

is something that affects every single American.

To pass a bill which will wreak that kind of havoc, again, is irresponsible and takes this country in the absolute wrong direction.

So, again, I would plead with Members and I would ask anybody watching this speech, go to the Kaiser Foundation website, find where you live, think about your uncle or your children or people that you know in your neighborhood, and really plug in that data and information and think about what, in fact, we are being told is, in fact, a wonderful healthcare bill and something that won't hurt people and won't make them worse off financially. Again, the opposite is true. CBO is telling us this, the doctors are telling us this, the nurses are telling us this, the hospitals are telling us this, those who advocate for older Americans are telling us this.

Again, it is not too late. This vote is coming up on Thursday. It is time to listen to the people who are closest to the system and stop this rush to harming millions of Americans.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of National Agriculture Day, I rise to honor and thank the men and women who feed our Nation.

Agriculture is one of the most important sectors in our economy. It is cultivated and maintained by our Nation's farmers who rise before the sun every day and work long hours 7 days a week so that Americans can have safe, quality food to feed their families. It is not an easy job, but it is certainly an important one.

In order to fully honor and appreciate our farmers and their devotion to the agriculture industry, we must do more than recognize their hard work 1 day a year. We must also invest in and work to better the agriculture industry every day of the year. That is why, for as long as I serve in Congress, I will continue to meet with, work for, and advocate on behalf of our farmers.

Happy National Agriculture Day, and a huge thank-you to every American farmer.

CELEBRATING JEFF AMACHER'S 20 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE CENTENNIAL FIRE DISTRICT

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Jeff Amacher of Circle Pines, Minnesota, for more than 20 years of service with the Centennial Fire District.

Fighting fires and protecting Minnesotans is not an easy job, but it is one that is absolutely crucial to our community and the safety of our citizens. It takes a special kind of person to rush into a burning building and to put themselves in harm's way to save the life of another.

I commend Jeff for exuding such bravery over the past 20 years. I not

only would like to thank Jeff for his commitment to our community, but I want to congratulate him for being recognized for his brave work by the Circle Pines City Council.

Jeff, we wish you a happy and peaceful retirement spent with your family and friends. After a life of service, you deserve it.

RECOGNIZING U.S. BANCORP

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate U.S. Bancorp on being recently named the World's Most Admired Superregional Bank by Fortune Magazine. This is the seventh consecutive year they have received this honor, which is no small feat by any means.

U.S. Bancorp has also been recognized by Fortune Magazine for ranking among the top ten companies spanning across all industries for upholding four of Fortune's nine key characteristics of reputation. The characteristics that U.S. Bancorp has maintained include: quality of management, long-term investment value, use of corporate assets, and financial soundness.

Minnesotans can be proud of a Minnesota-based company that ranks as one of the world's best performers. This honor is undoubtedly due to the excellent work of the employees, as well as the extraordinary vision and leadership of those who run this fine company.

Congratulations on your incredible accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR HELPING MINNESOTANS ACQUIRE HOMES

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thrivent Financial for this amazing organization's work to help Minnesota families acquire a home.

Thrivent Financial is a longtime partner of Habitat for Humanity. During the partnership, they have given more than \$2 million in grants to build quality low-income housing so that 24 families in our community could afford to buy a home. This year, Thrivent has given another \$66,000, which will be used to build the 25th home, this time for a family right here in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

As a result of their service to Minnesota families, Thrivent has been inducted into the Habitat for Humanity's Business Partner Hall of Fame.

I want to commend both Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent Financial on this excellent partnership, and thank them for their generous service to the residents of Minnesota.

RECOGNIZING RAY YOUNG AND CHARLES "BUCK" VANDERSTEEN

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two of my constituents, Ray Young of Wisner and Charles "Buck" Vandersteen of Alexandria, for their recent induction into the Louisiana Agriculture Hall of Distinction.

Since growing up on his family farm, Ray Young has dedicated his life and career to farming. After earning a degree in agriculture from Louisiana Tech and a master's in entomology from LSU, Ray went on to pioneer the stale seedbed conservation tillage system, known today as no-till, used across the South to enhance crop production.

In 1989, Ray presented to Congress an application to charter the Federal Land Bank of North Louisiana. He has served on the board of directors for the Federal Land Bank, as a board chairman of the Louisiana Land Bank, and as a leader of numerous State and Federal agricultural organizations.

Ray and his family still farm cotton, soybeans, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, corn, vegetables, cattle, hay, wheat, and pine trees.

He is a tremendous example of a Louisiana farmer making his life and a living off his land. His insight is always valuable to me when I am working on agricultural policy for our Nation.

Buck Vandersteen has spent 34 years presiding over the 4,000-plus members of the Louisiana Forestry Association, is a past president of the Southern Forest Heritage Museum and a past president of the National Council of Forestry executives.

During that time, Buck has helped pass the Forest Productivity Program to get part of the State's severance taxes distributed to forest landowners as cost share for replanting. It is recognized as one of the top programs in the Nation. He has been instrumental in advocating forestry education at the technical school and university levels so that we can have sustainable and productive working forests.

