

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1281. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2142. An act to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100-702, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individual to the board of the Federal Judicial Center Foundation:

Peter Kraus of Texas, vice Richard D. Casey of South Dakota.

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 42 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. SMITH of Nebraska) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Robert Jeffress, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come into Your presence recognizing that You are the one true God, the Lord over all creation.

Father, today I want to thank You for the men and women in this House who so selflessly serve You and serve our Nation. I pray that You would bless their work, protect their families, reassure them that they are in this place of leadership because You have promoted them here.

Today, Father, we acknowledge that all of us are here on Earth not to do our will but to accomplish Your will. We affirm the words of the psalmist who said, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

We confess that no individual, no nation can experience Your favor apart from obeying Your commands, following Your principles. Father, I pray You would grant these Representatives the wisdom to lead our Nation and to do just that, so that we may experience Your blessings and not Your judgment.

We pray all of these things in the name of the One who was born in Beth-

lehem, who died on a cross, and rose again that we might have eternal life, Jesus Christ our Lord. It is in His name that 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 gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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 DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, our chaplain today is Dr. Robert Jeffress, senior pastor of the 11,000-member First Baptist Church in Dallas. His opinions are ubiquitous on radio and television, as is his radio program, "Pathway to Victory."

His weekly TV program is on over 1,200 stations and systems worldwide, while he has authored 21 books and is a FOX News contributor.

While some churches flee downtown areas, Dr. Jeffress led his church in a massive revitalization of downtown Dallas. He has a bachelor's from Baylor, master's from Dallas Theological Seminary, doctorates from Southwestern Theological Seminary and Dallas Baptist University.

He and his wife, Amy, have two daughters, Julia and Dorothy, who are here today, and son-in-law, Ryan Sadler.

Dr. Robert Jeffress is principled, brilliant, charitable, and his faith in God leaves no room for fear of man. He and my wife, Kathy, grew up together in church, and he is a dear, treasured friend of mine.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

NORTH STATE AVIATION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize North State Aviation, an aircraft maintenance company based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

In November I had the pleasure of attending the company's fourth anniversary event to celebrate the completion of work on their 300th United Airlines aircraft and 400th aircraft overall.

In just 4 short years, North State Aviation has experienced exponential job growth, going from zero to 365 full-time employees. More than 100 of those employees are military veterans.

However, the economic impact of North State Aviation goes beyond the company itself. While the company's ambitious growth plan has enabled hundreds of workers to find jobs in Winston-Salem, the local community and the region's aviation industry have benefited as well.

As a result of North State's success, Smith Reynolds Airport has been able to afford the ongoing construction of Runway 4-22, and the airport's master plan includes an additional hangar, in part to give North State more expansion space.

North State Aviation is a company that recognized an opportunity and seized it through hard work and innovation. Its resulting success is well deserved.

SOUTH SUDAN

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern about the ongoing situation in South Sudan. Next Monday we will mark the 1-year anniversary of the outbreak of civil conflict in that young country, which gained its independence in 2011.

Since that conflict began, as many as 2 million people have been displaced, while 1.5 million people are without secure access to food. 50,000 civilians are estimated to have been killed as a result of the fighting between the rival factions.

Alarming, Mr. Speaker, both sides have been stockpiling weapons and are expected to launch fresh attacks once the rainy season ends.

The international community, with strong American leadership, must encourage a peaceful resolution before further bloodshed occurs.

I want to commend the United Nations Mission in South Sudan peacekeepers for their hard work bringing aid to those in need, and I thank Secretary Kerry for his efforts to achieve a political settlement.

I traveled to Juba in 2007. As a matter of fact, the former chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentlewoman from Florida, was with me. I saw a nation full of promise and hope for the future on the cusp of its independence. That bright future of possibilities for the people of South Sudan ought not to be dimmed by violence, instability, and enmity.

As Americans, we must exert our diplomatic arsenal to bring an end to the fighting and restore that promise of a peaceful and hopeful future for South Sudan.

SANCTIONS IN IRAN

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

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, recently negotiations with Iran over the country's nuclear program were extended again for another 7 months. This extension, however, carried no additional or strengthened economic sanctions on Iran. Disturbingly, we have now heard that the administration has considered sanctions against Israel, our ally.

