

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Kent Clark, Grace Gospel Fellowship, Pontiac, Michigan, offered the following prayer:

Our God, our Father, we call upon Your name—a name at which every knee shall bow. Your name is Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father. You are the Prince of Peace, the Rose of Sharon, the Lily of the Valley, and the bright Morning Star. You are the fairest of 10,000.

You are the great creator God, alpha and omega, beginning and end, first and last. Your name is Redeemer and the Lord, the Way, the Truth and Life, Bread of Life, and Author and Finisher of our faith.

We know no greater judgment could befall a nation than for it to be deserted by God, left to be the play thing of malignant forces.

Speak to us, O great Jehovah.

We know a sparrow does not fall without Your notice, and we know that a nation cannot rise without Your aid.

In the name of Joshua, Jesus saves, Immanuel—God with us.

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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WALBERG led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND KENT CLARK

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise—very proudly so—to pay tribute to an inspiring man, and I am proud to call him a mentor and a friend, Pastor Kent Clark.

Pastor Clark is the senior pastor of Grace Gospel Fellowship Church in Pontiac, Michigan, and he is the chief executive officer of Grace Centers of Hope. Grace Centers of Hope is one of Michigan's leading faith-based organizations that provides care for the homeless and for individuals who are fighting addiction.

Grace Centers of Hope provides comprehensive programs for men, women, and children, including group and individual counseling, GED classes and testing, financial education, addiction and abuse classes, and child care. It also has a self-funded homeownership program and offers graduates of its program the opportunity to own their own homes. It does all of this without accepting government funding.

Pastor Clark, truly, has a servant's heart, and he and his wife, Dr. Pam Clark, and their family have dedicated their lives to helping those in need—with unparalleled commitment and devotion.

Pastor Clark is a husband, a father, a grandfather, and a renowned author. He was named "Michiganiaan of the Year" by the Detroit News in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to welcome my friend, Pastor Kent Clark, to the United States House of Representatives as our guest chaplain today. I would like to personally recognize and thank him for his tireless efforts and unwavering dedication to our community.

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.

ALLEN AMERICANS HOCKEY TEAM IN THE PLAYOFFS

(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, it is my pleasure to rise in support of the Third District's Allen Americans hockey team. Tonight, our stellar team defends its championship title in game six of the Kelly Cup Playoffs.

I want to congratulate the whole team on an outstanding season.

You all have accomplished so much to get where you are today, and you are just one victory away from your fourth straight championship.

To all of our fine Allen American athletes, I want you to know that your hometown is proud of you and that we believe in you. I will probably be "rocking the red" to cheer you on.

Go beat the Wheeling Nailers.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Norfolk, Virginia, January 1, 2014:

Melvin Alston, 32 years old;

Marcus Deering, 22.

Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania, August 6, 2013:

James "Vinny" LaGuardia, 64 years old;

David Fleetwood, 62;

Gerard Kozic, 53.

Beaumont, Texas, March 16, 2014:

Darrell Hawkins, 34 years old;

Anthony Ray Hawkins, 33;

Reshawna Hawkins, 30.

Savannah, Georgia, December 2, 2015:

Brandy Council, 34 years old.

Oceanside, California, March 13, 2013:

Edgar Sanchez Rios, 16 years old;

Melanie Virgen, 13.

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, May 24, 2014:

Jamie Williams, 28 years old;

Sandy Gaddis Barnwell, 22;

Devonte Dantzler, 21.

Killeen, Texas, February 22, 2015:

Larry Guzman, 40 years old;

Lydia Farina, 31;

Dawn Giffa, 28.

Auburn, Washington, March 31, 2013:

Nicholas Lindsay, 26 years old.

FOREST TREE DAMAGE TOLL AND FIRE DANGER

(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, years of drought have left a terrible toll on the forests of the Sierra Nevada in California. The Forest Service estimates that there are at least 40 million trees that have died in California alone. The scope of this challenge is almost unbelievable, and the danger it presents is nearly unavoidable. However, there are steps that we can take to address it.

While it is refreshing that the Forest Service is finally using the categorical exclusions that have been authorized under the recent farm bill to speed forest management projects, it won't be enough to prevent forest fires of devastating sizes and scopes. The Forest Service should rapidly increase the numbers of public-private partnerships it engages in and allow the private sector to remove the dead trees that are just waiting for a spark.

The Senate should act immediately to pass H.R. 2647 and allow forest fires

to be funded like earthquakes, hurricanes, and other natural disasters so as to end the diversion of forest management funding that limits preemptive fuel reduction work.

We also need to incentivize technologies like the usage of biomass, which can make productive use of damaged trees and brush, et cetera, and can generate long-term renewable power—base-load, reliable power.

Congress should act to extend the same tax incentives that wind and solar power receive to biomass plants, which don't just create power but do so more reliably and which have the additional benefit of consuming wood and slash that would otherwise burn in our forests, causing pollution. This would also bring jobs back, which are much needed in the rural part of America.

