

RECOGNIZING GLOBAL COALITION TO DEFEAT ISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a bipartisan resolution I am introducing today, together with a group of Democrats and Republicans, recognizing the global coalition to defeat ISIS.

This resolution recognizes the critical contributions of the counter-ISIS coalition partners; the value of those partnerships to countering threats, both today and tomorrow; and the importance of building and maintaining trust among partners for the sake of future fights—as well as reaffirming Congress' commitment to defeating ISIS.

It is important to remember how this coalition of 60-plus countries came together in the first place. Take yourself back 5 years. ISIS had taken over wide swaths of Iraq and Syria. They had huge amounts of territory. They were systematically slaughtering the opposition. They were targeting ethnic groups. They were targeting Christians. They were targeting Yazidis. They were systematically raping women. They were setting up bureaucratic structures, charging taxes, and extorting people.

They were projecting violence and threats out of that territory into places like Europe, into places like Russia, and into places like the United States. So the Department of Defense and the Department of State pieced together 60 nations to contribute to a coalition.

Some of those countries provide F-16 air cover. Some provide overhead imagery. Some provide human intelligence. Some train the Iraqi security forces and police. Everyone has a part to play.

Today, as I speak, Secretary Pompeo is convening the counter-ISIS coalition at the highest levels in an emergency session to discuss the future of the counter-ISIS mission, following President Trump's decision to pull out U.S. forces from northern Syria.

Our allies and partners are rightfully questioning the future of this coalition. The President surprised these nations, all 60 of them, with the pullout. Many of our partners found out about the pullout, in which they are involved, via tweet and via the media.

As the counter-ISIS coalition partners come to Washington, I, therefore, want to take a moment to recognize their partnership, their contributions, and their commitment to the counter-ISIS fight.

Why is it important to have a coalition? Why is it important that 60 nations come together to fight this terrorist group? It is not just for show. For every airman, marine, soldier, or sailor from the U.K., Spain, France, or Norway who comes to contribute to the fight, that is one fewer soldier, airman, marine, or naval officer who needs to

come from the United States. For every piece of intelligence that they risk their lives to collect, that is one fewer piece that we need to collect and risk our lives for.

Most importantly, working in coalition keeps the American homeland safer than it would be simply if it were up to us to defend. In an era of globalized threats that can come from anywhere, we need a global coalition before the threats land on our shores.

As we know in Michigan, our handshake is our bond; our word is our reputation; and we are stronger together than we are apart.

I am, therefore, proud to be introducing this resolution, together with a bipartisan group, as a signal of our appreciation and our word and as a sign of our commitment to our counter-ISIS partners today and into the future.

HONORING SERVICE OF DR. DWIGHT VINES

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, the people of Louisiana lost a great man when former University of Louisiana at Monroe President Dwight Vines passed away at the age of 88.

Dr. Vines was born in Jackson Parish in 1931. After earning his doctorate degree in business administration, he became a professor at Northeast Louisiana University, which would later become ULM.

Under his leadership as president, from 1976 to 1991, ULM developed 40 new degree programs and built a school of nursing, an aquatic center, and a sports stadium, and it expanded its library.

In addition to his time at ULM, Dr. Vines served as economic development officer for the city of Monroe and district director for former Fifth District Congressman Dr. John Cooksey.

Please join me in honoring a great Louisianan, Dr. Dwight Vines.

SUPPORT LONG-TERM FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, we are just days away from another funding cliff for our community health centers.

This is unacceptable. Our Nation's community health centers need stable, long-term funding to serve the most vulnerable patients in our communities effectively.

Community health centers are a bright spot in our Nation's healthcare system. Last year, they served 29 million patients across the country, including 693,000 who visited 74 different sites in my district alone. Community health centers like Clinica Romero in Boyle Heights provide care to immi-

grants, low-income individuals, communities of color, and the homeless.

For many Americans, community health centers are the first and only place they turn when they need to see a medical professional. Making sure that these Americans receive the care they need is good for our healthcare system, for our economy, and for working families in all of our communities.

We have long had bipartisan support on community health centers, but our failure to provide long-term funding hurts their ability to budget and plan. It creates uncertainty and has an impact on the patients they serve, including hundreds of thousands of my constituents.

With them in mind, I urge my colleagues to join me to support stable, long-term funding for our Nation's community health centers.

APPRECIATION FOR FSA MARKET FACILITATION PAYMENTS

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, last week, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue announced another round of market facilitation payments to help farmers and ranchers deal with the continued impacts of ongoing trade disruptions.

President Trump is delivering on his promise to help agriculture producers while he works to open new markets and deliver free, fair, and reciprocal trade agreements for farmers and ranchers. While these payments serve only as a short-term solution, a Band-Aid, President Trump and USTR continue to fight, both day and night, to secure a deal with China.

I also want to give a special shout-out and thanks to Farm Service Agency State Executive Director for Kansas David Schemm, my good friend. David and the men and women of Kansas' 105 FSA county offices work tirelessly to process tens of thousands of MFP applications for Kansas farmers.

Thank you, David, and your team, for all you do for Kansas agriculture.

IMPEACHMENT EVIDENCE SHOWS NO HIGH CRIME OR MISDEMEANOR

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this week, House Democrats began the public hearing phase of their partisan impeachment sham, which continues in a completely unfair, unjust, and unprecedented manner.

There are at least four indisputable pieces of evidence showing no high crime or misdemeanor committed by the President.

Number one, the July 25 call summary, the best evidence of the conversation, shows no evidence of pressure or conditions.

