

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 11 o'clock and 8 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. GRAVES of Louisiana) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Nathaniel Demosthene, First Timothy Christian Church, Spring Valley, New York, offered the following prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, it is with thanksgiving and a mournful heart that we approach this day as we remember the lives lost and tragically affected by the earthquake in Haiti 6 years ago this day.

Today we are grateful, God, for the lives rescued by the actions of our President as well as the bipartisan endeavors of the Members of this Congress and the heroic men and women in the armed services.

We pray for our elected Representatives in this assembly and ask that You imbue them with wisdom as they face ever-increasing difficult and complex decisions concerning the direction of this country. Enable them to act responsibly and selflessly in the fulfillment of their oaths of office.

Bless our Nation and teach us to leverage our resources to ameliorate the lives of our global citizens, especially the most vulnerable among them, both domestic and abroad.

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 Washington (Mr. KILMER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILMER 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
NATHANIEL DEMOSTHENE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New

York (Mrs. LOWEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Reverend Nathaniel "Nate" Demosthene of Nyack, New York, for offering today's opening prayer.

A graduate of Spring Valley High School and of Yale University, Pastor Nate teaches in the East Ramapo Central School District and at Rockland Community College.

For the last 5 years, he has led First Timothy Christian Church, which, under his guidance, has been a source of support for Haitian Americans in our community following the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

Together we will continue to work toward our shared goals of democracy, prosperity, and success for the Haitian people.

Again I thank Pastor Nate for his excellent work and for being here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

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

REJECT EPA'S POWER GRAB OF
THE WATERS OF THE UNITED
STATES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this week we will send a measure to the President that rejects the EPA's waters of the United States power grab, a measure that the Senate has already joined us in supporting.

The EPA's plan would grant it jurisdiction over fully 95 percent of my home State of California, allowing an unaccountable Federal agency to insert itself into land use decisions across the State. In my district, residents have experienced Federal actions so ludicrous that I can't make them up.

In Tehama County, a farmer was fined for planting wheat in a manner that the government claimed damaged navigable waters. Never mind that the farm has been listed as a wheat allotment by the USDA for decades.

In another instance, the government used the Clean Water Act to attack a family farm for shifting to more efficient irrigation systems, this during a drought in California. Imagine getting fined for saving water.

In both instances, the government sanctioned farmers for activities that are clearly exempt under the Clean Water Act.

In fact, language I sponsored to defund the regulation of exempt activities was signed into law in December; yet, the EPA persists in these illegal activities.

When Congress can't trust Federal agencies to use the authority they al-

ready have and when we can't trust them to follow clear congressional direction, how can we possibly consider granting them more power and more responsibility?

IN HONOR OF U.S. ARMY STAFF
SERGEANT MATTHEW MCCLINTOCK

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Matthew McClintock, a fallen hero who answered the call to serve his country.

Last week I had the solemn honor of joining his family—his wife, Ali, his 3-month-old son, Declan, his parents, and others—at Dover Air Force Base for Sergeant McClintock's final trip home. It was an experience I will never forget. It is important that his service and the sacrifice that he and his family have made be acknowledged here in the House of Representatives.

Sergeant McClintock joined the Army in 2006, and he served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. On his most recent deployment, he was serving as a citizen soldier in a National Guard Special Forces unit.

Not only will he be remembered as a Green Beret and as a hero, he will be remembered as a loving son, husband, and father who was so proud to welcome his son into the world. That world is stronger and better because of his service.

Nothing we can say can ease his family's pain, but I can promise that the service of this hero and his sacrifice will not be forgotten. It will live on in the memories of those he called comrades and in the memories of his commanders, who routinely cite the example he set.

It will live on in the gratitude of this Nation. Most importantly, it will live on with his wife, son, and other family members, who knew better than anyone else his love for his country and for the people in his life.

THE PRESIDENT'S PUSH ON GUN
CONTROL

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the President's proposed executive actions on gun control. And you will probably hear more about this tonight, right here in this Chamber.

The Second Amendment has been engrained in American life since 1791, and, since then, Congress has been committed to preserving those constitutional rights. However, the President has a different agenda.

His proposed plan on gun control is yet another example of his unconstitutional legislative strategy, using executive orders and circumventing Congress to get his way.

Recent events have shown us that Americans deserve the right to protect

themselves, and stripping law-abiding citizens of their right to bear arms will not accomplish that.

The American people do not want to see their Second Amendment rights limited, and neither do I. I will do everything in my power to fight against this administration's gun grab.

For 225 years, Americans have had the right to bear arms, and I am not about to see this right be compromised for the sake of a political legacy. The Constitution is not merely a significance. It is the law of the land.

