

project for their work in this effort. I wish them the best of luck as they continue to work to bring attention to this very important issue.

I look forward to working with them as we continue to work at eliminating the debt that threatens their future and the future of our Nation.

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 39 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. EMMER of Minnesota) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Tyrone M. Thomas, Charity Church, Baltimore, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name on all the Earth. We come before You today, first thanking You for another day You have allowed us to see and partake in.

We thank You for Your grace, mercy, and loving kindness you have extended to us on this day. God, we thank You for allowing us to arrive at destinations free from hurt, harm, or danger.

We ask You now, God, that You would allow our day to be a productive, purposeful, and peaceful day. Creator and God, we ask that You allow us to remain focused and on task as we go about our day-to-day responsibilities.

We ask Your continued blessings upon every Member of the House of Representatives who are represented here today. We ask that You would lead, guide, and strengthen their ability to make sound decisions for Your people.

God, as we conclude our day, we want to hear You say: Well done, thy good and faithful servant. We ask all these things in the name of the God who created all and who made all things.

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 gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BEATTY 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today is National Agriculture Day, where we recognize and celebrate the important role that agriculture plays in the United States.

As a lifelong farmer—on a small scale at times—and a longtime Christmas tree grower, I am committed to actively engaging in the creation of responsible farm policies that honor taxpayers while protecting the way of life of North Carolina's farming families.

The Fifth District of North Carolina has a rich agricultural tradition, and it is a privilege to work with local farmers to ensure they have the tools they need to continue producing their outstanding commodities.

I will keep looking for legislative innovations that ensure North Carolina's farmers are free to compete, adapt, and seize opportunities to safely maximize production and meet the needs of America and the world.

RECOGNIZING THE GIRL SCOUTS

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the young women of Girl Scout Daisy Troop 1944, ages 6 to almost 8 years of age, who recently visited my office.

After meeting with them, I was truly inspired. Mr. Speaker, they alerted me to all their great work, from volunteering in a local animal shelter to hosting a birthday party for homeless children. We also discussed the importance of civic engagement and honoring our Nation's veterans.

The members of this impressive troop are Roxanne Dion, Kirsten Wilson, Harley Craig, Cecelia Rodriguez, Aubree Meyerin, Kileigh Solberg, Brooklyn Cress, DeLana Windnagel, Lily Denovo, Georgia Woodward, Allison Helsler, Kaylea Thompson, and Isabelle Jones.

During Women's History Month, let us pay tribute to the next generation of women leaders, like the young women of Daisy Troop 1944.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the works of the 1.9 million girl members of the Girl Scouts as well as the individuals who volunteer to help

them as troop leaders, their parents, and Girl Scouts CEO Anna Maria Chavez, all who strive to make the world a much better place.

I say to you, Daisy troops: Job well done.

MINNESOTA'S FIRST FEMALE BRIGADIER GENERAL

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to celebrate an inspiring woman who now has a permanent spot in Minnesota's history books. Last week Sandra Best became the first female Brigadier General in the Minnesota National Guard.

General Best was a 20-year-old college student when she joined the Air National Guard in 1984. During her 32 years of service, Best has proven her dedication to this Nation and to Minnesota through a variety of leadership positions.

In her new position as Brigadier General, Best will serve as the chief of staff for the Minnesota National Guard and will be in charge of the 133rd Airlift Wing and the 148th Fighter Wing.

General Best is a true trailblazer. She has broken down barriers and forged a path that other women are sure to follow. It is with great respect and great pride that I recognize her today.

HONORING DR. JUAN FRANCISCO LARA

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Juan Francisco Lara.

Dr. Lara passionately advocated for access to the University of California system for all students. For over 35 years, he was involved at UCLA and the University of California, Irvine, in many roles, including dean, professor, and assistant vice chancellor.

At UCI, Dr. Lara played a pivotal role in the Santa Ana Partnership, an educational partnership between UCI, Cal State Fullerton, Santa Ana College, and the Santa Ana Unified School District, which is now a national model in collaborative education.

Dr. Lara was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather known for his commitment to community and love for his family. I counted him as my friend. He believed that, with the power of knowledge, kindness, and education, we could change the world.

On behalf of the people of California's 46th Congressional District, I am proud to honor this inspiring and incredible man.

RETIREMENT OF MIKE BROWN

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express the heartfelt gratitude of the people of the Tahoe Basin for Chief Mike Brown of the North Lake Tahoe Fire Department.

On March 18, Chief Brown will close a distinguished career of 26 years with that department, including 9 years as its chief, and a total of 37 years as a firefighter.

The greatest environmental threat to the Tahoe Basin is catastrophic wildfire. Chief Brown has led the fight to develop community wildfire protection plans, promote best practices for fire management, and educate the public on maintaining defensible space.

His success is measured not only in the fires he has extinguished but, far more important and far less appreciated, the fires he has prevented.

