but we must never forget the horrendous plight of the North Korean people.

Little Kim and his dynasty are guilty of some of the worst human rights abuses in human history. Freedom of religion and freedom of speech do not exist in North Korea. Christians are routinely arrested, tortured, imprisoned, and executed, their families sent to prison camps for "guilt by association."

Reports estimate that almost 130,000 political prisoners are suffering brutal conditions in highly secret work camps around North Korea. Systematic murder, torture, rape, forced abortions, starvation, and overwork are leading to countless deaths every day, and the Kim regime is giving no signs of relenting.

Despite any nuclear agreement, we must make it clear that the United States will never waiver in its support for basic human dignity of the North Korean people.

And that is just the way it is.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, President Trump's trade war is spiraling out of control and American workers and businesses are paying the price.

Back home in Illinois, already more than \$3.8 billion in exports have been targeted for retaliation. I have heard from numerous working companies hurting from this misguided approach. They are struggling with new, high costs and are now less able or less likely to hire or expand.