END THE OVER-PRESCRIPTION OF PAIN KILLERS

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, last month the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidelines that urge primary care physicians to think twice before prescribing opioids for pain relief. I strongly support their call. Last year I asked the Federation of State Medical Boards to encourage stronger guidelines as well.

New research suggests that the over-prescription of opioids may be widespread across the medical community. Pain management is an important part of a physician's practice, but it is critical that prescribers understand when options other than these highly addictive drugs are available.

Mr. Speaker, last year the number of fatal overdoses from prescription painkillers increased by 16 percent and, from heroin, 28 percent. There are 19,000 Americans who lost their lives, and more die every day.

I thank the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for their work on this issue, and I urge the administration, Congress, and the medical community to end the over-prescription of painkillers.

THE PRESIDENT'S LEGACY OF FAILURE

(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, this evening the President will address Congress and the American people and will defend his legacy of failure in jobs, national defense, and more gun control.

The President's legacy has destroyed jobs and has increased regulations that cripple small business. He should change course to support creating jobs and reducing unnecessary regulations, and he should repeal ObamaCare.

The President's legacy overseas—abandoning Iraq, not upholding the red line in Syria, and opposing a NATO training force in Libya—allowed ISIS to grow, with children fleeing, drowning at sea.

The President should change course to actually destroy ISIS. American

families need a positive plan for victory in the global war on terrorism.

The President's legacy of more gun control would not have stopped any of the mass attacks. The President should change course to reform mental health and to stop terrorists from attacking American families.

I join the rest of America in hoping the President offers a positive agenda for the American people tonight, not more Big Government failure.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

2015 NCAA FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Congressman ROBERT ADERHOLT, as well as with the rest of the Alabama delegation, to congratulate Coach Nick Saban and the Crimson Tide for a tremendous victory last night in the NCAA National Football Championship.

What can I say? Roll Tide.

The win represents the 16th National Football Championship for the Crimson Tide and the fourth national title in 7 years under the leadership of Coach Nick Saban. What an awesome record.

The State of Alabama and its delegation are extremely proud of the talented football players, coaches, students, and fans. From Heisman Trophy winner Derrick Henry, quarterback Jake Coker, and the tremendous 95-yard run of Kenyan Drake, all of the players—the entire 2015 team—deserve our applause and congratulations. This team will join the annals of Tide history as one of the 16 national championship teams. What an honor.

We also acknowledge the Clemson University Tigers for a great season and a great championship game last night.

I want to personally acknowledge Representative JEFF DUNCAN and his staff for the friendly wager and the spirited banter on social media. I know that Congressman DUNCAN will look great on the Capitol steps in the Bear Bryant houndstooth hat and in the University of Alabama tie. Now bring on that South Carolina barbecue.

Once again, we, the Alabama delegation, stand here today with slight humility and great pride to congratulate the Crimson Tide of the University of Alabama as the 2015 National Football Champion.

What do we say collectively? Roll Tide.

SERVICEMEMBERS RETIREMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, most of America's Guard and Reserve forces also hold civilian jobs in addition to their military service; but, unfortunately, the IRS doesn't treat these heroes fairly when it comes to their retirement savings.

Right now, if a Guard or a Reserve servicemember decides to benefit from a Thrift Savings Plan, or TSP, match, then the IRS may limit the member's ability to save for retirement simply because he also has a civilian career.

This is wrong, which is why I will be introducing the Servicemembers Retirement Improvement Act. I am pleased that the bill is supported by a wide range of military and veteran advocacy groups.

Just because they happen to be serving our country, our servicemembers shouldn't be penalized when it comes to saving for their retirements. We are working hard to right this wrong.

THE STATE OF THE UNION'S EMPTY SEAT

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, tonight, for the first time, there will be one empty seat in our First Lady's box for the State of the Union Address. One seat will be left open next to Ryan Reyes, whose boyfriend, Daniel Kaufman, was shot and killed in the recent terrorist attack in San Bernardino. That open seat will represent Daniel and all of the Americans who have lost their lives to gun violence.

Tonight, when I look at that empty chair, I am going to be thinking about Mary Matsumoto, a 72-year-old woman who was shot and killed in San Pedro last January; Armando Bejar, a 15-year-old boy who was shot and killed in Compton in September; Lucille Wills, a 74-year-old woman who was shot and killed in Carson in April; Emmanuel Sosa, an 18-year-old young man who was shot and killed in Wilmington, California, in June.

That seat will represent the 436 people who have been shot and killed in just Los Angeles County alone since the last State of the Union. Heartbreakingly, if we were to save empty seats for each one of those victims, every seat on the House floor tonight would be empty.

□ 1215

HONORING THE LIFE OF HOWARD GAMBLE

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Dr. Richard Howard Gamble of Sheffield, Alabama, who passed away on Christmas Day.

Howard served as a giant in the field of dentistry where he held numerous