

their eyes open. They got to see what happens when a community rallies together as volunteers. It was a sight to behold. Everyday Texans and everyday citizens in the Montgomery/Magnolia County area joined with our charity agencies from the United Way, to the Red Cross, to our local food banks, to our churches, to our YMCAs, to chambers of commerce in order to provide a response to the firefighters across this Nation, a response that we will be talking about for years to come.

We saw the best of our communities and the massive volunteer effort to feed, clothe, and take care of our bravest. At the Magnolia West High School staging area, I got a tour. If a firefighter were thirsty, three volunteers would rush over with a bottle of water, and there were likely two more behind them, carrying a hot meal, just in case that firefighter might be hungry.

In speaking about the firefighters who came from across the country, all they could talk about was how well they were treated by the community of Magnolia. They came in looking for water and a FEMA bar, and what they got was home-cooked meals, fresh clothes and necessities. If they asked for it, a volunteer found it and brought it right over. When these volunteers ran low, they simply sent out a message on Facebook to the community; and within 3 hours, that staging area in the ag barn was filled to the brim again. It was amazing.

The outpouring of love and support was truly a sight to behold. It's no wonder, back home we consider this God's country.

Today, it's an honor for me to be here on the House floor to honor our heroes. Without all of you, thousands of families wouldn't have homes to go to tonight or businesses in which to work. The proof is right here on this map.

This Saturday afternoon, Unity Park in Magnolia, our community, will come together to honor the men and women who beat back the fire, held the line and saved our community. We'll also honor them by heeding their warnings if the fire danger remains extraordinarily high. We must remain vigilant in our prevention efforts. That's another way we can honor our bravest, who spent the month of September away from their families, saving homes and businesses in our community.

God bless our firefighters. God bless our volunteers and all who supported them, and God bless our community.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF AMERICA'S VETERANS AND MILITARY SERVICE-MEMBERS

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

Mr. YODER. Today, I rise to recognize the service and sacrifice of our Nation's veterans and military servicemembers who have answered our country's call to serve.

Last month, we commemorated the 10th anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001, in remembrance of the victims and their families, while at the same time recognizing the need for continued vigilance as the United States seeks to rid the world of terrorism.

This month, we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Afghanistan war. Ten years later, our Nation is safer as a direct result of the voluntary service of men and women who are willing to place themselves in harm's way, often under circumstances many Americans cannot fathom.

This willingness to serve and dedication to duty remains consistent with previous generations of veterans who chose to serve their country during our greatest time of need. Unfortunately, we have lost some of our greatest treasure in our fight against terrorism. Since October 2001, 4,914 servicemembers have been killed and another 46,376 injured as a result of military action in Iraq and Afghanistan. Recently, we again faced a tragic loss of life.

On August 6, a CH-46 Chinook twin-engine helicopter, carrying U.S. Army soldiers, U.S. Navy SEALs, and Afghan soldiers, was shot down in the Wardak province of Afghanistan, resulting in the greatest loss of life in any combat incident of the entire conflict thus far. The unit involved, B Company 7th/158th Aviation, is headquartered in New Century, Kansas, in the southernmost part of my district.

□ 1120

Last March I had the privilege to attend the deployment ceremony for the unit as they departed for training at Fort Bliss, ultimately deploying to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. As my colleagues are well aware, deployment ceremonies are often somber affairs with family members wanting to spend every last second with their loved ones before they depart for duty and soldiers assuring family members that they will be okay and not to worry.

This past August, I was saddened to learn about the tragic events of August 6, 2011, hearing the news that three members of the unit had been killed during the combat operation. These soldiers, Army Specialist Spencer Duncan, Chief Warrant Officer Bryan Nichols and Army Specialist Alexander Bennett, are remembered as outstanding soldiers, dedicated to duty, their unit, and to each other.

Spencer Duncan was just 21, a 2008 graduate of Olathe South High School. He enlisted in the Army Reserve shortly after graduation; and before deployment to Afghanistan, he served at New Century AirCenter Aviation Support Facility in Olathe, Kansas. First he was an aircraft mechanic, and later he trained to become a Chinook door gunner. I had the honor of attending a memorial service for Specialist Duncan and witnessed the outpouring of friends and loving family.

Bryan Nichols was 31 and a pilot from Kansas City, Missouri, who, when hearing of the need to train people for mobilization, followed and sacrificed for our country, leaving behind a wife and son.

Alexander Bennett was 23 and was trained as a Chinook helicopter flight mechanic. Originally from Tacoma, Washington, he had already served one tour of duty in Iraq in 2009 before being deployed again, this time to Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, our hearts go out to the families and friends of these three patriotic servicemen who gave the ultimate sacrifice that we all in this country might continue to live in a Nation of freedom and liberty. For their service and sacrifice to our Nation, a grieving country says thank you.

Mr. Speaker, next month we will celebrate Veterans Day and once again remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have faithfully and dutifully served, in peacetime and in war, throughout.

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 11 o'clock and 22 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Scott Eynon, Community Christian Church, Tamarac, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, it is our prayer that You will grant us wisdom today and that You will bless the Members of Congress as they lead our Nation during these challenging times.

