

quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MURPHY of North 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 REVEREND JONATHAN SLAVINSKAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome to the House floor my dear friend, Father Jonathan Slavinskis, who offered today's opening prayer.

Father Jonathan, as most of his parishioners call him, is the pastor of St. Bernard's Church of Our Lady of Providence Parish on Lincoln Street in Worcester, Massachusetts. A lifelong resident of Worcester, he is also the police chaplain for Worcester, Auburn, and Southbridge.

What makes Father Jon so extraordinary is his complete devotion to bettering the lives of his parish community, especially the young people. He hosts an annual Halloween party for hundreds of neighborhood kids so they have a safe place to go trick-or-treating.

Stories abound of his little acts of kindness, like buying pizza for kids hanging out on the church steps or opening up the church gym for youth basketball games or making it a point to walk around the neighborhood and simply say "hi."

Madam Speaker, Father Jon's compassion and commitment to making everyone feel welcome at St. Bernard's—no matter who they are—is truly remarkable. He is an inspiration to us all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF RON PETTENGILL

(Mr. MORELLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Ron Pettengill, a pillar of the Rochester community, who passed away on February 28.

As head of the local carpenters union in Rochester and Monroe County building trades, Ron defined the Rochester labor movement, dedicating himself and his life's work to improving the lives of working people everywhere.

Our community is a better and more equitable place because of his tireless commitment to advocating for social change. Ron's work will continue to open doors for people in our community for generations to come. I am so proud to have been able to call him my friend.

I join all of Rochester in mourning his loss and extend my prayers and deepest sympathies to the Pettengill family.

#### TRUMP KEEPING AMERICANS SAFE

(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, I am grateful to President Donald Trump for focusing on the safety and health of American families since the beginning of his administration. Not only did President Trump immediately take action to address the coronavirus with a travel ban, he has increased funding for important disease research and preparedness efforts since he first took office.

President Trump has focused on a whole-of-government approach in combating the coronavirus by ensuring State, local, public, and private officials are prepared to keep families safe. He has made the swift decision to appoint Vice President MIKE PENCE head of the Coronavirus Task Force, who is skilled as a voice for this important service.

Since President Trump was elected, his administration has increased funding to the National Institutes of Health by 39 percent, the Centers for Disease Control by 24 percent, balanced biomedical research by 35 percent, Strategic National Stockpile by 32 percent, and infectious disease response by 70 percent. This administration is committed to keeping families safe while preparing our country for disease outbreaks.

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

#### STAND UP AND BE COUNTED IN 2020 CENSUS

(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 we approach April, you will begin to hear more and more about the Census.

The Census is the most important count of people in our country, responsible for allocating nearly \$800 billion in Federal funding, and it takes place only once every decade.

By standing up and being counted in the 2020 Census, Madam Speaker, you are ensuring that your State or territory has access to the funding it needs for police and fire departments, healthcare, roads, and many other vital programs.

Madam Speaker, you don't need to be an inventor, a doctor, or even a Member of Congress to shape the future of your community. By being in the 2020 Census, you will help inform funding for local school programs and roads in our community.

We all count and we all get to shape our future by participating in the 2020 Census. You can make a difference in our community this year and respond to the 2020 Census, whether online, by mail, or by phone.

Be counted this April.

#### CHINESE ENTITIES RECEIVING AMERICAN INVESTMENTS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, China considers the United States their biggest threat in their search for global dominance. However, the truth is that China's recent rise is being enabled by institutional and individual investors in the United States, including Federal, State, and public pension funds like the TSP and CalPERS in California.

A number of Chinese entities, which are receiving American investments, are engaged in activities that violate U.S. law and hurt our national security interests, especially our military, like China Telecom's social credit score system and their repression of the Uighurs, which the House voted to condemn earlier this year.

Our public pensions should not be allowed to become a new funding vehicle for Communist China, which serves as a threat to current and retired Federal and State employees who are unknowingly enabling their aggression against U.S. interests.

#### HONORING GUNNERY SERGEANT DIEGO PONGO AND CAPTAIN MOISES NAVAS

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

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, last Sunday, March 8, Gunnery Sergeant Diego Pongo and Captain Moises Navas made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country in north-central Iraq.

Both were marines and assigned to the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion, Marine Forces Special Operations Command, or MARSOC, which is located in