

critically important to attract and retain the best qualified individuals for military service.

I believe it sends exactly the wrong message to some of our most seasoned servicemembers who may have married late in life or started their families later, to make them ineligible for incentives, to continue their service to our Nation.

Two weeks after the Pentagon released this policy, 83 of my colleagues in the House joined me in a letter that I wrote to Secretary Mattis objecting to this change and calling for its reversal. So far, DOD has refused to budge.

Mr. Speaker, I have some good news to report today. With the cutoff due to go into effect next month, the House Armed Services Committee last week unanimously passed my amendment to the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, which would block the Secretary of Defense from restricting GI Bill transferability based on a maximum number of years of service.

As Congress took action 75 years ago to create the GI Bill benefit, today it is our job to restore the hard-fought modernized GI Bill of 2008. That is even more the case today at a time of an All-Volunteer Force. If a servicemember demonstrates that they are ready, able, and willing to continue their service to our Nation, we should uphold our end of the commitment.

To paraphrase President Roosevelt's words 75 years ago when he signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, protecting transferability today "gives emphatic notice to the men and women in our Armed Forces that the American people do not intend to let them down."

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CLAY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

During these coming weeks of House business, we ask Your special blessing upon the Members of this assembly who return from a long Father's Day weekend. Issues of national security, trade, and the welfare of our citizens stand in the balance of the deliberations of these days.

May each Member be filled with a surfeit of wisdom, patience, and equa-

nimity that these weeks of appropriations might issue forth in solutions that benefit the Nation.

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 Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio 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.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gun Violence Awareness Month.

All month members of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force will be coming to the floor to remember those we have lost and to call upon the Senate to take up H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act.

More than 100 days ago, Democrats and Republicans came together to pass legislation which is supported by more than 90 percent of the American people. Since the beginning of the year, more than 6,500 people have been killed and more than 12,500 have been injured by someone using a gun. Yet, the Senate refuses to allow a simple up or down vote.

On Thursday, activists from around the country will be holding a day of action to call on the Senate leadership to take up universal background checks. No more thoughts. No more prayers. They want action, and they want a vote.

The Senate should do the right thing. The Senate should pass H.R. 8.

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION CREATES JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the National Nuclear Security Administration announced a \$5 million investment in workforce development at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina to create jobs.

We are grateful that the Undersecretary for Nuclear Security at the Department of Energy and Administrator of NNSA Lisa Gordon-Hagerty announced the investment through the Workforce Opportunities in Regional Careers with the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization for Aiken Technical College, Augusta Technical College, University of South Carolina Aiken, Augusta University, and the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie.

I thank Rick McLeod, David Jameson, Dr. Sandra Jordan, Dr. Forest Mahan, and Congressman RICK ALLEN. We appreciate their commitment to partnership and look forward to continuing to work together.

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

HONORING U.S. ARMY RANGERS

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

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, United States Ranger history predates the Revolutionary War. However, June 19 marks the 77th anniversary of Major William Darby formally organizing and activating the 1st Ranger Battalion.

I rise today to honor the exceptional Americans who have volunteered as Army Rangers, fully knowing the hazards of their chosen profession. One of the greatest and most humbling honors of my life has been serving our Nation in uniform, and particularly, serving in the Army Ranger regiment.

The Army Ranger legacy is as old as the Republic, going back to Francis Marion, to Daniel Boone, to great Americans like Command Sergeant Major Douglas Greenway, and on to current Active Duty members.

It wasn't until after the Civil War—more than half a century without military Ranger units—that the U.S. Army Rangers were officially born. Seventy-five years ago, fighting on the bitter and bloody beaches of Normandy, Rangers gained their motto: "Rangers lead the way."

Since Pointe du Hoc, Rangers have led the way, from the Japanese POW camps, to theaters of war, including: Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Operation Desert Storm, Somalia, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the great war on terror.

Today, I honor the elite soldiers serving our country as U.S. Army Rangers.