Number two, President Zelensky and President Trump have both said there was no pressure on the call.

Number three, the Ukrainian Government was not aware of a hold on U.S. assistance at the time of the July 25 call.

Number four, President Trump met with President Zelensky, and the U.S. assistance flowed to Ukraine in September 2019, without Ukraine investigating President Trump's concern for corruption.

Mr. Speaker, there is no objective evidence to undo the votes of 63 million Americans.

Not only do the Democrats and their leadership ignore the facts in order to impeach President Trump, but they are also ignoring the American people by failing to get anything done.

Republicans stand at the ready to pass USMCA, secure our border, and create a bipartisan plan to lower prescription drug costs. Sadly, Democrats intend to deny the American people such progress.

COMMEMORATING SERVICE DURING MILITARY WEEK

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Veterans Day, this week is Military Week for our office. This week, we will honor the sacrifices of those who have and are currently serving in America's armed forces.

This year, our office took part in the 2019 Veteran History Project to give our Nation's heroes a platform to tell their stories. This project will allow future generations to hear directly from veterans to better understand their realities, the personal sacrifices of war, and the importance of public service.

For this project, our office interviewed three constituents from the Big First District about their military service. All three gentlemen not only served their country overseas but returned home to make lasting impacts on their communities and create a better Kansas for all of us.

Listening to these veterans' stories of sacrifice and bravery is quite inspiring. Thank you to each of these fine gentlemen for your service, for your families' sacrifices, and for sharing your stories for future generations.

FIGHTING NORTHWEST KANSAS WILDFIRES

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, a disaster declaration was issued for Cheyenne County in northwest Kansas after a series of grass fires broke out between St. Francis and Wheeler.

Thanks to fast-acting volunteers and the National Guard, many homes, farms, and, most importantly, families were kept safe. Even pheasant hunters out on opening day pitched in to help fight the fires.

Time and time again, rural Kansans rise to the occasion and the challenges to provide for their communities' needs without a moment's notice. That is what Kansans do. These are Kansas values.

Thank you to all the first responders, the troops, and the citizen volunteers who bravely responded to put out these fires in Cheyenne County. Thank you for helping take care of your neighbors.

□ 1045

HIGHLIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS TO VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Military Week in my office, I

would like to take a moment to highlight improvements made to our VA healthcare system by the VA MISSION Act. This week, our office partnered with Newman Regional Health Center in Emporia to host a community forum to share information about healthcare options available to veterans through the VA MISSION Act, which went into effect June 6.

Since being implemented, the VA MISSION Act has benefited thousands of veterans in Kansas greatly, allowing them the option to get care at home. In rural Kansas, it can be costly and burdensome for many veterans to travel to a nearby VA facility which might be as many as 2 to 3 hours away. The MISSION Act enables them to seek the care they want from a provider closer to home.

We must continue to empower our veterans, providing them with the choice they need to receive the care they deserve, the care we promised them all. Thanks to Congress and the work of the Trump administration, we are taking steps to provide our veterans the very best of care because they deserve nothing less.

AMERICANS WHO HAVE VOLUNTARILY SERVED AND SACRIFICED DESERVE OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE AND RECOGNITION

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

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act, which I am very proud to have introduced along with my friend and colleague from Wisconsin, Congressman MIKE GALLAGHER.

The global war on terrorism changed the course of American history and the lives of millions of servicemembers, first responders, and civil servants—including my own.

On 9/11 and since, we have learned that we can never take our democracy or our country's security for granted. It is a fight that, sadly, continues today.

The millions of Americans who have voluntarily served and sacrificed for our Nation deserve our deepest gratitude, but they also deserve our recognition.

Several generations of Americans have now come of age during the global war on terrorism. There are now Americans born after 9/11 who are serving today, overseas, in uniform in what has become our Nation's longest conflict.

That is one of the reasons why it is now time for us to recognize the several generations of Americans who have volunteered to serve our Nation: those of us who have served and who have worked to help our fellow veterans understand the important power of place, the transformational power of a sacred location where veterans and their families can come together to heal, to remember, and to reflect.

Memorials like those for World War II, Korea, and Vietnam have provided the opportunities for those generations whose lives and service were defined by those conflicts, and it is now time for the current generation of veterans to have that same opportunity. It is our hope that, by honoring them in the Nation's Capital, we will ensure a location befitting of their service and their sacrifice.

Over 2½ million Americans have served in uniform in the global war on terrorism, and millions more first responders, law enforcement, and civil servants have also supported global operations. To date, over 7,000 Americans have given the ultimate sacrifice and over 53,000 have been wounded. Many more bear the invisible scars of the war that will be with them for the rest of their lives.

If these feel like statistics to some, they are not to me and to many others. At a time when Congress feels more divided than ever before, I hope that this Congress can focus on what we do have in common and what does bring us together so that we can move our country forward.

We have a sacred duty to those who have selflessly served in our Nation's longest war, and it is a charge that we do not take lightly. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort by supporting the bill.

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 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at noon.

PRAYER

Mr. Dipesh Pandya, BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, Warrington, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Aum.

O, Lord, lead us from illusion to the truth. Lead us from darkness to light. Lead us from death to immortality.

May everyone in the world be happy. May everyone be healthy. May all experience what is good. May there be no suffering.

O, Lord, may the skies give us peace. May space bring us peace. May the Earth give us peace. May the waters give peace. May herbs and plants give us peace. May all the beings of the Earth bring us peace. May the deities bestow peace. May all of Your creations bring us peace. May peace prevail throughout the universe.