

LIARS CANNOT BE TOLERATED

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am a scientist, and if a scientist stands up and says something that they know is not true, it is a career-ending action. The reason for this is that science always operates at the edge of what is known, so we cannot tolerate liars.

The world is now facing scientific uncertainty in the spread and the severity of the coronavirus. And when the leadership of China confronted the reality of the pandemic, they chose to suppress scientific truth and lie to their people. That cost China and the world the opportunity to slow down and perhaps contain this outbreak.

In the U.S., we were recently exposed to the spectacle of our country's leader making self-serving pronouncements about the coronavirus outbreak that had no basis in scientific fact and that were immediately contradicted by his scientific experts.

As our Nation faces the serious threat of coronavirus, the American people deserve to know that they can trust the information coming from their government, and that the public officials that they elected are putting science ahead of politics or deranged conspiracy theories.

Unfortunately, after 3 years of consistently undermining scientific research and scientific fact, this administration is dangerously deficient in credibility, and that is directly putting the health and well-being of millions of Americans at risk with an opaque and chaotic response to this outbreak.

Just a few weeks ago, the Trump administration presented a budget that would slash almost \$700 million from the Centers for Disease Control, cutting a vital resource that is at the front lines of this public health emergency.

This administration has left critical positions vacant at Homeland Security and the National Security Council, including positions responsible for managing pandemics.

Americans need their elected leaders to spend less time tweeting and more time making sure that government resources are coordinated and fully funded and ready to combat this outbreak.

Soon, the House will move forward to provide emergency funding that matches the scale and the threat of the coronavirus. We must make sure that the President and the administration uses these funds for what they are intended, a comprehensive and aggressive response to managing the coronavirus outbreak and making sure that any future vaccines or treatments are affordable and available to all who need them.

We also must hold the President and his administration accountable for the information they share with the American people. Three years of keeping science and facts at arm's length have rightly made people suspicious of what

comes out of the White House. And now, as Americans worry for the health of themselves and their loved ones, they unfortunately must also worry about whether the information coming from the people that they expect to manage this crisis will be distorted for the President's political purposes.

When a leader lies to the public about important scientific facts, it is not acceptable. It is not cute. It is not just Trump being Trump. It is a dangerous act that puts our public health and our democracy at risk.

RECOGNIZING JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many national cemeteries in Florida, especially the Jacksonville National Cemetery, which is in my district.

These hallowed grounds are sacred to the families of those who have served our country honorably, many of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Recently, the Department of Veterans Affairs ranked the top national cemeteries in the country, and I am proud to report that the Jacksonville National Cemetery of the Southeast District has earned the highest award, which was accepted by Al Richburg, the director of the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Al and his wonderful team for all the work they do to preserve the final resting places of our Nation's military and creating a beautiful, peaceful, and memorable place for loved ones to visit.

CONGRATULATING WEST NASSAU HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING TEAM

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the West Nassau High School Cheerleading Team, who recently won the State, National, and World Championships in Orlando.

With nine State titles, the Warriors are tied for the second most championships in the State of Florida. In fact, this is the second year in a row that they have claimed the State, National, and World titles, and they are the first high school in Florida to do so.

The team is spearheaded by Coach Samantha Beazley, who has led West Nassau to now five State championships, three National championships, and two World championships.

On behalf of Florida's Fourth Congressional District, I want to congratulate the West Nassau Warriors on a cheerleading dynasty.

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 11 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

Pastor Ethan Magness, First Christian Church, Johnson City, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we come to You in need of Your sovereign love, for Your power exceeds all human power, Your authority exceeds all human authority, and Your government will stand when all human governments have passed into history.

We come to You in confession of our weakness and sin, for we have sought too often our own power. We have fought too selfishly for our own glory. We have clung too tightly to our desires and our factions and our plans.

We come to You seeking the strength to repent. Turn us to Your wisdom instead of our own. Turn us to honesty instead of falsehood. Turn us to humility and service instead of pride and self-seeking.

We come to You for a blessing. Like Jacob, we cling to You and will not let go until You have blessed us, for You are good and gracious and loving, and in You, we put our trust.

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 Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee 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 PASTOR ETHAN MAGNESS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ethan Magness, who delivered today's opening prayer.

Ethan is the senior pastor at First Christian Church in my hometown of

Johnson City, Tennessee, where my wife, Clarinda, has attended for many years.

We are pleased to welcome Pastor Magness here today.

Ethan is originally from Elizabethton, Tennessee, and graduated from Swarthmore College. He received his master of divinity from Emmanuel Christian Seminary and served for 10 years at the Mountain Christian Church in Joppa, Maryland.