Father, we are amazed by Your grace, awed by Your resplendent creation, captivated by Your love, and dependent upon Your guidance for every day. We do not take these blessings for granted. We thank You for them.

We also thank You for the problems that come our way, for they make us even more dependent upon You for Your guidance and for Your strength.

Father, Your Word tells us that righteousness exalts a nation. So help us to be great by striving to be good. May our Representatives exemplify principle-centered leadership.

Father, we ask that You would bless the men and women who serve in our military. We ask that You would bless those who serve here in Congress. We ask that You bless this great land that we call home. In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. HOCHUL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HOCHUL 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 SCOTT EYNON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEST) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

(Mr. WEST asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, former Secretary of State William Henry Seward said this: "I do not believe human society, including not merely a few persons in any State, but whole masses of men, ever have attained or ever can attain a high state of intelligence, virtue, security, liberty, or happiness without the Holy Scriptures; even the whole hope of human progress is suspended on the ever-growing influence of the Bible."

Today I'd like to recognize my pastor, Pastor Scott Eynon, and Community Christian Church for the service that they give to the community of south Florida and for their missionary work in Haiti as well as in Africa.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RECKLESS REGULATIONS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, right now, there's probably a group of folks at a large oak table in a marble palace down the street nibbling on their \$16 muffins, drinking their lattes, and dreaming up new expensive, ineffective regulations to impose on the rest of us. They are the regulators. The very term brings fear and trepidation to the hearts and souls of people who work for a living. Meanwhile, 14 million Americans are sitting at their old kitchen table drinking coffee from their Mr. Coffee pot with no job on the horizon.

In a Gallup poll this week, small business owners said that complying with government regulations was the biggest economic problem they face. Some businesses pack up their bags and even move to places like China. Meanwhile, the U.S. reckless regulators are putting businesses out of business.

The REINS Act will finally bring some accountability to the regulatory bureaucrats by requiring a vote on any regulation costing \$100 million or more. Congress must pass this bill now. Cut redtape, clamp down on the renegade regulators, and create jobs. America can't wait.

And that's just the way it is.

LEON MATHIEU SENIOR CENTER

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Leon Mathieu Senior Center. This nationally accredited and certified senior center recently celebrated 30 years of service to seniors in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

The Leon Mathieu Senior Center is a great success, due in part to the work of its wonderful staff, including the director of the Pawtucket Senior Services Division, Mary Lou Moran, and information specialist and caseworker Joan Newton. Joan and Mary Lou, like the rest of the staff of the center, have committed themselves to improving the lives of seniors in Pawtucket by providing them with a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment where seniors can access information about resources, programs, and services available on the local, State, and Federal levels.

The center acts as an advocate for the rights and well-being of older Americans on a wide variety of issues. The center has worked through 1,200 individual cases and annually serves 3,000 individuals.

The Leon Mathieu Senior Center does not work to be recognized, but today I'm proud to salute their great work and congratulate them on 30 years of service.

OAK RIDGE OFFICE SUPPLY

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about a successful business in Tennessee's Third District, Oak Ridge Office Supply. For almost 15 years, they have grown their business, weathered through tough times, and brought jobs to Anderson County. With 17 employees now, they are a great example of what hard work and the American free enterprise system can do. I ran a business with my wife for 24 years, and I know how tough it is.

The free enterprise system has helped make this country the greatest Nation the world has ever known. It is those

people who risk everything to start their own businesses and pursue their dreams that drive our economy.

I was glad to give Oak Ridge Office Supply my very first Economic Excellence Award last week, and I will continue to hand out these awards as I recognize businesses in east Tennessee that embody the idea of hard work and success.

FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. CHU. This month is Filipino American History Month. It is time for us to take pride in our country's diversity and to celebrate the ways in which Filipino Americans have contributed to the vibrancy of our Nation.

Filipino Americans are civic leaders, health care providers, educators, and hardworking Americans. They've won Pulitzer prizes, been elected to Congress, served as ambassadors, and pitched in the World Series. Filipinos volunteered by the thousands to help us win World War II and have served our Nation's military in every war since.

Filipinos first came to the U.S. in California over 400 years ago. Today, Filipino Americans have grown to be the third-largest Asian American group in the Nation, and they reside in every corner of the United States.

So as we celebrate Filipino American History Month, I hope you will join me and remember the many contributions that Filipino Americans have made to our great country.

□ 1210

COLORADO MISSION OF MERCY

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

Mr. GARDNER. This past weekend, I volunteered at the fifth annual Colorado Mission of Mercy, a 2-day free dental clinic held in a different Colorado community each year. This year it was in Brush, Colorado, an appropriate name for a dental clinic.

The Colorado Mission of Mercy brings more than 100 portable dental chairs into a Colorado community and provides dental services to children, adults, and elderly who cannot afford them on their own. The group has nearly 200 volunteer dentists from across the State and hundreds of dental hygienists, assistants, and lab technicians.

This year there were approximately 175 dentists, 947 volunteers, and nearly 1,500 patients who were served over the 2-day period. Helping people avoid dental discomfort that can interfere with school and work was a life-changing experience for many at the clinic. One person commented that now he doesn't have to be embarrassed because he