Chief Brown has been a tireless advocate for restoring sound management to our public lands to protect our communities, and Tahoe has been most fortunate to have had him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RODERICK "ROD" DURHAM

(Ms. GRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mourn the loss of Roderick "Rod" Durham, a Tallahassee teacher, actor, community leader, role model, and dear friend.

Rod was born in Maryland in 1964 and moved to Tallahassee in his teens. He graduated from Leon High School in 1982 with my sister, Cissy, and then returned to teach there in 1997.

However, Rod was far, far more than a teacher. He was a role model. His students knew they could trust to confide in him or look to him for inspiration in difficult times.

His personality was larger than life. He embodied joy and happiness. His positive energy would fill any room with smiles, love, and laughter.

His loss is heartbreaking for so many in north Florida, but I am blessed to have called him my friend. Our community will be forever grateful for his service and spirit.

Rest in peace, dear friend. Rest in peace.

PENN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Penn High School girls basketball team for winning the Class 4A Girls Basketball State Championship on Saturday, February 27. This impressive achievement is the program's first State title.

The Kingsmen team entered the game ranked fourth in the division, but didn't let that deter them. They took a 31-30 lead at the beginning of the third quarter. The momentum continued when, after a pair of big runs, the team opened a 19-point lead early in the fourth quarter.

The Kingsmen rolled past the defending champs, the Columbus North Bulldogs, to win the championship 68-48. They finished the night shooting 52 percent from the floor and, after getting out-rebounded in the first half, topped the Bulldogs over the final 16 minutes.

This is truly an exciting victory, and it is because of the dedication of Coach Kristi Ulrich and the hard work of these student athletes that this honor has been earned.

Mr. Speaker, the names of the student athletes are: Kaitlyn Marenyi, Amber Smith, Makenzie Kilmer, Sara Doi, Chloe Foley, Delaney Jarrett, Tia Chambers, Claire Carlton, Camryn Buhr, Lindsay Chrise, Lindsay Kline, Kamra Solomon, and Janessa Chesnic. Also, Coach Kristi Kaniewski Ulrich.

On behalf of the people of Indiana's Second Congressional District, I applaud Kristi for building this team, thank the student athletes for their determination, and congratulate them all on an amazing season.

HONORING SOON-TO-BE BRIGADIER GENERAL JEANNIE LEAVITT

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

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, every day is a good day to honor the achievements of strong women in our lives, but March is a special time of year to highlight the stories of trailblazing women who serve as leaders in our communities and around the Nation.

This Women's History Month, I would like to recognize Colonel and soon-to-be Brigadier General Jeannie Leavitt, a woman who knows a thing or two about breaking through glass ceilings. In fact, as the Air Force's first female fighter pilot, the sky has always been her limit.

Colonel Leavitt will soon take command of the 57th Wing at Nellis Air Force Base back in my district, becoming the first woman to ever do so. This will make her the highest ranking female officer ever at Nellis and will place her in charge of our military's most important air combat testing and training assets.

While Colonel Leavitt's distinguished career in the United States Air Force has been filled with many firsts for women, it is important to remember that her achievements are a result of her being the best officer and commander for the job, man or woman.

FIX THE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, the time to fix our broken immigration system is now. This is the time to make sure that families are unified and children aren't taken from their parents, the time to make sure we secure our southern border to prevent the illegal flow of people and drugs, the time to make sure that we know who is in our country and to make sure that they don't represent a security threat to American citizens.

The time is long overdue. I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle appreciate that we need to work together to restore the rule of law, secure our border, and make sure there is a path to legalization for the 11 million people who work hard every day and contribute to make our country even greater.

In doing immigration reform, we can reduce our deficit by over \$200 billion. That is an estimate of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. Part of those savings go to securing our southern border and enforcing our laws, which remain completely unenforced because they are unenforceable.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work together to finally fix our broken immigration system with one that works, restore the rule of law, and recognize that we are a Nation of laws and a Nation of immigrants.

□ 1215

ANTI-TRUMP DEMONSTRATORS

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, WMAL Radio in Washington reported yesterday that a group affiliated with Senator BERNIE SANDERS tweeted out a congratulations to those who forced the cancellation of the Trump rally in Chicago this past Friday, calling it a great victory.

This morning, Willie Geist, a co-host of the Morning Joe television program, said that one poll showed that 88 percent said Mr. Trump had actually been helped by the extremism of the anti-Trump demonstrators in Chicago.

Then Joe Scarborough reported that Mr. Trump had gone up 6 points in one poll in Florida since the Chicago protests, despite having \$25 million in negative ads against him.

It was sad to see such hateful intolerance on public display this past Friday, and I am pleased that no conservatives are doing things like this to Clinton or Sanders rallies.

I have not endorsed anyone in this Presidential campaign, but these anti-free speech thugs and their leftist supporters should realize that all they did was make Donald Trump more popular.

RECOGNIZING RUNNING START

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House