

both Democrats and Republicans from yesterday's intelligence briefing.

The best way to constrain the true threat of Iran is through the multilateral diplomacy that achieved the historic nuclear deal. With this clear congressional statement that Congress has not authorized a war, I urge the President to immediately stop his erratic and impulsive provocations and take us back from the brink.

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

CALLING ON SPEAKER TO DO HER JOB

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, once a resolution passes the House, it goes to the Senate. Once all action is done, the Speaker is a mere functionary in transmitting the will of the House to the Senate.

It has been 21 calendar days, 12 working days, and 7 legislative days since the impeachment resolution was passed by this House. Since the resolution has not yet been delivered to the Senate, clause 8(b)(3)(C) of House rule I says that a vacancy in the Office of the Speaker may exist if the Speaker cannot do her job. She has not done her job.

America, I submit a vacancy exists in the Office of the Speaker of the United States House.

REPEAL AUMF, PROHIBIT WAR FUNDING

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

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of Congresswoman SLOTKIN's War Powers Resolution, which I am proud to cosponsor, and also to express my support for legislation introduced by Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and Congressman KHANNA to repeal the much-abused 2002 AUMF and to prohibit funding of any offensive military operations against Iran.

President Trump's incoherent strategy has brought us to the brink of another disastrous war in the Mideast.

I have seen this madness before. In 2002, I stood here to oppose the use of force in Iraq because I knew that tragic war was based on a lie.

The Constitution is clear. Donald Trump needs congressional authorization to use force against Iran.

So I say to you all today: No more lies, no more lost lives, and no war with Iran.

□ 1230

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, today, on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, I rise to recognize the brave men and women who work to keep our communities safe across central and west central Illinois.

From Peoria to Springfield, Jacksonville to Quincy, Macomb to Beardstown, law enforcement officers in Illinois' 18th Congressional District are the hidden heroes of our State. Each day, Illinois police officers, deputies, and State troopers leave their families with no certainty they will return home safely; yet they are willing to face these risks to keep our families, our children, and our schools safe.

I am grateful for the courageous men and women who button up the uniform each day and thank them for protecting our families with bravery and pride.

Madam Speaker, while we set aside today to recognize law enforcement, may we remember, each and every day throughout the year, the courage and sacrifice of these men and women.

TERMINATION OF USE OF ARMED FORCES TO ENGAGE IN HOSTILITIES IN OR AGAINST IRAN

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my colleague Representative SLOTKIN's resolution regarding war powers.

First and foremost, I am extremely grateful that the Iranian ballistic missile attacks on Al Asad Air Base and Erbil resulted in zero injuries or casualties to our U.S. servicemembers or Iraqi allies. As always, I will continue to prioritize the safety of our deployed government officials, servicemembers, and contractors.

Madam Speaker, let me be clear: Qasem Soleimani was a terrorist, and I hope his removal from the battlefield will, in fact, improve U.S. security in the long run. That being said, in the wake of the strike on Soleimani, let us not forget that we invest in our highly capable military to promote stability, not to undermine it.

Our Founding Fathers made abundantly clear in the Constitution that only Congress has the power to authorize use of military force. This resolution that we will be voting on later today is a necessary step to ensure de-escalation with Iran while we await a clear strategy from the administration on how the President's actions will reduce the chances of Iran becoming a nuclear state.

U.S. Forces will always retain the inherent right to self-defense; however,

any further military actions that can lead to war will require congressional authorization.

NO WAR WITH IRAN

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address what I believe is in the best interests of the American people, the Iranian people, and our global community to say: No war with Iran.

As an early opponent of the Iraq war back when I served in the New York City Council, I know we cannot afford to make reckless, irresponsible, violent decisions that put the lives of our servicewomen and -men, diplomats, and the people here and in the Middle East in danger of death and destruction.

We must exhaust all diplomatic means and put our political differences aside to stand for peaceful resolutions to human conflict before taking the ultimate step of engaging in war.

For close to 20 years now, our Nation has been engaged in low-grade war games in the Middle East with the constant threat of putting our children, our families, and our civil liberties at risk. We must oppose senseless acts of violence that take us many steps away from our progress.

When we look back in our history books and tell the next generation stories of 2020, I want us to be able to say with pride that we kept the interests of our Nation we loved at heart without provocation, without the death and destruction of war.

Madam Speaker, I stand before you today opposed to these efforts, and I support the War Powers Resolution, H. Con. Res. 83.

FOR THE PEOPLE—INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, as I rise today to begin discussing infrastructure, I cannot let go the remarks from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, their being completely appalled by the Speaker not bringing over one resolution in what they believe to be a timely manner, but expressing no concern for the fact that the Senate has not taken up 400 bills that have been passed by this House, 275 that were bipartisan, from their own side.

