Guide those who deliberate and legislate on our collective behalf in the spirit of unity, openness, and understanding. Allow their hearts ever to be open to the resounding cry of those who earnestly pledge indivisible liberty and justice for all.

May they be enlightened by Your precepts and motivated in their altruistic service to our Nation and its people. Bless and preserve them and us, Lord. This we pray in Christ Jesus, through the holy spirit.

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 Michigan (Mr. BISHOP) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan 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 BISHOP IRINEJ DOBRIJEVIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation to Bishop Irinej of the Serbian Orthodox Church for coming to lead the opening prayer on this special day.

Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago, July 28, President Wilson declared a national day of prayer for the Serbian people and their fight during World War I.

Bishop Irinej has a long career of service, both to God and the church, as well as the Serbian American community. His work has taken him around the world. Formerly, he was a bishop of Australia and New Zealand, and before that, he spent years serving the church in Serbia.

For most of his career, he has been a dedicated educator, teaching at Loyola University in Chicago and as a member of the orthodox church's theological faculty in Belgrade.

Perhaps most notably today is his work to improve the ties between the Serbian diaspora and the Serbian state.

Bishop Irinej plays an important role in bringing us all together with God's love. It was my honor to invite him to share his faith with us today.

Thank you, Bishop Irinej, for that prayer, and may God bless Serbia and the United States of America.

And that is just the way it is.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

THANKING MATT BLACKWELL

(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, it is with sincere gratitude and appreciation that I have the opportunity to recognize Matt Blackwell, former senior legislative assistant for South Carolina's Second Congressional District. I will always appreciate Matt for his years of service on behalf of the people of South Carolina.

A native of Aiken, South Carolina, and a USC graduate, Matt worked on a wide variety of issues, including energy, tax, financial services, transportation and infrastructure, and budget and appropriations. Beginning as an intern in the office in 2013, it has been an honor to work with such a dedicated public servant.

It is with mixed feelings, but great happiness, that the office bids Matt farewell. He will be doing amazing work in his new role as legislative director for Congressman NEAL DUNN of Florida, a distinguished graduate of Washington and Lee University of Lexington, Virginia.

I know his parents, State Representative Bart and Paula Blackwell, and family members join me in recognizing his achievements.

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

THE UNDERREPRESENTATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN AVIATION

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, since 1987, the number of pilots in the United States has decreased by 30 percent. Demand for pilots is up and the supply of trained pilots is down. Throughout the aviation industry, there is a desperate need for trained aviation employees.

One way we can help end the shortage is to create paths for minority training. African Americans are significantly underrepresented in the aviation industry. They represent only 9 percent of airline mechanics and service technicians, 2 percent of aircraft pilots and flight engineers, and 12 percent of air traffic controllers. Creating opportunities to diversify the aviation field will help the critical shortage of pilots and aviation employees.

Soon, I will be introducing a bill to establish an African American advisory board within the FAA. The advisory board will engage African American students through aviation training, mentorship, education, and outreach programs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in my effort to decrease our Nation's pilot shortage by tapping into an underutilized population and creating a more inclusive aviation industry.

HONORING ROSARIA MARTINICO

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

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable constituent from Rochester Hills, Michigan, Rosaria ''Sara'' Martinico.

She joined so many other brave women to help the war efforts during World War II as one of the original Rosie the Riveters. She served the country by working on B–17 bombers for a good portion of the war.

Last Sunday, Mrs. Martinico reached a milestone. Born in 1910, during the William Howard Taft Presidency, she celebrated her 108th birthday in Rochester Hills alongside her 2 daughters, 8 grandkids, 18 great-grandkids, and 12 great-great-grandchildren. That is five generations of family.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent such an outstanding and honorable person, and I would like to wish Mrs. Martinico a very happy 108th birthday and thank her for her outstanding service as the original Rosie the Riveter.

AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS MONUMENT

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of a committee in western New York dedicated to constructing the only monument in the Nation honoring African Americans who served in the United States military during times of war. This long-overdue tribute acknowledges the selfless sacrifice of our veterans, many of whom served our Nation while being denied equal rights at home.

The African American Veterans Monument, to be located in the Buffalo and Erie County Military Park, will feature 12 illuminated black pillars, representing U.S. military conflicts, and is designed to give visitors an experience that is reflective, educational, and inspirational.

The monument is being designed by a local, young, talented artist, Jonathan Casey. I have asked the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture to collaborate with local project leaders on this first-in-the-Nation African American Veterans Memorial.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the veterans, the artist, and New York State