Buck continues to serve the forest industry today, and I look forward to working with him in my role on the Working Forest Caucus on behalf of foresters across the country.

Mr. Speaker, Louisiana is one of the top agricultural States in the Nation, and I am proud to serve on the Agriculture Committee here in Washington to represent our State's farmers, foresters, and ranchers.

But the real contributions to our State agricultural prowess can be traced back to folks like Ray Young and Buck Vandersteen, men who have spent their lives enhancing the industry that is so vital to Louisiana. Congratulations once again for being inducted into the Louisiana Agricultural Hall of Distinction. It is an honor that is well deserved.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we thank You for giving us another day.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House to encourage them in their official tasks. As the Members approach the votes they are making in the days to come, may they be imbued with courage and leadership that looks to the health and vibrancy of our great Nation.

Assure them that, in the fulfillment of their responsibilities, You provide the grace to enable them to be faithful in their duties and the wisdom to be conscious of their obligations, and fulfill them with integrity.

May we be faithful stewards not only of Your creation, but also Your desire that all people would be free from whatever inhibits them to be fully alive.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South 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.

HONORING SHAWN T. ANDERSON

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a saddened heart for my friend and comrade Sergeant Shawn T. Anderson, a veteran and highly decorated police officer, who was shot dead on Saturday evening as he attempted to arrest a rape suspect.

Sergeant Anderson died as he lived: in honorable service to the people of his State, Louisiana, and his city, Baton Rouge, wearing the uniform of

my comrade and friend Sheriff Sid Gautreaux of the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Speaker, there are 435 Members of this esteemed body. We wear a small badge upon our lapel to acknowledge our service to the citizens of the country we love.

One million of us across the country wear another badge, resembling this one, of various shapes and colors. We are the thin blue line. When we lose a brethren or sistren, we place a mourning band upon our badge. Over the course of the last decade, it has been difficult to remove my mourning badge because we wear them for 7 days, and I find myself never quite able to get the mourning band removed from the badge that I wear.

My soul and my heart delivers unto my lips constant prayer for the family of my brother Sergeant Anderson, for his fellow deputies, his community, and, indeed, for our Nation.

Our job begins with an oath. That oath is not an oath of allegiance to a sheriff or a chief or a marshal. It is an oath of allegiance to the institutional principles that our badges represent. Sergeant Anderson gave his last life's blood in service to all of us.

I thank the Speaker for allowing me to honor my fallen comrade.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR ERIKA PERRY

(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. Mr. Speaker, on February 12, an historic change of command ceremony was held for the South Carolina National Guard 51st Military Police Battalion. Lexington High School math teacher Major Erika Perry became the first female commander of this battalion.

Major Perry comes from a military family, with both her father and grandfather serving in the United States military. She was commissioned as a military police officer in 2001 and became a platoon leader in the 133rd Military Police Company in 2003, being deployed to Iraq.

A recent article in Cola Daily, edited by Terry Ward, detailed: "During her years in the National Guard, Perry served in Iraq and Afghanistan and on the home front during times of crisis, like Hurricane Matthew. She appreciates the LHS administration's support of her military career throughout her 19 years at the school."

Congratulations to the University of South Carolina men's and women's basketball teams on their victories last night, securing their place in the NCAA's Sweet 16 as one of the few universities to have teams in both tournaments simultaneously. Go, Gamecocks.

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

KIM JONG-UN IS A TERRORIST

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, incorrigible little Kim and his minions are rattling their sabers once again.

While U.S.-South Korean exercises were underway, North Korea launched four land-based missiles. The missiles traveled over 600 miles. North Korean Army bases are purposely positioned to strike U.S. bases in Japan and South Korea.

It is time to put an end to North Korea's mischiefmaking. The United States' hopeless appeasement policy with North Korea has not worked.

In 2008, the administration removed the warmonger from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list with little Kim's promise to stop their nuclear weapons program. Well, guess what? Kim Jong-un lied.

We must return North Korea to where it belongs: the State Sponsors of Terrorism list. Senator CRUZ and I have filed legislation to do just that. Then real sanctions and blocking of financial transactions are necessary.

The United States cannot underestimate the war-prone lunacy of Kim Jong-un. He needs a clear message from America to leave us alone and leave our allies alone.

And that is just the way it is.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Agriculture Week and the farmers and ranchers who have made Nebraska's Third District the top producing agriculture district in the country.

One in four Nebraska jobs is tied to agriculture. The hard work and innovative practices of our producers have made our State a leader in feeding the world.

For too long the heavy hand of the Federal Government has threatened agriculture's future. Thankfully, we have seen important victories under the Trump administration, including the beginning of the end for the EPA's dangerous waters of the U.S. rule, or WOTUS.

Nebraska's farmers and ranchers are committed stewards of our natural resources and take many steps to keep our water resources clean. President Trump ordered a reset on WOTUS, agreeing farmers and ranchers deserve better than to have Washington bureaucrats controlling the water puddles and irrigation ditches on their land.

As founder and co-chairman of the Modern Agriculture Caucus, I will continue to promote policies designed to get the government out of the way and