

sincere hope that my own career in public service can live up to his extraordinary example.

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 11 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 John L. Vernon, Jr., High Point Police Department, High Point, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we stand in Your presence today, thankful for this great Nation we call home.

I pray for each of these men and women who have been chosen to serve their fellow citizens in this vital task of governing. I pray also for those who serve alongside them as members of their staff, and all their families.

I pray that today You will give these Members godly wisdom. Give them courage to do what is right in the best interest of our Nation and its people. Give them the humility that truly exemplifies servant leadership. May they each desire to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You.

I pray also for those who protect us: members of our military in various parts of the world and first responders all across our Nation. Protect them as they protect us.

All these things I 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 Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BIGGS 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 JOHN L. VERNON, JR.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the House's guest chaplain for the day, John Vernon, who comes to us from High Point, North Carolina.

John is an ordained minister in the Wesleyan Church and currently serves as chairman of the board of directors of the Wesleyan Christian Academy.

Beyond the Wesleyan Church, John also serves as lead chaplain for the High Point Police Department, where he has served faithfully for 18 years. Within the last year, John has taken on the role of lead chaplain for the High Point Fire Department.

John and his wife, Kim, will celebrate 37 years of marriage together this year. They have two sons, Travis and Kyle, and two wonderful daughters-in-law, Stephanie and Hillary. We are glad to have Kim, Kyle, and Hillary joining us in the gallery.

Among John and Kim's greatest joys in their lives is spending time with their three granddaughters, Sadie, Millie, and Nora.

I want to thank Chaplain Vernon for his service and for opening the House in prayer this morning. We are honored and privileged that he and his family call High Point home.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

TAX CUTS PRODUCE BOOM IN JOBS

(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 latest results are in from the Republican tax cuts, with Trump deregulation, producing jobs: \$2,059 average tax cut for a typical family of four; \$2,000 new per child tax credit, double the old amount.

Sixteen regulations rolled back through the Congressional Review Act process, the most in history. Ninety percent of Americans are receiving bigger paychecks under the new withholding tables.

A 3.4 percent increase in real disposable income in the first quarter of 2018; a record high level of U.S. exports of goods and services, over \$200 billion; 3.7 million jobs created since November 2016; 1.3 million jobs created since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act became law; 6.6 million job openings as of May 2018, meaning more jobs than job seekers. Sixty-five percent of Americans now say it is a good time to find a quality job.

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

MANDELA DAY

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late, great President Nelson Mandela, whose 100th birthday we celebrate today.

Like many of my colleagues, I was first inspired by Mr. Mandela in the early 1970s. I was arrested in Berkeley, California, protesting apartheid, when our brave brothers and sisters in the labor movement refused to unload ships from South Africa that arrived at Oakland's port.

I remember very vividly when the African National Congress was designated a terrorist organization by the United States Government. It was illegal to meet with the freedom fighters in the United States, but many of us did anyway in safe places around the world.

I was so happy when we finally passed legislation, which I led, to lift President Mandela and the ANC off the terrorist watch list on his 90 birthday 10 years ago.

As an election observer, I will never forget the lines of people waiting to vote for Nelson Mandela as the first Black President of South Africa.

Madiba's impact was not limited to South Africa. He sparked social justice movements that reached around the world and reminded us of the power of the vote. As President Obama noted yesterday, he said Madiba "came to embody the universal aspirations of dispossessed people all around the world, their hopes for a better life."

President Mandela taught us many lessons, lessons in reconciliation, perseverance, and public service. Above all, he taught us that the fight for justice was never finished. His legacy will live forever.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE 2018 FARM BILL

(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, soon, the House will vote to go to conference with the Senate on the 2018 farm bill. As vice chair of the House Agriculture Committee, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of moving this important process forward.

As chairman of the Nutrition Subcommittee, I am proud of the provisions we have included to give many Americans the skills needed to obtain a family-sustaining job and ultimate food security.

Food insecurity exists for so many in America today, and the workforce and job training provisions in the bill represent a significant opportunity to help millions of Americans find employment.

The Agriculture Committee has done its work. In fact, the Nutrition Subcommittee hosted 21 hearings on SNAP

and heard from more than 80 witnesses on how we can improve the program and work toward the ultimate goal of ending hunger in America.

Mr. Speaker, the House farm bill makes a historic investment in work programs so SNAP recipients have a chance to learn new skills and climb the rungs on the ladder of opportunity and escape poverty once and for all.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING WOODY RUCKER-HUGHES

(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, a passionate educator, a change-maker, and a powerhouse of a woman, that is how the community of Riverside would describe my dear friend, Waudieuer "Woody" Rucker-Hughes.