MUHAMMAD ALI

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, last week, the world lost a champion. Muhammad Ali was a gold medalist boxer and a three-time heavyweight champ, but what truly made him "The Greatest" was what he did outside of the ring.

He had quick reflexes but a quicker wit. He was introduced to the world as a fighter, but he chose to hang up his gloves to stand up against the war. At a time when racism pushed so many people down, Muhammad Ali had the audacity to speak up—and people listened.

I was lucky to have met Muhammad Ali several times. He spent much of his time in Los Angeles, and he became close with my dad, L.A. County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. They were allies in the fight for civil rights and for struggling families.

I have a Muhammad Ali story.

In 1987, my dad suffered a debilitating stroke that left him partially paralyzed shortly before he was up for reelection to his 10th term. Muhammad Ali actually showed up at my parents' home in South Los Angeles one day, and he told my father that he would personally push him door-to-door in his wheelchair if that is what it took to get him reelected.

You can imagine what that meant to my dad, to me, and to all of the neighborhood kids who actually saw Muhammad Ali do that with my dad. I will never forget that moment, and the world will never forget Muhammad Ali.

HONORING CAPTAIN BRADLEY LONG

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to pay tribute to Captain Bradley Long, a fallen firefighter from my district.

Captain Long was a dedicated public servant and was born to be a fire-

fighter. In fact, he started volunteering as a junior firefighter when he was just 14 years old at the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue. He followed in his father's footsteps, who had fought fires for 25 years. Though he was a full-time firefighter with the Newton Fire Department, he also continued to serve as a volunteer at Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue, which is where he was serving when he died in a diving accident while attempting to rescue a missing swimmer.

Following his death, Captain Long's father described how Bradley loved what he did and how he loved helping people, and that is what he was doing when he gave his life. Captain Long is the epitome of a public servant, and he will be deeply missed.

CONGRESS MUST PASS THE EQUALITY ACT

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

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, somewhere in America today there is a young person who, all of a sudden, realizes that he or she is gay. They are afraid that, if their parents find out, they may be tossed out of the house, that their classmates will taunt them, and there are still politicians who say that they are not equal.

For years, these young people didn't believe they had any options, but, today, because of the work of the LGBT community and because of leaders like Harvey Milk, they have hope. They can run for public office; they can serve in our military; they can marry whom they love. They have hope for a better future, but there is still work to be done.

Across the country, including in Florida, LGBT Americans can still be discriminated against. That is why Congress must pass the Equality Act. We must pass it because it is the right thing to do. We must pass it for the young person who is still scared and struggling. We must pass it to give them hope.

COMMEMORATING SOUTH CAROLINA STATE GUARD WEEK

(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 week, South Carolina honors and pays tribute to the dedicated men and women of the South Carolina State Guard.

The unpaid volunteers of the State Guard are always prepared for challenging events in the community. They respond quickly to work to help families recover after natural disasters. The South Carolina State Guard was crucial during the flooding last October. This 1,000-year flood devastated many neighborhoods. Members from all three brigades of the State Guard worked

around the clock in filling sandbags and in assisting engineers and law enforcement.

I was grateful to visit disaster relief centers firsthand, which was coordinated with the State Guard, and I was accompanied by Representatives Kirkman Finlay and Chip Huggins.

Our citizens really appreciate the command staff of the South Carolina State Guard for leading and inspiring these members: Major General Thomas Mullikin, Brigadier General Richard Leonard, Brigadier General Leon Lott, and Command Sergeant Major Mark Freeman.

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

Our sympathy to the people of Tel Aviv as the latest victims of Islamic terrorists.

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HONORING OFFICER VERDELL SMITH

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I express and join with the people of the City of Memphis who are mourning the loss of another law enforcement officer.

Officer Verdell Smith, Jr., served 18 years as a Memphis policeman. He also served his country in the United States Navy.

Last weekend, a man went wild in Memphis and shot three different people and then had his car hurtling at a high speed in the wrong direction on a one-way street toward a busy intersection of Beale and B.B. King. Officer Smith tried to clear the intersection of civilians to save them from tragedy. Unfortunately, Officer Smith was struck by the car and died.

Officer Verdell Smith's funeral will be tomorrow. He leaves behind a family, particularly two children, Chelsea and Verdell, Jr.; his stepchildren; his grandmother; his father, O'Dell Smith, Sr.; and siblings.

Law enforcement put themselves in danger all the time to protect us. We appreciate their service. We mourn the loss of Officer Smith, a life of service.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROSWELL OPERA HOUSE

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of Michigan's oldest theater, the Croswell Opera House.

The Croswell, located in the heart of Adrian, Michigan, is one of the oldest continuously operated theaters in the United States. Named for Charles M. Croswell, an Adrian resident and Michigan's 17th governor, the auditorium first opened its doors in 1866 and