

harm's way. Set Your angels to guard their every step. I thank You for those who make it their life's ambition to protect the lives of the weak and helpless. May this House ensure that righteousness exalts this Nation.

All this I ask in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania 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 DR. DEREK W.H. THOMAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the Reverend Dr. Derek William Henry Thomas is the senior pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, South Carolina, and the Chancellor's Professor of Systematic and Pastoral Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary.

A native of Wales in the United Kingdom, Dr. Thomas completed his ministerial training at Reformed Theological Seminary and received his Ph.D. from the University of Wales, Lampeter. He served as a pastor for 17 years in Belfast, Northern Ireland, before returning to the United States to serve as the minister of teaching at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Mississippi. He was called to his present position in 2013. He has written or edited 25 books becoming editorial director for the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals and the editor of its e-zine, *Reformation 21*.

He and his wife, Rosemary, have been married for 43 years, have two adult children, and are naturalized citizens of the United States.

The First Presbyterian Church was the first church organized in the capital of South Carolina and will celebrate its semisestercentennial next year. It is the largest congregation in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod with 3,000 members.

The historic First Presbyterian Churchyard was established in 1798 with Federal legislators interred along with Ann Pamela Cunningham who

founded the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association in 1853 saving President George Washington's home from collapse. Also interred are President Woodrow Wilson's parents, Reverend Joseph and Jessie Wilson.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTH CAROLINA COURAGE

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the North Carolina Courage for their second straight National Women's Soccer League Championship and their third title in the past 4 years.

Their four-goal win was the largest margin of victory in NWSL history.

The Triangle area that I represent in North Carolina has truly embraced this team with a record-setting crowd attending Sunday's match.

Now, this was really a team effort, but I do want to give a special shout-out to Coach Paul Riley, MVP Debinha Miri, and the retiring great—Heather O'Reilly. I must also mention the four members from the Courage who also led us to victory in the 2019 Women's World Cup: Crystal Dunn, Sam Mewis, Abby Dahlkemper, and Jessica McDonald.

Thank you for making North Carolina proud. And congratulations again to the North Carolina Courage.

SALUTING OUR TROOPS FOR ELIMINATING ABU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today, thanks to the relentless efforts of our military's special operations servicemembers, ISIS leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, is dead and our world is a safer place. Saturday night's victory over this violent enemy is due to our troops' selfless sacrifices and superior work with our Nation's intelligence operatives.

President Trump has shown that under his command there is no safe place for terrorists, and I thank him and our troops for helping keep our country free and safe.

Providing national security is the number one job of the Federal Government. Now it is time the House of Representatives puts our troops first by passing the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2020 to support our military's continued success and ensure the safest possible outcome in all its missions.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. PATRICIA SKINNER

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great education leader in my district, Dr. Patricia Skinner of Gaston College. She has been president of Gaston College for 25 years, nearly half of the college's existence.

Over the last two decades, the college has seen tremendous progress. Dr. Skinner facilitated the opening of two new campuses in addition to the construction of 11 new academic and administrative buildings and recently opened the Center for Advanced Manufacturing at the Dallas campus.

She has done a fantastic and phenomenal job, and we wish her great success in her retirement. Spending more time with her two daughters and her grandchildren will put her through the paces as we well know.

We wish Dr. Skinner well in her retirement.

NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS DAY

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and the sacrifice of our Nation's first responders.

In Pennsylvania and around the entire country, police officers, firefighters, EMTs, and other emergency personnel are willing to put their lives on the line each and every day that they report to duty. On today, National First Responders Day, we thank these men and women and their families for serving our communities.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am committed to ensuring that first responders are well-equipped to do the job that we have entrusted them to do. This month it was my privilege to announce that FEMA, through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, has awarded nearly \$3 million to local fire companies and first responders in the 13th District of Pennsylvania. These funds will help them to acquire much-needed equipment and training.

When there is an emergency, we know that our first responders will be there, and Congress needs to be there for them too.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 2:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1430

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.