

We especially give thanks and pray for our Nation.

Praying for unity where there is division.

Praying for peace where there is discord.

Praying for love where there is hatred.

Praying for the eradication of all forms of racism, sexism, ageism, inequality, and poverty.

Praying for an end to xenophobia, homophobia, and all other phobias that might plague and poison our Nation.

Praying that we may continue to strive for justice and peace for all people, and always respect the dignity of every human being.

O Lord, bless these United States; for united we stand and divided we fall.

Unite us that we may be more loving and compassionate; more understanding and giving; more inviting and welcoming.

Bless all elected officials, the communities they serve, and every State, every Commonwealth, every city, every district, on every street, and on every doorstep.

And now, O Lord, bless the business proceedings of this day.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

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 Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIANFORTE 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 VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW

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

There was no objection.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to welcome today's guest chaplain, who is from my district. Father Shaw is the rector of the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia. The church was founded in 1729 as the first black church in the Episcopal Church in the United States. It is also the oldest African American church in Philadelphia.

I have known Father Shaw for many, many years. More recently, I had the pleasure of working closely with him in the Together for West Philadelphia ini-

tiative, which recently celebrated its first year of working to improve health and reduce poverty for the residents of West Philadelphia. That is just one example from his long record of working for social justice.

I know Father Shaw has previously lived in Detroit and Chicago, but I am glad that he has chosen to live where America began, in the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection.

#### 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.

#### WORLD REFUGEE DAY

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of World Refugee Day and in support of the community of refugees who have resettled in my district.

One of these refugees is Kifah Abdulla, who lived in Baghdad until war broke out at home. He spent over 8 years as a prisoner of war. He was isolated because of his activism against the dictatorship.

He was a refugee for 11 years in Amman, Jordan, and 5 years in the Netherlands, before coming to Portland, Maine in 2011. He is now an Arabic teacher, a published poet, a performer, and an activist.

There is a reason America has signed international treaties and passed laws giving shelter to those fleeing persecution. Many refugees, like Mr. Abdulla, were jailed or tortured because they protested, organized, or challenged their government. These values are at the core of our Nation.

Every year, refugees travel 1.2 billion miles in search of safety. And right now, we are in the midst of the greatest refugee crisis since World War II. Sadly, when people fleeing the violence need us most, the administration has dramatically reduced refugee admissions.

In a Nation where nearly all of us have come "from away," as we say in Maine, I urge us all to make our communities warm, safe, and welcoming to refugees across the globe.

#### HONORING STAFF SERGEANT CLIFFORD CHESTER SIMS

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Clifford Chester Sims. Sergeant Sims made the ultimate sacrifice for our country during the Vietnam war.

Sergeant Sims was born in Port St. Joe, Florida, and orphaned at a young

age. He was adopted at age 13 by James and Irene Sims. He met his wife, Mary, and joined the Army after high school.

On February 21, 1968, while behind enemy lines during the Battle of Hue in the Republic of Vietnam, Sims threw himself on a grenade in defense of his squad. Sergeant Sims made the ultimate sacrifice to protect his comrades in arms, all while fighting in the name of liberty.

Sergeant Sims was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions. This week, Bay County officially named June 18 Staff Sergeant Clifford Chester Sims Day.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sergeant Clifford Sims and all our fallen heroes who gave that last full measure of devotion to our Nation.

#### REMEMBERING THE NAMES AND LIVES OF THE VICTIMS OF ORLANDO'S PULSE NIGHTCLUB SHOOTING

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, 49 innocent souls were gunned down at Orlando's Pulse nightclub. In my brief moment here with you, I lift up their first names and their lives.

Edward, Stanley, Ramon, Christopher, Eric, Peter, Luis, Amanda, Jason, Cory, Shane, Kimberly, Eddie, Darryl, Deonka, Anthony, Jean, Luis, Oscar, Enrique, Javier, Jerald, Luis, Tevin, Alejandro, Franky, Martin, Mercedes, Xavier, Gilberto, Simon, Miguel, Joel, Juan, Luis, Juan, Jonathan, Jean, Rodolfo, Brenda, Yilmery, Angel, Frank, Paul, Leroy, Antonio, Christopher, Akyra, and Geraldo.

To Senator McCONNELL and the other leaders, take up legislation that will save lives.

#### RECOGNIZING POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the need to ensure quality healthcare for our veterans and military members who may be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

According to the Military Health System, 14 percent of servicemembers who served in Iraq or Afghanistan suffer from PTSD. The condition can lead to substance abuse and cause serious physical and mental health problems.

In Montana, 1 in 10 residents are veterans. That is one reason I have acted to expand mental health services in Montana. With increased resources for the VA system, improved access to community healthcare, and the expansion of telemedicine, we can help to ensure that those who have served get

the treatment they need, regardless of where they live.

