

though, are filled with the noise of seven children and their spouses and several grandchildren.

In recounting their decision to commit to raising a second set of children at a time in their lives when their peers would be enjoying life, Pat loves to tell the story of a little boy on the beach. It seems a storm had washed several thousand starfish ashore, and as the tide receded, the stranded starfish were dying in the glaring sun. One by one, a boy began to hurl starfish back into the ocean. A cynical man observed his actions and commented on the futility of such efforts in light of the enormity of the problem.

You are wasting your time. You can never make a difference with so many starfish.

The boy simply hurled another into the sea and replied, I made a difference for that one.

These are true American heroes. Their grandchildren call them Mimi and Pat-daddy. Their friends call them Pat and Sandra. My six brothers and sisters and I are proud to call them Mom and Dad.

THE STORMING OF OUR EMBASSIES: AN ATTACK AGAINST AMERICA

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, last year, an intense debate was under way in Congress as to how to respond to the turmoil in Libya. The imminent slaughter of the people of Benghazi by former dictator Qadhafi led the United States to sustain a NATO-led coalition to stop the bloodshed. Now our Ambassador to Libya, Chris Stevens, is dead—killed by the very people we went there to save. Americans can tolerate ingratitude; Americans can tolerate insult, but Americans cannot tolerate the senseless killings of the official representative of our country and three other diplomatic personnel.

The governing structures of Libya must respond in the strongest way. They should publicly state their condemnation and commitment to restoring order. Democracy is not an election. It is the understanding of the protection of the inherent dignity and rights of each person supported by the structures that bring about the just rule of law.

We honor Ambassador Stevens, Foreign Service Officer Sean Smith, and two others whose names I do not yet have for their heroic service. May they rest in peace.

Similarly, in Cairo, Egypt, the storming of our Embassy represents an attack on America. By the norms of international law, custom and tradition, the scaling of the walls of our Embassy severely threatens America's longstanding relationship with Egypt so fruitfully solidified after the peace accords in the Middle East in the 1970s.

President Morsi must decide: Will his government tolerate chaos and violence? Will he abandon Egypt's leading role as a force for stability in the Middle East? Will he use democracy for the consolidation of power while rejecting its central tenets?

The responsibility of President Morsi's is also to speak swiftly and state clearly that the Egyptian Government, duly elected, is committed to its international responsibilities and the deeper responsibilities of self-government.

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 58 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. SIMPSON) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Matthew Mello, the Church of the Resurrection, Lakeland, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask for Your blessings to this legislative body as they govern the welfare of all the people of this great Nation. Endow them with wisdom, discernment, courage, and conviction to engage the issues of our day, and for the generations to come to be better off as a result of all decisions made within this assembly hall.

Bind them together in a shared commitment to You, a passionate patriotism, and a deep dedication to find creative solutions in the concerns that confront us and divide us in these times.

We remember our Ambassador, Christopher Stevens, and his colleagues.

We ask that this be done this day and in the days to come, giving honor and glory to You, our God, and we pray Your blessings be upon us always.

In Your name we pray.

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 Minnesota (Mr. ELLI-

SON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ELLISON 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 MATTHEW MELLO

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROSS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a brief moment to say thank you to today's chaplain. I would also like to thank the Speaker for making this possible.

The invocation today was offered by Father Matthew Mello of Resurrection Catholic Church in my hometown of Lakeland, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, in 1963, my mother and father helped found the church Father Mello calls home. And like my parents and most Floridians, Father Mello is a geographic mutt: born in New Jersey, attended grade school in Puerto Rico, went to high school in Florida, attended seminary in Indiana, and studied theology in Chicago.

We don't know if he's a Yankees fan, a Cubs fan, or a White Sox fan. But one thing's for certain: since 1998, Father Mello has been a constant and reassuring presence in the spiritual life of countless residents of my hometown and to my family. His presence in my dad's final year of life was a comfort to him as well as to my family.

Father Mello personifies Christ's instruction to us to be the "servant of all." I firmly believe, as the Bible also says, "that the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Knowing Father Mello, I have no doubt that today's prayer was heard on high.

I thank him for his prayer today and his lifetime of service.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RELEASE OF PASTOR YUCEF NADARKHANI

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani has been released from prison in Iran. After 3 years of suffering in prison, with the death penalty hanging over his head on false charges, Pastor Youcef is now home with his family. This weekend he was suddenly brought before a court, convicted on a more minor sentence, and granted time served.

While we applaud his release, we cannot forget how Pastor Youcef was abused and falsely accused over the past 3 years. He was subject to intense interrogation. His wife was arrested, taken away from their two young sons for a period of time. His lawyer was arrested on trumped-up charges.

Earlier this year the House drew attention to this persecution when it overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling for the immediate release of Pastor Youcef. We made it clear that the world was watching and would not tolerate the execution of an innocent man.

