

crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge weren't driven by the polls. They were driven by a moral authority that they had to do that which was right, and we must do the right thing, too.

We cannot be driven by polls. We must drive the polls. We must stand on principle. We will not allow the next election to determine what we will do now.

Mr. Speaker, it is a risky thing to make this kind of decision. You don't know what the next election will bring. You have to use this power that the voters have given us, the constituents have given us, the people of this country have given us to do that which is right.

We must impeach this President. If we don't impeach him, Article II, section 4 of the Constitution will become meaningless. There will be no guardrails. There are none now, as he sees it, because he has made a bet.

Well, I am betting that this Congress will do the right thing. I am betting that we are going to put principle above politics and the people of this country above our political parties. I am betting we are not going to try to save a few people at an election at the expense of all the people who are suffering because of the coverup and because of the insidious discrimination this President is perpetrating upon this country and his policies.

I am betting on the American people. I am betting that the American people will stand with us. I am also betting that principle above all is what we must stand with.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

CONGRATULATING WICK'S PIES ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with the sweetest news from the Sixth Congressional District of Indiana. On September 25, the famous Wick's Pies will celebrate its 75th anniversary in business.

Hoosier families have come to know Wick's for its delicious pies and baked goods that have been a staple in Randolph County since 1944. Duane "Wick" Wickersham started this business by delivering pies from his 1934 Buick sedan. Within 4 years, he was producing over 300 pies a day.

Wick's is renowned for its sugar cream pie, a Hoosier specialty since that has become the State's official State pie.

To this day, Wick's Pies remains family owned and can produce 10,000 pies in a single 8-hour shift. Wick's distributes to more than 40 States, though you can't beat a fresh slice from Mr. Wick's restaurant on Cherry Street in Winchester, which I have enjoyed.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Wick's Pies.

LACK OF HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS IMPACTS ALL AMERICANS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, earlier in the year, I had the privilege of sitting in Ranking Member GRAVES' chair for a portion of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Members' Day Hearing. Regardless of the diverse backgrounds or districts we represent, my Republican and Democratic colleagues echoed familiar stories of how the lack of high-speed internet access is impacting their constituents.

To address this issue, I worked with my colleague and fellow Hoosier, Congressman VISCLOSKEY, to introduce the Broadband Interagency Coordination Act, legislation to close the digital divide in rural America. Our bill directs the FCC, USDA, and NTIA to enter into an agreement to coordinate the distribution of Federal funds for broadband deployment.

We are working to make it easier for rural communities to access high-speed internet. We must close the digital divide and ensure Hoosiers and rural Americans are not left behind.

GUN VIOLENCE IS UNACCEPTABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the scourge of mass shootings currently plaguing my community and other communities around the Nation.

The Gun Violence Archive, Mr. Speaker, which is a not-for-profit corporation that tracks and disseminates information on mass shootings, defines mass shootings as incidents where four or more people are injured or killed as a result of gunfire. Using this metric, Mr. Speaker, there have been 33 mass shootings in my district in the past 5 years, and eight so far this year—33 mass shootings in my district in the past 5 years and eight so far this very year.

Mr. Speaker, our national consciousness has been shocked by the tragedies in Ohio and Texas, as it should very well be, but we seem increasingly numb to the everyday violence taking place in cities like Chicago and Baltimore and other places throughout the Nation, especially when that violence impacts people of color.

Mr. Speaker, clearly, the events that took place in Dayton, El Paso, and Odessa deserve our most serious and intense attention. These are despicable acts carried out by despicable actors. I only wish, Mr. Speaker, that every single mass shooting in our Nation received the same intense and undivided attention.

There are men, women, and children being murdered and maimed on an almost daily basis across our Nation. Their names, Mr. Speaker, are easily forgotten and not remembered. Their stories will not be read aloud on the national news. Their families' pain will continue to be ignored.

There are many slow-moving massacres taking place in districts like mine that, unfortunately, do not receive the same widespread attention because the violence is occurring in poorer, minority communities where it is sadly seen as commonplace or par for the course. They deserve to be victims. They deserve to be mass murdered. They deserve to be killed by gunfire. They have earned that. That is how they live. They are subhuman.

Mr. Speaker, as you and I know, this is unacceptable at its core. Throughout my tenure in this Congress, I have introduced and reintroduced legislation that will help reduce the mass shootings taking place today, yesterday, and days gone by in my district and beyond.

□ 1015

In 2007, I first introduced the Blair Holt Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act. I have reintroduced this bill in every Congress since; and in 2019, it is more necessary than ever, as it would forbid unlicensed firearm ownership, prohibit the transfer of firearms without a valid license, and require universal background checks.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, this body has passed two important background check bills that have been passed out of this House, and I was the proud cosponsor of each of these bills. They now, sad to say, are sitting collecting dust over on the Senate side.

WELCOMING AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER SCOTT MORRISON TO THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday this week, September 20, our country will be welcoming the top official of the country of Australia, Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who will be arriving in Washington, D.C.

It is an important event, I think, for both countries, because this alliance between our two countries is so deep and the bond is so strong. The times that we are living in are so critical in terms of, again, just reaffirming all of the work that our two countries do together in so many ways, whether it is in terms of our military alliance, intelligence, trade, our cultures in terms of everything from movies to literature to music. Again, it is a deep and rich bond between our two countries.

