

the end of the Civil War, but returning this flag to a place of honor would undermine that progress. It is time to relegate this symbol of hate to the dustbin of history.

Take it down.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL).

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for leading on this issue.

It must be throwback Thursday, because just yesterday the South Carolina State House voted to take down the Confederate flag. However, today our House Republican colleagues want a bill, they want an amendment that will put that flag back up and allow people to salute that same flag across our country in our national parks.

It is time to finally, once and for all, take down an ugly flag that is nothing more than a tribute to an ugly past. Mr. Speaker, let's throw down this flag. Let's not throw back to an ugly part of our history.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 47 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

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

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

In these most important days and debates here in the people's House, we beg You to send Your spirit of wisdom as the Members struggle to do the work that has been entrusted to them. Inspire them to work together with charity, and join their efforts to accomplish what our Nation needs to live into a prosperous and secure future.

In this week in the wake of celebrating the great blessings bestowed upon our Republic, please bless those men and women who serve our Nation in uniform wherever they may be.

Please keep all the Members of this Congress, and all who work for the people's House, in good health, that they might faithfully fulfill the great responsibility given them by the people of this great Nation.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings 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 Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BEATTY 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

FIGHTING FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE'S LAND, WATER, AND HERITAGE

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and its impact on both New Hampshire's natural resources and our access to hunting, fishing, and outdoor activities.

Established by Congress in 1965, the LWCF provides money to Federal, State, and local governments to purchase and preserve land, water, and wetlands for the benefit of all Americans.

As Granite Staters know, we are blessed to call one of the most pristine ecological environments in the Nation our home. From the seacoast region to the White Mountain National Forest to Lake Winnipesaukee, outdoor recreation and activities are a vital part of New Hampshire's First Congressional District's economy.

In fact, the Outdoor Industry Association found that active outdoor recreation generates \$4.2 billion annually in consumer spending in New Hampshire, supports nearly 50,000 jobs across the State, and produces \$293 million annually in State and local revenue. Furthermore, over 800,000 people hunt, fish, or watch wildlife in New Hampshire each year, spending over \$560 million on wildlife-related recreation.

It is no surprise that the LWCF is a critical part in maintaining and strengthening those numbers, while simultaneously preserving our beautiful State.

I urge my colleagues to join in support of this legislation.

CANCER DRUG COVERAGE PARITY ACT

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this year, more than 1.5 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer. Fortunately, innovative research has led to more effective and accessible treatments. However, insurance has not kept pace with the science, and cancer patients are paying the price.

Chemotherapy, previously administered only through injection, is now available for many types of cancer in pill form. Today, oral chemotherapy represents 35 percent of all new cancer drugs. However, copayments for oral chemo can be hundreds or thousands of dollars per month. As a result, it prevents patients from filling their prescriptions.

A cancer patient should never be forced to make a treatment decision based on finances. That is why I joined Congressman LEONARD LANCE to reintroduce the Cancer Drug Coverage Parity Act, which would require health insurance plans that cover traditional chemotherapy to provide no less favorable coverage for prescribed orally administered drugs.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan effort to ensure cancer patients can receive the treatments their doctors prescribe.

START REBUILDING AMERICA

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, David Keene for 27 years headed the American Conservative Union and is now opinion editor of The Washington Times.

Last month he wrote that, as a result of our wars and attempts at nation building in the Middle East, there "is a generation of young Americans who have never known peace; a decade in which thousands of our best have died or been maimed with little to show for their sacrifices, our enemies have multiplied, and our national debt has skyrocketed."

Now we are about to spend \$82 billion in the OCO account for our unnecessary wars and nation building in Iraq and Afghanistan and other parts of the Middle East. This is over and above our regular defense budget. This 1-year, \$82 billion appropriation would more than pay for a 6-year highway bill, which everyone on both sides say they want.

Let's stop trying to foolishly rebuild the Middle East and start rebuilding America. Let's bring all those hundreds of thousands of jobs home.

TAKE DOWN THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the strongest possible opposition to House Republican efforts to support hate through the promotion of the Confederate battle flag.

Make no mistake, the Confederate battle flag is a symbol of hate and racism. The Calvert amendment would allow for the display and sale of this symbol of hate at our national parks and Federal cemeteries. That is outrageous.

This flag speaks to one of the darkest moments in our Nation's history, and its display and sale in our national parks is simply unconscionable. Today, our Nation still grieves the tragedy in Charleston, and we remember the nine lives that were tragically cut short by a person whose sole goal was hate and division.

The South Carolina Legislature voted last night in a bipartisan way to take down the Confederate battle flag from the statehouse. Likewise, major retailers have removed this symbol of hate from their shelves. Yet my Republican colleagues want to return it to our national parks and Federal cemeteries. This is simply outrageous.

