

strength to the very extremists that we're trying to defeat.

The time has come to invest in Afghanistan the right way, with humanitarian aid and civilian support rather than military force. It's time for a SMART Security approach that puts development and diplomacy first—not just in Afghanistan but throughout the developing world and in other nations where terrorism poses a threat. It's not only the right thing to do, Mr. Speaker; it's the most cost-effective way as well. It's pennies on the dollar to invest in humanitarian support for nations rather than military involvement.

On Sunday, many of us took part in Veterans Day parades back in our home districts. In doing so, we heard expressed that our Nation is so grateful for the service of these men and women, those who left their families and their communities to serve their country. I bow to no one in my respect for our veterans and those currently deployed overseas. But I believe the best way for us to support them right now and the best way to honor American values is to end the war in Afghanistan and bring our troops home.

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 16 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend Donna Kafer, Arizona Legislative Chaplaincy, Peoria, Arizona, offered the following prayer:

Dear Holy and Righteous Father,

As this honored body of Congress convenes today, we come first to humbly submit ourselves before You, acknowledging You as Lord and Creator, the One who directs the paths of those who call upon Your precious name. Savior God, we also want to thank You for Your infinite grace, Your divine mercy, and for the deep love that You extend to each of us.

Father, I ask that You faithfully pour out an overflowing measure of health, wisdom, and clarity of mind on our leaders as they attend to the many critical tasks at hand. Provide each Member with an ever-increasing abundance of comfort, peace, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Lord, may we grasp the full spectrum of Your character, so that our love for You might never waver. And Sovereign God, may Your life-giving truth preside here forevermore. 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 gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota 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 DONNA KAFER

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I was gratified today to hear our beloved citizen of Arizona, Chaplain Donna Kafer, offer our prayer.

Chaplain Kafer is the author of two books, "Women of Courage" and "Women of Faith," and she's currently working on a third book called "Women of Grace." And that will complete the series, "Gardens of Grace."

Mr. Speaker, I think it's especially appropriate because, indeed, Donna Kafer is a woman of grace that I've had the privilege to know for a very long time and am so grateful to be able to call her "friend."

She has made her aim in life to serve her God, her country, her family, and the truth. She serves as the appointed chaplain for the Arizona State Legislature, where she has provided spiritual encouragement for leaders, staff, and State employees for about 14 years now, Mr. Speaker.

Chaplain Kafer has a master's degree in ministry through Phoenix University of Theology, and has received chaplaincy training through the Southwest School of Chaplaincy.

Chaplain Kafer is an Arizona native. She lives in Peoria, Arizona, with her husband of 23 years, Ross, a firefighter-paramedic, and their daughter, Andrea, a 20-year-old college student. They've been members of Christ's Church of the Valley in northwest Peoria for nearly 18 years, under the noble leadership of Pastor Don Wilson. And it is my honor for her to be our guest today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ARMY STAFF SERGEANT KENNETH BENNETT

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Army Staff Sergeant Kenneth Bennett. As an explosive ordnance disposal technician, Bennett put his life on the line every day to protect his comrades. As a former EOD tech myself, I know the danger Bennett faced, and today I honor his ultimate sacrifice.

Staff Sergeant Kenneth Bennett is an American hero. He entered the Army in 2004, and in 2006 he trained to be an explosive ordnance disposal technician. Bennett was serving his third, and what was to be his last, deployment to Afghanistan. Bennett earned numerous awards for his service, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

I did not know personally Staff Sergeant Bennett, but I do know this: He was a son, a husband and father, and a friend to many. Staff Sergeant Bennett leaves behind his wife, Mandi, their 2-year-old daughter, and another child on the way. Because he served, America and the world are more free.

EOD technicians are the first line of defense in protecting our servicemembers overseas and with homeland missions. The EOD community deserves the respect and full resources of the Department of Defense to continue saving lives.

God bless the memory of Staff Sergeant Kenneth Bennett, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

SUPPORT RECOGNITION OF MALALA YOUSUFZAI BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. First, I think it is appropriate to welcome back my colleagues and to congratulate all of those who have chosen again, if reelected, to serve this great, great Nation, and for those for the first time who have the honor and privilege of being in this storied institution.

Now words are that we can come together and make a difference in the lives of Americans and we can, in fact, find a way to help the most vulnerable, the impoverished, and those who work every day. I know that we can solve this problem of sequestration.

I lead now into something that is quite contrary to the idea of America's issues and problems and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting a Congressional Gold Medal for Malala Yousufzai. This is the little girl who was shot in the head by the Taliban in Pakistan standing up for education for our children and for her fellow boys and girls. What an amazing young lady now healing in a British hospital.

Sixty-one million children worldwide are not enrolled in school. We're advocating, or many around the world are advocating, for a Nobel Peace Prize for her. I believe that the Congressional Gold Medal symbolizes those who are willing to suffer for others and to make a difference. I ask my colleagues to join me.

The United Nations declared Saturday, November 10, 2012, as Malala Day, to highlight the lack of access to education for 32 million girls. I think that we can join together and say we stand with girls and boys around the world and we stand with our children.