But they have no concern for that. They do have concern for one bill. That is inappropriate, and I am very sad about my colleagues for this.

Democrats have been working hard to fulfill a promise to the Nation. Americans in the Virgin Islands and in Puerto Rico are feeling the brunt of aging and weakening infrastructure—

demonstrated by a series of recent major disasters—which the Democrats are working hard to support.

We must remain committed to rebuilding disaster-stricken communities, replacing crumbling infrastructure, and developing and deploying the infrastructure needed to connect us like never before, including through 5G.

We cannot allow the Senate and this administration to impede our efforts to make American infrastructure better, safer, and more resilient.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 9, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 9, 2020, at 9:28 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1228.

That the Senate passed S. 1611.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 583.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 83, IRAN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 781 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 781

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces to engage in hostilities in or against Iran. All points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The concurrent resolution, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the concurrent resolution, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution, as amended, to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

SEC. 2. Section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546) shall not apply during the remainder of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress to a measure respecting Iran.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, yesterday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 781, providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 83 under a closed rule. The resolution also provides 1 hour of general debate, controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the committee on Foreign Affairs.

Madam Speaker, the question before us today is very simple: Should President Trump be allowed to send the United States hurtling toward war with Iran without prior congressional approval?

It is a question we must wrestle with following the President's actions last Thursday. That is when he ordered the lethal drone attack on Iraqi soil that killed Iranian General Soleimani. The outgoing Prime Minister has said the strike was carried out without Iraqi permission or knowledge. It was done without any plan for the consequences in the region or the world. And, more troubling still, it was carried out without any input from the people's Representatives here in Congress.

Think about that.

Madam Speaker, just a month ago, Iran was staring down some of the most intense antigovernment protests in a decade. Thousands took to the streets of Tehran to express growing frustration and anger with their leaders.

But what a difference a month makes. Protestors—men, women, and children—have again taken to the streets of Tehran. Only this time, their anger wasn't directed at their own leaders; it was directed at the United States of America—all because of the President's unilateral decision.

Madam Speaker, that is what happens when monumental decisions of war and peace are made in a vacuum with no regard for the consequences. Things usually don't go very well.

Rather than protect our national security and stabilize the region, President Trump's reckless decision to strike Soleimani united Iran. It has led to retaliatory strikes on two bases used by U.S. and coalition forces in Iraq, and it has put our troops and diplomats serving overseas in greater danger.

Now, make no mistake: This decision has endangered all Americans everywhere. Hardliners are emboldened; 4,000

more U.S. troops have been deployed to the region; operations against ISIS have been suspended; the Iraqi Parliament has voted to kick American troops out of Iraq—all because of the brash decision of one man: the President of the United States.

Madam Speaker, there was no question that Soleimani was a ruthless military commander. He had American, Syrian, Lebanese, Iraqi, and Yemeni blood on his hands. But that is not up for debate today, nor is the question of whether or not killing him was a good or bad idea.

The President of the United States assassinated a high-level foreign military commander without asking or even notifying Congress beforehand.

Madam Speaker, with little evidence, the President claims his actions prevented an imminent threat, but the American people have heard that one before. We remember the stories about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. We remember the tens of thousands of American soldiers who paid the price for that deception.

Madam Speaker, is this Congress going to sit by and allow that to happen in Iran, or are we going to ensure that this body acts before a war begins that could continue long after President Trump leaves office?

Now, the Constitution is clear; it is crystal clear. Article I, Section 8 gives Congress the power to declare war, but President Trump treated Congress as if it were an afterthought in a decision that has destabilized the region and shaken the world.

More than 4,000 of our brave men and women are now being sent to the Persian Gulf, all without any input from the people's Chamber.

We represent the brave young men and women who are deploying to Kuwait; we represent those deploying to Iraq; and we represent those deploying elsewhere across the Middle East. Each of us speaks for them, and we speak for their families, who are scared sick as their loved ones receive orders to deploy.

Madam Speaker, we must summon the courage to be their voice.

Now, I am glad that the United States and Iran have taken a step back from the brink of war, but what we heard from the President yesterday was more of the same bluster. It is clear, even after the briefing by the administration yesterday that many of us attended, that he has no clue at all—none—about what could come next.

Now, make no mistake: The world is less safe because of Trump's chaotic foreign policy. The impacts of his strikes are still reverberating in the region and across the world, and we cannot sit silently by.

The Constitution makes the President Commander in Chief, but it gives only Congress the power to declare war. The Founders knew that decisions of this magnitude required consultation between the branches of government, no matter who is in the White