It is past time for our Nation to get serious about putting away not only these hateful symbols, but ensuring liberty and justice for all. It is past time to take it down.

NATURAL GAS

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, as a result of the shale energy revolution, America has moved from a posture of energy scarcity to one of energy abundance. This shift is helping to drive economic growth, environmental stewardship, and greater energy security. However, without the acceleration of natural gas infrastructure in all regions of the country, only a few will benefit.

A large interstate gas transmission project has been proposed to bring this affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy source to southeastern North Carolina, and with it the potential for economic growth in some of our State's most economically challenged and rural areas.

We are blessed with the natural resources and innovations in technology to be the energy capital of the world, which would drive economic growth to new heights. The Congress must put into place rational and predictable regulatory structures that create a more stable climate for the natural gas industry.

I urge my colleagues to support policy solutions that will lead to energy independence and economic growth for America.

CONFEDERATE FLAG DOES NOT REPRESENT AMERICA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, we have children to educate, and we have children to love and to have them to

understand what America is all about. We are southerners and northerners. We come from the East and the West. We love our cooking, we love our culture, but we are Americans. So today I ask this body to allow us to debate this question to a resolution that enhances American unity.

The Supreme Court issued a statement in *Walker v. Sons of Confederate Veterans*, a Texas case. Before the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, early on, as just a civilian, I argued against Confederate license plates. We won that case. The Supreme Court said that public speech that offends or oppresses is not allowed.

I am not talking about the flag on your car or your home, but I am saying that this rebel flag does not represent America, does not teach our children, and it does not heal. And I would offer to say that we are long overdue for a debate like that in the senate in South Carolina, to follow Reverend Pinckney's words that we have to know how to break the cycle and of a roadway toward a better world. He knew that a path of greatness involves an open mind, but more importantly, an open heart.

I hope we can debate H. Res. 342, which enhances the unity of our country, not this flag.

HONORING CHARLES "CHUCK" HARMON

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, Cincinnati will host the Major League Baseball All-Star Game, and I want to take the opportunity to recognize a famous Redleg, Charles "Chuck" Harmon, the first African American to play for the Cincinnati Reds.

Chuck Harmon paved the way for many African American major league baseball players, like fellow Redleg Frank Robinson, who credits Harmon as helping launch his career.

Mr. Harmon entered the 1954 season on April 17 as a right-handed infielder with the Reds. With a .242 batting average during his Reds career, he was also known as the fastest player on the team during his rookie season.

Ohio's Second District continues to celebrate Mr. Harmon's legacy by celebrating his career at the Great American Ball Park at the All-Star game 50 years after his first at bat, by renaming a street in his hometown of Golf Manor to Chuck Harmon Way, and by unveiling a statue for the Reds Urban Youth Academy in Roselawn.

Thank you, Chuck Harmon, for your pioneering contributions to breaking the color barrier in our Nation's pastime. Your accomplishments will forever be recognized by generations of Americans to come.

TAKE DOWN THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I awoke this morning to find news that last night, in the wee hours, House Republican leadership advanced an amendment to allow the display of the Confederate battle flag in Federal cemeteries and to allow National Park Service agents to do business with gift shops that sell Confederate battle flags.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when South Carolina, itself the cradle of the Confederacy, has outlawed the flying of the Confederate battle flag on their statehouse grounds, at a time when all Americans were horrified at the slaughter of nine churchgoers by an individual motivated by that battle flag, at a time when everyone understands and acknowledges that it is a symbol of hate, we find the House Republican leadership wrapping itself in the Confederate battle flag. I object to this.

ENSURING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR HUMANITY

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, early this year, I had the opportunity to meet with Ambassador David Saperstein, the U.S. Ambassador At Large for International Religious Freedom. He is tasked with leading America's fight against religious persecution throughout the world. This is a significant mandate, especially in the Middle East, where Christian, Jewish, and minority Muslim communities that have been settled in the same areas for millennia are being uprooted, subjugated, and murdered.

These aren't acts of geopolitical jockeying or even political domination. These are acts of pure, unadulterated evil perpetuated by those of dark and wicked souls.

Fundamental American values, among which are commitments to religious freedom and human rights, will always be the cornerstone of this Nation's foreign policy.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1150, the Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, because now, more than ever, we need to ensure that former Congressman Frank Wolf's landmark legislation is updated for the 21st century to be able to give us the best tools to promote religious freedom around the globe.

I thank Ambassador Saperstein for his work.

□ 1215

REMOVE CONFEDERATE FLAGS FROM OUR NATIONAL PARKS

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