Ethan founded and still directs the Semester in Ministry program at Milligan College. He has served as an adjunct professor there for 10 years.

I am proud to welcome Ethan; his wife, Betsy; and his son, Evan, to our Nation's Capitol today. I am also pleased he could share the Word of God with us today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

FLIGHT 3407 FAMILIES' ADVOCACY IMPROVING AIRLINE SAFETY

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, for 11 years now, the families of Continental Flight 3407 have come to Capitol Hill with the heart-driven goal of improving airline safety.

Thanks to their efforts, and with bipartisan support from Congress, the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill of 2010 included measures to improve transparency and safety for the flying public.

At long last, the Pilot Records Database, one of the final elements to be implemented, is moving forward.

The captain of Flight 3407 had only 600 hours of flight experience and failed three practical tests known as check rides. Still, Continental and its regional carrier, Colgan Air, hired him.

The National Transportation Safety Board found that pilot error had caused the crash.

Led by the courageous family and friends of the victims of Flight 3407 and their tragic yet awe-inspiring public advocacy to protect the flying public, this success, in a deeply personal way, belongs to them and those they loved and lost.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Miss Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.

AIPAC IS EFFECTIVE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this week, we welcomed the American Israel Public Affairs Committee to Washington for the annual AIPAC Policy Conference.

This conference, with over 18,000 attending, is the largest gathering of America's pro-Israel community. AIPAC President Betsy Berns Korn is a very effective leader.

Monday, I had the opportunity to have attended the AIPAC Leadership Reception hosted by Howard and Elayne Levkowitz with ADAM SCHIFF.

Yesterday, I met with AIPAC members, led by David Kulbersh and his wife, Jane, of Columbia. They continued the tradition of the late David Baker of Columbia advising my predecessor, Chairman Floyd Spence.

Americans appreciate Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a world statesman, for his cooperation with Jared Kushner for peace. I will always cherish leading the congressional delegation for the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem with Ambassador David Friedman as President Donald Trump fulfilled "Promises Made, Promises Kept."

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Our prayers for Jeannie Burkett.

CORONAVIRUS NOT A HOAX

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

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, the coronavirus is not a hoax. There are over 90,000 cases worldwide and over 3,000 deaths.

In the U.S., based on various reporting, we think there are over 100 cases, with at least nine deaths.

Criticism of the Trump administration's botched response to this outbreak is not a hoax. They had faulty initial tests. They then compounded that problem by having overly restrictive test criteria that artificially deflated the number of actual coronavirus cases. And we don't have enough test kits, as of today.

In L.A. County, where I am from, they recently declared a state of emergency. L.A. County has a total of one coronavirus test kit.

I am pleased that this week the House of Representatives will pass a supplemental funding package to make sure we have enough test kits for all the jurisdictions that need it.

We need this administration to stop misleading the American people and start leading. Lives are at stake.

CONGRATULATING COACH PAT O'KEEFE

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Pat

O'Keefe of Grand Ledge, who is retiring after 51 seasons leading the high school's baseball program.

Coach O'Keefe led the Comets to a pair of State championships and an incredible 1,315 wins, making him the winningest baseball coach in Michigan history.

Adding to his accolades, Coach O'Keefe is a member of the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, the Greater Lansing Sports Hall of Fame, and the Michigan Baseball Hall of Fame.

He shares the successes of his career and gives credit to his wife of 48 years, Melody.

Coach O'Keefe is an exemplary community leader who will leave a lasting legacy beyond baseball. He modeled the value of hard work and sportsmanship, and he taught valuable life lessons to the young men on his teams.

Once again, I wish to congratulate Coach O'Keefe on a remarkable career, and I thank him for making such a positive impact on five decades of students in Grand Ledge.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate March as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for men and women in this country.

This year, almost 148,000 Americans will be diagnosed with this dreaded disease, and 53,000 will die from it. Yet, if we catch it early, 90 percent of patients could survive within 5 years.

The key is awareness and education. If we can educate more Americans about colorectal cancer, we can limit the number of deaths from it. We can remove the fears and stigmas that prevent people from getting screenings.

I lost my father 8 years ago this weekend, Congressman Donald Payne, Sr., to colorectal cancer. But if more people get screened, we have a chance to keep more families from losing their fathers, brothers, and sons to this disease.

SUPPORT TRANSPORTATION WORKFORCE TRAINING

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6032, the Transportation Workforce Centers of Excellence Act.

I recently introduced this bill alongside my colleague, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN. As co-chairs of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education