A nuclear Iran poses an incredible threat to the Middle East and to the United States. The security of our allies, including Israel, and the stability of the region is at stake. Stronger sanctions are needed regarding Iran—not our ally Israel—to increase pressure, advance negotiations, and achieve a favorable outcome for the U.S. and all of our allies. There is no room for error, and the administration must get a strong agreement in place.

H.R. 850, the Nuclear Iran Prevention Act of 2013, seeks to strengthen and update sanctions on Iran. This passed the House of Representatives. Despite broad bipartisan support, the Senate has done nothing on this bill. The Senate needs to take it up and increase pressure on Iran to reach an agreement. We cannot afford to wait.

FEMA AID FOR WESTERN NEW YORK

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, when a natural disaster strikes, the damage and cleanup costs often far exceed the local government's ability to respond and to rebuild.

Americans take comfort in the knowledge that the Federal Government will aid in the response by providing assistance to mitigate the often massive costs of natural disasters.

The recent record-breaking snowstorm in western New York reminded the Nation that Buffalonians are resilient and generous people. That was on display during the storm and its aftermath with so many instances of neighbors helping neighbors.

The storm also left my community with significant expenses in terms of the emergency response and structures that collapsed under the weight of the snow. That is why I have joined the western New York delegation to urge FEMA to act quickly to certify the disaster and disburse assistance.

Western New Yorkers are the first to volunteer to aid other communities in need. Now we must ensure a helping hand is there for them when they are in need.

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House moved forward historic legislation that represents widespread Montana priorities. From protecting some of our State's greatest treasures, as well as access to our public lands, to developing Montana's energy resources and creating better certainty for our farmers and ranchers, this bill reflects the concerns of Montanans from across our entire State. But just as importantly, it represents the way we do things in Montana and the kind of change we need to see in Washington.

In Montana, we know the importance of rolling up our sleeves and working together to get something done. By coming together, the Montana delegation and Montanans from all corners of our State were able to break gridlock in Washington and bring this most important legislation forward.

I am proud that the House acted last week and passed this bill with strong bipartisan support. I call on the Senate to quickly do the same.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF STEVE SAULS

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend Steve Sauls, Florida International University's vice president for governmental relations, who is retiring after more than 30 years of commitment to the community and the State of Florida.

During his tenure at FIU, Steve helped secure funding for the International Hurricane Center in the wake of Hurricane Andrew, fought to receive authorization for the College of Law at FIU, and played a key role in creating the College of Medicine. Through these efforts and countless others, Steve has helped develop FIU into one of the top public universities in the country. I have been honored to represent FIU in my district and work with Steve to help support this vibrant educational community.

After building a long track record of impressive accomplishments, Steve will be sorely missed. I urge you to join me in recognizing his contributions to south Florida and our country.

HONORING MAJOR KEVIN TANN, UNITED STATES ARMY

(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 today to honor Army congressional liaison to the U.S. House of Rep-

resentatives Major Kevin Tann. Major Tann will be leaving his post at the end of this month but will continue to serve our great Nation working in cyber intelligence at the U.S. Army Cyber Command in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Originally a native of North Carolina, Kevin chose to attend college at my alma mater, Florida International University, where he earned a degree in criminal justice and a master of arts in public administration.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army's Aviation Branch, Kevin participated in multiple combat tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has earned the Army Aviation and Parachutist Badges, the Bronze Star Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, and many others.

It is my distinct pleasure to join with Kevin's family, friends, peers, his wife, Joy Tann, and his son, Kevin Joseph Tann, as they honor the many accomplishments of his outstanding career.

THE HOUR OF CODE

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

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the issue of gender imbalance in the computing industry.

Today, women make up over half of the American workforce but only a quarter of the professional computing occupations. We see a similar imbalance in the classrooms. Girls in high school take over half of all the advanced placement exams but only a fifth of computer science exams.

This imbalance deprives the computing industry of a great resource of human capital, and it limits its creativity. To address this imbalance, we need to encourage our female students to pursue computer science as early as possible.

In that spirit, I would like to recognize Computer Science Education Week and the Hour of Code. These programs have reached tens of millions of students worldwide. We need programs like these to ensure that the next generation of computer professionals is diverse so we have all the best talent.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MAJOR D. "JIM" OLMES, JR., OF OIL CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the life of Major D. "Jim" Olmes, Jr., of Oil City, Venango County, Pennsylvania. A World War II veteran, a beloved family member, and community leader, Mr. Olmes passed away last week at the age of 93.