June is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month. I encourage my colleagues to support our veterans and military members who suffer from PTSD. We must keep our commitments to them and provide the highest quality of care.

#### NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION AMENDMENT

(Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues for unanimously passing my bipartisan amendment yesterday to increase funding by \$3 million to the Northern Border Regional Commission.

The NBRC is a critical, rural economic development agency that has created jobs in my district and supported so many meaningful projects around New Hampshire.

From 2010–2017, the NBRC invested over \$7 million into the Granite State communities and, more importantly, leveraged nearly \$31 million in matching funds.

This is a smart and strategic use of tax dollars, and I am so pleased that the House passed my bipartisan amendment with Congressman CHRIS PAPPAS, Congresswoman ELISE STEFANIK, and Congressman PETER WELCH, to increase funding to the historic level of \$25 million in the next fiscal year.

As a conferee on the 2018 farm bill conference committee, I was pleased to lead the effort to add Cheshire and Belknap Counties, and I am delighted to add \$3 million.

#### ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, and I rise today to share with this Chamber the impact that Alzheimer's disease has had on this country and my family.

Today, 5.8 million Americans live with brain disease. I have witnessed firsthand the burdens of these illnesses because my father, Andrew Katko, lived with Alzheimer's for nearly a decade before succumbing to the disease a few months ago.

My family was faced with the difficult decision on how to care for our father during this time in his life. This is not uncommon among families across our great Nation.

Often, family and friends are primary caretakers for those suffering with Alzheimer's and dementia. My mother, Mary Lou, served as my father's primary caregiver, joining 16 million Americans who provide unpaid care. This year, unpaid caregivers will pro-

vide 18.5 billion hours of care valued at \$234 billion.

The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act was signed into law last Congress proudly and is now being implemented. This legislation authorizes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to research prevention methods for dementias and establish local treatment facilities.

I am committed to passing additional policies that improve the lives of those living with dementias.

#### ACCESS TO BROADBAND

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

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, as we work through this year's appropriations package, I want to thank my colleagues for passing my amendment to fix our broken broadband mapping system.

Access to broadband is a timely and urgent need in my district, and if we don't address how we map and evaluate who has high-speed Internet, small business owners, students, and farmers will be left behind.

The FCC's recent Broadband Deployment Report states that more than 21 million Americans lack access to high-speed internet, but everyone in this body and back home knows there are many more out there.

The issue is that we evaluate broadband coverage based on census-block mapping. In other words, if one house on one block can purchase coverage, the whole block is deemed "served."

We will never close the digital divide relying on bad data. My amendment prevents the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from relying solely on census-block data for broadband availability maps.

Bad data yields bad maps, and this critical amendment will put an end to it. I thank my colleagues for joining me in support of this crucial amendment.

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#### HONORING DAVIE COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize and honor firefighters from my district in Davie County, North Carolina, who battled an early morning fire caused by a lightning strike earlier this week. Thanks to their efforts and heroism, Mr. Speaker, a church building was spared.

Around 3:30 a.m. this Tuesday, Davie County firefighters responded to a fire at Smith Grove United Methodist Church along U.S. Highway 158 in

Mocksville. When the firefighters arrived on the scene, flames were bursting out of the roof and immediate action was needed to stop the flames, according to Smith Grove Fire Chief Don Howard.

Even though the lightning strike caused the steeple to fall off the roof of the church, the firefighters pressed on to fight the flames and save the majority of the building.

I am grateful for the service of these men and women, many of whom are volunteers, who every day put themselves in danger to keep our families and our communities safe.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the departments that responded, which included Smith Grove, Farmington, Cornatzer-Dulin, Mocksville, the Cooleemee Fire Departments; Davie EMS; Davie County Fire Marshal's Office; and the Davie County Sheriff's Office.

I thank these heroes and others like them in our country.

#### NATIONAL GUARD AMENDMENT WILL IMPROVE READINESS

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my amendment to H.R. 2740, the Defense appropriations bill.

With the cosponsorship of my fellow Kentuckian, Congressman GUTHRIE, my amendment increases Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard operations and maintenance by \$2 million each for training support. This funding will support the training of National Guard and Reserve components by the Army in order to improve readiness.

General Lengyel of the National Guard Bureau, earlier this year before the Appropriations Committee, said: "There is only one standard of readiness in fighting America's wars. This readiness requires the National Guard to be deployable, sustainable, and interoperable with our Active components."

As the representative for Kentucky's National Guard headquarters, it is essential we support training and coordination between the components of our Armed Forces.

I was proud to advocate for this important increased funding, which will allow Active-Duty Army personnel to more frequently advise, assist, and train with Guard and Reserve units on drill weekends to ensure both are meeting the same level of readiness.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for adopting this amendment.

#### CELEBRATING AMERICAN EAGLE DAY

(Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to once again rise