As a history teacher at John W. North High School and an administrator for the Riverside Unified School District, Woody worked to demolish educational barriers and address the needs of all students.

As an activist and leader for the Riverside branch of the NAACP, Woody challenged injustice and moved our communities forward every single day. As a mother and a friend, she touched my life and the lives of many others with her kindness and her steadfast support and encouragement.

Today, we remember Woody, her legacy, and everything she stood for. I am going to leave you with Woody's motto: Good, better, best. Never let them rest until the good becomes better and the better becomes best.

In honor of Woody, let's keep working to make this country, and the world, an even better place than she left it.

CONGRATULATING CHRISTOPHER EVANS

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise today to honor Christopher Evans, a teacher at Basha High School in my district.

Mr. Evans was one of 52 Americans who received the James Madison Fellowship, which is awarded to one distinguished educator from each State. This award recognizes exceptional teachers of American history and social studies seeking "to strengthen their knowledge of the origins and development of American constitutional government, and to expose our future leaders to the knowledge of the Nation's constitutional heritage."

I congratulate Mr. Evans on this achievement, and I know he has a bright future in my home State of Arizona.

DEFENDING U.S. INTERESTS

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Russia is not our friend; Russia is our adversary.

We witnessed our President side with an autocrat and adversary of our country over his own intelligence community and blame the USA for our relationship with Russia.

From separating families at the southern border to embracing Putin over the protection of U.S. interests, Mr. Trump has thrown out that values that our country is founded on.

Putin may be Mr. Trump's friend, but he is not America's. Our President forgets that the U.S. interests go beyond his own personal interests and relationships. If Putin wants to return to the days with no pushback from the U.S., that is one thing. If our President wants to return to those days, rather than defend America and our allies, that is another.

It shouldn't matter whether you are a Republican or a Democrat. If the President of the United States won't defend our interests before those of our adversaries, Congress must.

LOWYAL'S TRAFFICKING STORY

(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, Lowyal was just like any other teenager across America. When she was 13 years of age and in school, daily bullying started. Then her relationship with her mother became worse. So she dropped out of school, took drugs, and eventually joined a gang.

Eventually, her newfound "friends" introduced her to a "game" where she walked up and down the streets, under the constant watch of her owners. She was the victim of human trafficking, modern-day slavery. These older men manipulated her youth and stole her innocence on the marketplace of sex slavery.

My legislation, the Abolish Human Trafficking Act, will increase prosecutions for perpetrators like the slave traders who trafficked Lowyal and hold them accountable for their crimes of sex slavery.

America must support victims of human traffickers and put their predators where they belong: in the jailhouse. We as a community must rescue victims from this scourge of slavery that is taking place in our country.

And that is just the way it is.

KEEPING THE PRESIDENT IN CHECK

(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, this week, we witnessed the weakening of the Presidency due to the actions of this President.

Now, I realize that President Trump is not constrained by customs, norms, or decorum, but his actions this week contravened his oath to preserve, protect, and defend the United States Constitution.

Yes, this President likes to act tough with tweets and trash talk, but he has proven that he is unwilling to get tough with adversaries when he stands face to face.

What is worse is that he is willing to sell out our intelligence agencies in order to suck up to the leader of a nation that has attacked us and continues to attack many democracies around the world.

Hopefully, his actions will motivate this body, our Congress, to act. Let's condemn these comments. Let's protect the special counsel. Let's protect the integrity of our elections. Let's fully implement the Russian sanctions passed last year and pass even harsher ones, if Russia does this again.

By doing anything, we can keep this President in check. When we do that, we restore the credibility of our Presidency. If we do that, we uphold the credibility of this Congress by fulfilling our oath to our democracy, so help us God.

INVASIVE ASIAN CARP

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness about the single greatest threat to Tennessee's lake and river systems. Invasive Asian carp are destroying Tennessee's native fisheries across the State.

If ignored, these fish will decimate recreation, sporting, and tourism industries that rely on more than 60,000 miles of streams and rivers in my State.

For years, the focal point for combating Asian carp has been in the North, particularly the Great Lakes. However, this continued threat has spread through the Southeast. It is time to recognize that this species is invading States like Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama.

Congress needs to take action, or we are going to lose some of the most biologically diverse rivers and bass fishing in the country.

Asian carp have the capacity to destroy the food systems of highly valued recreational and commercial fisheries, which generate \$2 billion in economic impact annually in Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, this issue cannot be ignored, and I implore my colleagues to work with me to combat the invasion of Asian carp in Tennessee and throughout the Southeast.