The Government of Iran continues to abuse religious minorities within its borders: Jews, Sunni Muslims, Baha'is, as well as Christians. Pastor Youcef's release is a victory for human rights, but we cannot forget about the other victims of this corrupt regime.

WIND POWER IS AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, wind power is an American success story. It is one of our fastest growing manufacturing sectors, with over 500 American-based facilities. It provides us with clean, renewable energy that both consumers and the environment demand.

But, unfortunately, it is threatened with the production tax credit due to expire at the end of the year. I am pleased to join with my fellow Ways and Means Committee member, DAVE REICHERT, from the Northwest, as cosponsor of H.R. 3307, to extend the tax credit so that we don't lose as many as 37,000 jobs to the uncertainty.

Congress shouldn't wait until the end of the year because people need to make investment decisions now. Until we enact a comprehensive energy plan for this century, the production tax credit is key to our energy future: clean, dependable, very low operating cost wind energy.

Please join us as we work to guarantee this production tax credit for our economy and our energy security.

AMERICA UNDER ATTACK

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

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, in Egypt our Embassy walls were scaled and the American flag ripped apart. In Libya, America's Ambassador and three other Americans were brutally murdered.

Ironically, our own Embassy in Egypt apologized by condemning Americans who exercised their religious and free speech rights as "misguided individuals who hurt the religious feelings of Muslims." The White House, rivaling the Keystone Cops of lore, distanced itself from its own State Department apology.

Let's be clear. In Libya, this White House spent American treasury and risked American lives to topple Muammar Qadhafi, thus empowering those who killed our Ambassador.

Not one to learn from history or its own mistakes, this White House says, America "will work to support a Syrian opposition to hasten the day when Assad falls."

Mr. Speaker, we must stop spending our treasury and risking American lives for those who neither appreciate our sacrifices nor believe in basic liberties like freedom of religion and freedom of speech.

Mr. Speaker, I pray the President is listening.

EXTENSION OF THE PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I too rise to promote the extension of the production tax credit. Thousands of jobs in Colorado and across the Nation are dependent upon this incentive for good, clean energy here in the United States, thousands of manufacturing jobs made right here, wind production right here in America.

In Colorado, we have substantial manufacturing plants with Vestis; we have vendors who supply these particular manufacturers for this good clean energy. Yet we have the production tax credit that's about to expire.

Bipartisan support is in Colorado where we have virtually every Member, Democrats and Republicans, as well as you heard Mr. BLUMENAUER say he has a Republican cosponsor for this. But the Republican leadership will not bring it up, and it's been removed from the platform of the Republican Party.

These are good jobs in America. It's clean energy for our country. It's good for national security. If we make these things, these big windmills in America, we will make it in America.

□ 1210

LIBYA

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, this is a tragic day for the United States and for all people across the world who stand for freedom—the freedom of speech and religious tolerance. It is also a day that serves as a powerful reminder of why we hold these core principles, of why each generation of Americans over the past two centuries has proudly fought to preserve and advance them, and of why we must confidently answer the call to do the same today.

My thoughts and prayers are with Ambassador Stevens' family and with the families of the three American diplomats murdered in the attack in Libya.

There is simply no excuse or rationale to be found here. There is absolutely no justification for violence and murder against Americans. This act of terror stands in direct opposition to the freedom and liberty that we champion throughout the world.

This is an extraordinarily volatile time in the Middle East. As Americans, we should expect—we should demand—nothing less than strong leadership from the United States. As is shown by the murder of American officials in Libya today, by the storming of the U.S. Embassy in Egypt yesterday and, most certainly, by Iran's flagrant march toward nuclear weapons, this is no game. I am sickened and outraged by these recent events. It is time to lead.

HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT FOR RETURNING VETERANS

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I will join Members of Congress MIKE QUIGLEY and PAT MEEHAN in an ice hockey game with and to benefit the wounded warriors. The Wounded Warriors is a great organization that takes care of our returning injured soldiers. Congress, however, is not living up to its responsibility to do the same.

The unemployment rate for returning veterans under the age of 24 is 29 percent. Congress just approved \$53 billion for road and bridge repair next year—a very weak response to a big and important issue, particularly when you consider that we just spent \$90 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Afghanistan.

If you really want to say "thank you" to the veterans on behalf of a grateful Nation, let's nation-build at home and put our veterans to work in rebuilding the America they so honorably defended.

OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL DESERVE A FAIR MILITARY VOTING PROCESS

(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, both at home and abroad, the brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces dedicate their lives to protecting this great Nation. Access to absentee voter registration within our military's ranks has been increasingly difficult due to changing residencies and overseas deployments. In order to make voting for our servicemembers more accessible, Congress passed the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act. Unfortunately, the administration has failed in its implementation.