

As one of the most decorated marines in World War II and with over 28 years of military service, Colonel Russell spent a life serving his country. And while his military career was second to none, Russell's humanitarian and philanthropic work was equally remarkable. Indeed, it was his commitment to service and serving others that made him a pillar for both the Nation's military and his local community, which encompasses much of central Pennsylvania and well beyond.

A graduate of Boston College, Russell was one of the first alternates for the 1940 U.S. Olympic track team in the 800 meters, a sport he loved with a passion.

Immediately following his completion of undergraduate studies, Russell began his career in uniform when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. During his service, Colonel Russell took part and played a role in seminal moments in the country's history.

As one of the youngest battalion commanders in World War II, at the age of 27, Russell was responsible for leading 1,000 troops during the first major offensive by Allied forces against the Empire of Japan—the Battle of Guadalcanal. Russell suffered shrapnel wounds during the campaign after being hit by Japanese aircraft during landing.

At the ripe age of 29, Russell landed in the third assault wave on Iwo Jima, Red Beach One, and fought for all 36 days. Again wounded during battle, Russell went on to witness the historical raising of the American flag on Mount Suribachi.

These are just a few of the many remarkable experiences of this amazing individual, Mr. Speaker.

Following his retirement from the Marine Corps, Russell went on to serve others through roles in academia and philanthropy, including as associate dean of the College of Health and Physical Education at Pennsylvania State University.

During this time and after, Russell was always a tireless community and volunteer advocate.

He was the founder and chairman of the local United Way Day of Caring, served as a member of the United Way board of directors, and played an active role in the Pennsylvania Special Olympics, the Centre Country Toys for Tots, and many other programs that benefit our local community.

Mr. Speaker, in all of these endeavors, Russell inspired so many to give back and pushed his community to do the same. He led a life built on service, sacrifice, and a commitment to others.

Colonel Russell once stated that he hoped that he would be remembered for the impact that his life had on others and that he made a difference. Well, Mr. Speaker, I rise today as one more voice among the countless others across Pennsylvania, the country, and the world to praise Colonel Russell for doing just that. We thank you for your unparalleled service to this Nation and our community. May you rest with God, my friend.

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 30 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 Jason Parks, Refuge Church, Huntsville, Alabama, offered the following prayer:

Father God, thank You for the rich blessings You've lavished on the United States of America.

We are so unworthy of Your grace and Your mercy. Today, we pray for the men and women of the United States House of Representatives.

Give them great wisdom, protection, and steadfast resolve. In their personal lives we ask that You replace turmoil with peace, bitterness with joy, and doubt with encouragement.

For our country, Father, we ask that You give us a renewed sense of gratitude, an unquenchable zeal for serving those who are in need, and unity toward the common purpose of liberty.

Above all else, Father, we honor You today. We humbly intercede on behalf of our country and her leaders.

In Jesus' name, 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 Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. JENKINS 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 JASON PARKS

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, it is with great privilege that I welcome Pastor Jason Parks to the House of Representatives and thank him for serving as today's guest chaplain.

Jason is the lead pastor of Refuge Church in Huntsville, Alabama.

He received an undergraduate degree in communications arts from the University of North Alabama, an MBA from Liberty University, and a master of divinity from Rockbridge Seminary.

Pastor Jason currently serves on the ALS Association Patient Care Committee, Calhoun Community College EMS Advisory Board, and as faculty at Huntsville Bible College. He is also a former Crestwood Medical Center associate chaplain and is credentialed as a board-certified pastoral counselor.

Pastor Jason resides in Hazel Green, Alabama, with his wife and three children.

I appreciate the work he has done for our community and his passion for serving the people of north Alabama.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

K9S FOR WARRIORS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize K9s for Warriors, a remarkable Florida organization that is providing therapeutic service dogs for veterans suffering from issues like posttraumatic stress disorder, PTSD.

One in five of our heroes returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan have PTSD, a tragic epidemic that can disrupt the transition to civilian life and often causes the loss of hope, damage to family relationships, or harm to themselves and others.

Since its inception, K9s for Warriors has provided over 100 therapy dogs to veterans, at no cost to the veterans, teaching, certifying, housing, and feeding each warrior as they learn to train the dog to address their specific disabilities and assist in mitigating posttraumatic stress.

K9s for Warriors is not only healing invisible disorders and putting suffering veterans on the path to recovery, but it is also giving new hope to the heroes and their families who put their lives on the line to defend ours.

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station is one of western New York's most critical resources. It is not only an asset to our region's economy, but also to our Nation's security. Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station employs over 3,500 western New Yorkers and has an economic

impact of more than \$200 million annually.

I am proud to be a part of a large group of community stakeholders who are deeply invested in the successful future of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. Last year, Customs and Border Protection selected the base as their top choice for construction of a new border patrol station.