Support a Congressional Gold Medal for the little girl who was willing to stand up to the Taliban.

LET'S END PARTISAN GRIDLOCK

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. The American people have voiced their demands for an end to the partisan gridlock that has for far too long plagued Washington. They expect their elected officials to work across party lines and across the branches of government to solve the challenges facing our Nation.

Unless we act now, we run the risk of allowing this country to go off a fiscal cliff in January. This would have both severe economic and security ramifications. Defense Secretary Panetta says it would be devastating to our national defense.

The accounting firm Ernst & Young said it would cost us nearly 700,000 jobs. Almost every American would fall victim to a tax increase. This would be an unacceptable blow to our economy that is still struggling to get back on its feet.

House Republicans have already passed legislation to address these issues and stand ready to build upon them to avert this crisis.

THE FEDERAL WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the American people expect Congress to go to work, to create jobs and grow our economy. We all heard that message loud and clear in last week's election.

We have an opportunity to save 75,000 American jobs right now by extending the wind production tax credit. In Minnesota, this tax credit helped create an entire industry, employs thousands of people from construction workers to high-tech analysts, and all of these jobs now, well, they're under threat.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press ran a story last week, entitled, "Wind-energy jobs falling off as tax credit set to expire." Minnesota companies are now being forced to lay off workers because the House has failed to act.

Last quarter there was not one new single wind project announced in America because of the uncertainty of the tax credit. This is unacceptable and is completely avoidable.

There is strong bipartisan support for extending this credit. Congress cannot wait until December 31. I urge Congress to pass the wind production energy tax credit.

□ 1210

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MAYOR ARLENE MULDER

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

Mr. DOLD. Today, I rise to recognize a woman who embodies dedication to public service and the best of what we hope for in our public officials.

Recently, Mayor Arlene Mulder of Arlington Heights announced her retirement, ending a long and successful tenure. Mayor Mulder served her community as village president for 20 years—the longest-serving village president in Arlington Heights history. She is respected by her colleagues and constituents alike for her commitment to work together and to better her community. She has been an advocate for local businesses and has helped transform downtown Arlington Heights into the beautiful and vibrant area that it is today.

I want to express my appreciation for Mayor Mulder's 34 years in public service as village president, as trustee, and as park district commissioner. Her commitment to making Arlington Heights a better community is exactly what we look for in our public officials. I know she will continue to contribute in great ways to our communities, and I look forward to working with her in the future.

WE NEED A FARM BILL

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Last week, the American people spoke; and I, for one, heard them loud and clear: quit arguing and get your dang work done.

My suggestion is that we've got a piece that we can do today—pass the farm bill for America. America's farm economy has been one of the bright spots over the last 5 years, and our farmers and our consumers deserve some certainty. The House has already passed the farm bill through the Agriculture Committee with a two-thirds vote. The Senate passed a farm bill with a two-thirds majority. They couldn't agree it's Wednesday over there, yet they passed a farm bill. This bill adds certainty to rural America. It creates jobs on Main Street. It provides stable prices in the grocery stores, and it makes sure that in drought-stricken

areas of our country farmers are there to produce.

This is a jobs bill. It's a bipartisan bill. It's a compromise. Every major farm and nutrition group has asked for it to be done. All we need to do is to bring it to the floor and to push one of the two buttons—"yes" for jobs in rural America and food for this country or "no" for more gridlock. I think we want the green button.

VOICE OF TEXAS: ELM

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Elm from Houston, Texas, wrote me this:

My grandparents immigrated to the United States from the Philippines in the sixties. They spoke no English, had very little money and virtually no contacts, yet they were able to create a legacy. They legally became American citizens. They built a strong life and worked hard. Our family became successful through self-dedication, self-worth, self-drive, and self-perseverance—similar to many immigrants before them. We did this without the help and having to rely on government handouts or legislative attempts to redistribute wealth through mass programs. In return, our family gave back to this great country. Since then, we have had four generations of military service in the United States Navy or the United States Army. We worked hard. We beat adversity. We gave back and we served this country.

Mr. Speaker, Elm and Elm's family worked hard for their American Dream. This is an immigrant success story in spite of and without the help of big, oppressive government.

And that's just the way it is.

HURRICANE SANDY

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Sandy was an unprecedented storm that left a devastating impact on the New Jersey and New York region—damaging homes, businesses and leaving millions without power. My district was hit particularly hard. Numerous substations in our area were submerged under water, leaving many residents without electricity for nearly 2 weeks.

As a result, thousands of linemen have worked around the clock to assist those in need and to help restore power. Not only have those in the New Jersey and New York region joined together to help those impacted by Sandy, but hundreds of individuals from across the country have come to lend a hand to the people of New Jersey. Just the other day, as I was touring the damaged areas of my district, I saw license plates that ranged from Wisconsin to Louisiana.

Whether they have come from around the block or from hundreds of miles away in order to assist our region in its recovery, I want to thank all the workers and volunteers.