

LAMALFA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMALFA 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.

DEMOCRACY FOR VENEZUELA

(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 people of Venezuela have taken to the streets to demand an end to 20 years of dictatorship and repression. I am grateful that President Donald Trump is supporting the democratic aspirations of the Venezuelan people.

The people of Venezuela deserve to prosper. They are fortunate to hold the world's largest supply of crude oil, but decades of socialist corruption and mismanagement, first under Hugo Chavez and then Nicolas Maduro, have impoverished Venezuela.

Then came the sham 2018 Presidential elections. That is why the National Assembly President Juan Guaido implemented their constitution by declaring himself interim President and called for new elections.

We must continue to support hope in Venezuela. Free and fair elections must be held. The people of Venezuela deserve freedom and democracy.

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

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN LEE

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

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of John Lee, a resident of New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District who passed away on January 25 after waging a courageous battle with cancer.

Mr. Lee immigrated to America in 1987 and worked day and night to build a better life for himself and his family. In 2000, he became a citizen, and like many immigrants, he understood the meaning of civic duty and the importance of a single person's vote better than many of us whose families have been here for generations.

So when he was faced with a cancer diagnosis, his first thought was not to sink into despair. He simply asked: "What's next?"

As his diagnosis progressed, Mr. Lee began to understand the pressing need for legislation to protect people with preexisting conditions, and the question of, "What's next?" was answered.

He spent his remaining time fighting to help make our healthcare system more just and to make America, as he put it, a Nation of us, not of me.

Today, I am truly honored to be joined at the State of the Union by his siblings. Mr. Speaker, John Lee has already helped to shape our understanding of what must be done to make healthcare a human right for all Americans. May his legacy be that we have finally done it.

HONORING DICK TRAMMEL

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of a pillar of my community, an exemplary businessman, dedicated public servant, dear friend, and an all-around great American, Dick Trammel of Rogers, Arkansas.

Most know him as Mr. Northwest Arkansas. No one I know of has loved, served, and promoted northwest Arkansas more than Dick Trammel.

A native of Pocahontas, Arkansas, Dick was recruited to the northwest part of our State by Walmart founder, Sam Walton. Since moving to the area in 1975, he has been the area's most avid cheerleader. Cheerleading came natural for Dick, who was a University of Arkansas cheerleader back in the 1950s.

Nothing of importance in our area has happened in the last 40-plus years that doesn't have Dick Trammel's fingerprints on it. He was the only man to lead the Arkansas State Highway Commission for 4 years. He has been a mainstay in Rotary International, higher education, programs serving our youth, Mercy Hospital Northwest Arkansas, and dozens of other charitable causes.

Dickey Ray, congratulations on a terrific career and a life of serving your fellow man.

CONGRATULATING ACTING SECRETARY DAVID BERNHARDT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Acting Secretary David Bernhardt for being nominated to serve as the next Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

President Trump announced that news on Monday after Acting Secretary Bernhardt has led the Department in a temporary capacity since December. I applaud this decision by the President. He has chosen a nominee that brings a strong background of industry experience and expertise to the table.

Under this administration, I have worked with the Department of the Interior to improve stewardship of our public's lands, to increase water storage, and improve forest management policies in California, as well as the West, and to help prevent more wildfire damage.

I know that will continue under the leadership of Secretary Bernhardt as it has since he has led the Department. I intend to invite him out to my district in California to see firsthand the issues that we face with our forests and public lands, including the ongoing Camp fire cleanup in Paradise, as well as the Carr fire in Redding from last summer, and the conditions that helped create these fires to begin with.

Until then, congratulations, and I urge the Senate to quickly move on the confirmation process.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

(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 rise today just hours before our 45th President, Donald Trump, will deliver the State of the Union Address.

Members of Congress and guests will fill the Chamber tonight to hear the President speak about a host of issues impacting America: from economic growth to trade deals, and infrastructure investments to immigration reform.

I look forward to hearing about the administration's successes and the plans for the future. I know that we all want to find commonsense, bipartisan solutions to the challenges before us.

Mr. Speaker, many distinguished guests will be here tonight, each with a story to tell and each representing the very best of America.

I will host Mr. Bill Jones, president of Penn United Technologies. Headquartered in Cabot, Pennsylvania in Butler County, Penn United Technologies provides high-quality, high-precision manufacturing solutions in various markets and employs more than 500 individuals.

Since 1971, Penn United Technologies has provided quality products and has established itself as an industry leader. It is an honor to have Mr. Jones here this evening, and I look forward to the President's address.

HONORING MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

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

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I would just like to give thanks to be able to be here at this State of the Union to hear about what our wonderful Nation is doing.

It is such an honor to be here, and to have the opportunity to be present during one of these State of the Unions. But, Mr. Speaker, most importantly, I want to recognize the men and women who are down range today serving this great Nation, and who can't be here and probably will never be afforded the opportunity to stand here in this great House and hear the State of the Union.