Mr. Speaker, I am committed to help see this proposal through, in addition to others that will ensure that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station remains a fixture in our community for many years to come.

RELIEF FROM THE HEALTH CARE LAW

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

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend this Chamber for passing three pieces of legislation this week that will offer Americans relief from the President's health care law.

These bills, which passed with bipartisan support, reaffirm America's commitment to the ideals of religious freedom, volunteerism, and military service. Unfortunately, the President's health care law has put all three of these in jeopardy.

As written, the law would force Americans with a conscientious religious objection to buy health insurance and count volunteer firefighters, other emergency responders, Active military members, and our Nation's veterans toward the employer mandate tax thresholds.

I am a proud cosponsor of three of these bills because they all will ensure the Affordable Care Act does not discriminate against Americans on the basis of religion or sacrifice.

EXTEND LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, last week, the number of those cut off from emergency unemployment insurance surpassed 2 million Americans—men and women who worked hard but lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

I represent northeastern Pennsylvania, and my district has been particularly hard hit. In Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, the unemployment rate is 7.5 percent; in the Scranton/Wilkes Barre area it is 7.7 percent.

Congress could and simply should reinstate the expired Federal program. These Americans lost their jobs due to no fault of their own. They don't deserve to lose their homes as well. I will shortly be introducing legislation to implement a 6-month moratorium on foreclosures for people who have lost their unemployment insurance but are

otherwise paid up on their mortgages due to this congressional inaction.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to vote to extend long-term unemployment compensation.

SEPARATION OF POLITICAL POWER

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as the House takes up the topic of executive overreach this week, we should take a minute to note that this issue is institutional, not partisan.

In a recent LA Times column, Jonathan Turley, after acknowledging that he agreed with many of the policies of the current administration, went on to say:

In our system, it is often more important how we do something than what we do. Priorities and policies and Presidents change. Democrats will rue the day of their acquiescence to this shift of power when a future President negates an environmental law, or an antidiscrimination law, or tax laws.

The separation of political power among three equal branches was designed to guard against too much power accumulating in the hands of any one person or branch. This system is one of the main reasons our government has endured for nearly a quarter of a millennium.

We should not cast it aside lightly.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT DAVID POIRIER

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Master Sergeant David Poirier, a Rhode Islander who served in the New Hampshire National Guard.

On February 28, Master Sergeant Poirier died in a noncombat-related incident while serving in the United States Air Force in Qatar in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was laid to rest on March 10 with military honors.

Master Sergeant Poirier was from North Smithfield, Rhode Island. After serving in the United States Air Force, he joined the Rhode Island National Guard, where he was trained as a life support journeyman. In 1995, he transferred to the New Hampshire Air National Guard and continued his service as a member of the 157th Operations Support Squadron for over 19 years.

Our Nation calls upon our brave men and women in uniform to protect our great democracy. There are no greater heroes than the men and women who answer this call and make the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe. It is because of their service that we are able to enjoy the great freedoms, privileges, and rights we have here at home.

Master Sergeant Poirier will be remembered for his friendly personality,

warmth, and enduring selflessness, and I extend my thoughts and prayers to Master Sergeant Poirier's family—his wife, Kim, four children, and two grandchildren.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, every day when I am talking to constituents, their top concern is always the economy and jobs. They are frustrated—as I am—that we have something like 3.8 million Americans who have been unemployed for more than 27 weeks now. And I am consistently asked by people: What can be done? How can we make this better?

In addition to urging the Senate to pass numerous pieces of jobs legislation that have moved through the House, the President needs to approve the Keystone XL pipeline. It has been more than 2,000 days since the pipeline application was submitted for approval, 2,000 days that the administration has delayed something like 20,000 direct jobs and 120,000 indirect jobs. It took less time to fight and win World War II. It took much less time to build the Empire State Building, and it has taken us much longer to do this than to build the first computer.

If we can win world wars and create an entire industry for computers, we can surely make a decision about the Keystone pipeline. Mr. President, do the right thing. Approve the pipeline.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NEVADA

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to commemorate my home State of Nevada's upcoming birthday on March 21, which will mark 150 years since Nevada was admitted to the Union in 1864. On that historic day, President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation allowing the Nevada Territory to draft its own constitution and form a State government, making us a true "Battle Born State."

Throughout its history, Nevada has embodied the rugged and adventurous spirit of the West. People from all walks of life have journeyed to our State to seek new opportunities, eventually settling down and contributing to Nevada's rich diversity.

On March 21, Nevada will come together to celebrate our State's history and achievements, but we will also be looking toward the future. Nevada's best days are yet ahead, and I look forward to seeing what comes next.

Happy birthday, Nevada.