

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 DR. GEORGE S.  
DILLARD, III

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. George Dillard, whose leadership and guidance have made him a valuable member of our Peachtree City community in the Third District of Georgia.

This is the second time that Dr. Dillard has joined me here in the Nation's Capitol to pray for the Members of the House of Representatives, and we are extremely grateful that he did just that.

George has been a vitally important part of the Third District for over 25 years since he and his family moved to Peachtree City to serve at the Peachtree City Christian Church, where he still serves to this day.

George has been married to his wife, Renee, since 1988. They have three children and one grandchild. George and his family live in Peachtree City, Georgia.

I commend Dr. Dillard for his commitment to our community and Nation. There is not a week that goes by where George isn't a visible and welcoming part of the Fayette County community.

The grace and love he has shown to his parishioners and his neighbors throughout his 24 years in Peachtree City are unparalleled, and I am truly honored to have Dr. Dillard here with me today as he prays for our Nation.

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.

RECOGNIZING PRIDE CAMP

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa Safe Schools' second annual Pride Camp. This week-long event invites LGBTQ youth and allies from across Iowa to participate in a summer camp where they have the opportunity to learn new skills, connect with their peers, share their experiences, and grow as individuals while also having fun.

This year, over 100 LGBTQ youth from across the State will be attending Pride Camp, despite this only being the camp's second year. This truly goes to show the importance of programs like Pride Camp, and I am proud that Iowa

is a leader in the fight for acceptance and equality for everyone.

I want to extend my sincerest thanks to Iowa Safe Schools for creating this wonderful opportunity and for all of their efforts advocating for Iowa's LGBTQ youth. Their work in developing a safe and inclusive summer camp is making a difference in the lives of so many young Iowans, and I am honored to recognize them here today.

ADOPTING NDAA AMENDMENTS ON  
NATO CONTRIBUTIONS AND  
ISRAEL

(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, two amendments I offered to the NDAA were adopted.

The first addresses shared responsibility for the world's security. The United States is the most powerful nation on the planet and so must remain, but our allies must pull their weight on global security efforts. It is not just Americans who benefit from peace, after all.

For instance, is it fair for economic powerhouse Germany to spend only 1.35 percent of its overall GDP toward NATO defense in the coming years? I don't think so. We should at least examine the contributions of Germany and all of our other allies.

My amendment simply requires the Department of Defense to report the annual defense spending of each of our NATO and non-NATO allies.

My second amendment affirms the critical importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship. Since its founding over 50 years ago, Israel has been an important strategic partner. Given the significant challenges our Nation currently faces in the Middle East, the U.S.-Israel relationship remains vital.

I thank Armed Services Committee Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member THORBERRY for working with me on these amendments.

COMPENSATING 9/11 FIRST  
RESPONDERS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001, as millions of Americans watched in horror, our country was attacked. Thousands of people courageously stepped up, left their homes and families, and answered the call to respond to a nation in need.

Among them were dozens of western New Yorkers, including John Asklar of the Niagara Falls Fire Department who injured his leg in the rubble and continues to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder; Jennifer Czarnecki, who is reminded every day of her five assignments to Ground Zero with the New York State Police following a

breast cancer diagnosis in 2015; and my friend Dave State, who bravely faced cancer last year as a result of his 9/11 service with the New York State National Guard.

For them and others, the pain and consequences of this attack are as real today as they were 18 years ago. We must act urgently to make the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund permanent. These men, women, and families were there for our country in our time of need. Now, we must be there for them in their time of need.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VERA  
DULANEY

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Vera Dulaney who passed away July 5.

Last November, I was able to recognize Vera on the floor for her retirement and how much she meant to our community. For more than 30 years, she served the community through her position as Scotts Bluff County clerk and election commissioner, as well as in various other volunteer capacities.

Throughout her public service, Vera's diligent work maintained the integrity of our local elections and assisted the effective and efficient operation of Scotts Bluff County. Her outstanding efforts across the community were recently acknowledged when she was presented the Community Volunteer Award for Public Service.

Vera was well-known in our community for her years of official service, humble demeanor, and dedication to family. Her smile always lit up the room. Her devotion to the Nebraska Cornhuskers and Chicago Cubs was only surpassed by her devotion to her family and our community as a whole.

Throughout her long and prosperous life, she touched countless others. Now in passing, we celebrate her life and keep her family and friends in our prayers.

PROVIDING SUPPORT TO  
CHILDREN IN POVERTY

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, my district in Rochester, New York, has the second-highest rate of childhood poverty in America.

Children in poverty face overwhelming barriers to academic success because it is impossible for them to learn when they are hungry or suffering from family trauma. These barriers are exacerbated in the summer when children lose access to educational opportunities, causing them to fall further and further behind academically.

Low-income children lose 2 or more months of reading achievement every