Mr. Speaker, during the August break, we had a bipartisan group, a number of us, who actually went to the country of Australia for a joint Members of Parliament/Members of Congress conference that took place in Perth, Australia. There were about a dozen Members, bicameral and bipartisan. I can tell you that the prognosis is very good in terms of the connection between our two countries.

As I said, the integration of our two militaries could not be deeper and

more connected. Again, it is a relationship that goes back to World War I, when U.S. troops, the first group that arrived in the expeditionary force in World War I, actually fought under an Australian general, John Monash. Obviously, that carried through during World War II, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

In Vietnam, they were our ally, one of the few that actually fought with our country during that conflict; and, obviously, in the Middle East, Australian troops have been part of, again, operations, to this day, between the two countries in terms of the fight against ISIS and others.

When we were in Australia, again, the situation that I think is most urgent and something I really think all of us need to pay attention to is that the environment in the Indo-Pacific region is changing dramatically.

We now have a leader in the country of China, Xi Jinping, who has declared himself President for life and who has openly and brazenly basically signaled that he is prepared to disregard all international rules-based order, which has really been the foundation of that region since the end of World War II, whether it is maritime law, where, again, they are building islands totally in violation of maritime law, or whether it is a claim of the Nine-Dash Line, which is a territorial claim far out into the South China Sea and the East China Sea.

Again, what is happening there is egregious. It is harmful in terms of safe passage and open lanes of maritime traffic in the region. They obviously are engaged in an unprecedented military buildup, again, developing missile technologies that put surface ships of both countries and others in the region at great risk.

So we have a lot of work to do.

Rare earth minerals, which, again, China dominates. They have a virtual monopoly. Everything from our cellphones to aerospace and maritime equipment require the use of that.

Western Australia, in particular, has deep deposits of rare earth minerals, and it is time for our two countries to work together to create a different supply chain that does not rely totally on the country of China to make that happen.

What we also heard was that the best way that our country can move forward is to really, I think, point to what makes us most attractive in the world today, which is our embrace of democracy, free speech, openness, and generosity.

Again, those are policies which we heard loud and clear from our colleagues in the Australian Parliament that they are looking to America, which has been the leader since the end of World War II, to promote, that type of international rules-based order.

That is really the question of the day for this administration, which is in a go-it-alone trade war with China. Again, they have got the symptom

right, which is that China's behavior is egregious and malign, particularly in terms of the trade practices that they engage in, but the question is: How do you push back? How do you execute a policy that should be multilateral, collaborative with our allies, to make sure that the World Trade Organization actually has real teeth in terms of enforcing egregious violations that China has been engaged in in terms of intellectual property and government involvement in terms of trying to capture different markets like solar panels and many, many others?

So, again, I just want to say to our friends in Australia that they are welcome in this country. We look forward to, again, a very rich and strong alliance moving forward. The coequal branch of our government in Congress is part of that message and part of that policy.

Again, we look forward to many years of productive work together based on common values as well as common interests and, obviously, the embrace of democracy for the region and for the rest of the world.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Chaplain Major General Steven Schaick, U.S. Air Force, The Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we ask forgiveness for all the times we forget things that bear remembering. Sometimes we forget that when Sam Johnson's F-4 was shot down and 7 years of torture ensued, he credits prayer, holy scripture, and Your undeniable presence for his survival, release, and his becoming a U.S. Congressman. And sometimes we forget that when Tech Sergeant Bell was raped by a man she once considered a friend, leaving her with hopelessness and thoughts of suicide, You, O Lord, raised her up to become one of our most amazing noncommissioned officers.

Lord, Your fingerprints are seen on every sortie, every mission, and on the precious lives of every airman, past and present. And so today we can say "happy birthday" with humble gratitude.

We pray Your continued blessing on our United States Air Force, which

today celebrates its 72nd birthday. We pray also Your blessings upon these Halls of Congress and on our United States of America.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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 CHAPLAIN MAJOR GENERAL STEVEN SCHAICK

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today is a great day. It is the birthday of the United States Air Force and for those of us who serve. I rise today to recognize not only that birthday of the Air Force but to have the great and distinct honor of having Chief of Chaplains Steve Schaick, as we have just heard, to be here. I have the privilege of also calling him my boss because I am in the Air Force as well. He is a chaplain, and he is the top of my chain. He is there for a reason. He exemplifies what a chaplain means and how they serve in our Air Force.

Throughout our country's history, men and women have awaited and answered the call of duty, accomplishing each mission with valor. Today, we acknowledge the men and women who have taken to the skies to defend our country as members of the United States Air Force.

As a chaplain in that United States Air Force Reserves, I have had the privilege to minister and work with airmen since 2002. Their courage and integrity both at home and abroad are unmatched, and Chaplain Steven Schaick is a testament to that courage and integrity.

Chaplain Schaick is a native of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1976, serving for 4 years as an F-15 integrated avionics component specialist. He is endorsed by the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and was commissioned in the Air Force Reserves as a chaplain candidate in 1985 and into the Active Duty chaplaincy in 1988.

Chaplain Schaick has served three different major commands as a staff