

Mr. Speaker, finding solutions to making housing more affordable for our constituents, especially the most vulnerable, is a priority of mine here in Congress. I am proud to stand with Mr. TIBERI of Ohio and over 70 bipartisan Members to support his efforts to reform and strengthen low-income housing tax credits. It is time for Congress to work towards responsible solutions and make the rental affordability crisis a priority.

PASSAGE OF SANCTIONS PACKAGE

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of sanctions against the Iranian, Russian, and North Korean regimes. This package of sanctions sends a strong message to these regimes that the United States will not tolerate their rogue actions.

These sanctions will hold accountable those involved in the Iranian regime's ballistic missile program, those who attempt to destabilize the region and threaten Israel, as well as those responsible for Iran's ongoing human rights abuses. The legislation also sets us on a path to deter conventional Iranian activities in the region and imposes sanctions on any individual that contributes to Iran's ballistic missiles or to terrorism.

The sanctions against North Korea will respond to its increasingly hostile threats against the United States and our allies in Asia. By increasing the President's authority to impose sanctions on persons in violation of United National Security Council resolutions regarding North Korea, we are ensuring action can be taken swiftly when necessary.

Last, but certainly not least, we have strengthened sanctions against Russia in response to cyber attacks and interference in Ukraine. Specifically, we are increasing sanctions on human rights abusers, those who supply weapons to the Assad regime in Syria, and those conducting cyber activity on behalf of the Russian Government.

Given the seriousness of Russia's aggression, we are strengthening the existing sanctions contained in executive orders on Russia and mandating a congressional review if any sanctions are relaxed, suspended, or terminated. I strongly encourage the President to sign this bill into law and will continue to impress upon all of my colleagues the need to not treat Russia lightly.

These threats posed to our national security by Iran, Russia, and North Korea cannot be understated. With passage of this sanctions package, Congress is doing its job to ensure they will be held accountable.

SALUTING THE FIREFIGHTERS
AND AGENCIES OF CAL FIRE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. McCINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by saluting the more

than 5,000 firefighters from 40 cooperating agencies that assembled under the coordination of CAL FIRE to battle the Detwiler fire that threatened Yosemite Valley and its gateway communities.

I spent Saturday at the command centers in Mariposa and Merced Counties, and what I said is what I have seen time and again at so many fires we are having these days in the Sierras: cool, calm professionalism; selflessness; and devotion to duty.

□ 1115

CAL FIRE is an agency that works. I want particularly to salute and thank Nancy Koerperich, CAL FIRE's unit fire chief for Madera, Merced, and Mariposa. She and her operation literally saved several towns, including Mariposa and Coulterville, from annihilation last week.

Sheriff Doug Binnewies of Mariposa County is rightly being hailed for his courage and leadership in directing the orderly evacuation of the town of Mariposa as the fire bore down upon it.

You can literally see how the fire burned right up to the town's edge. I can't tell you how many homes I saw where firefighters stopped it literally within a few feet of their front doors. CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Jeremy Rahn told me that the difference between saving and losing so many homes was defensible space.

CAL FIRE has produced a superb phone app to assist homeowners in preparing their homes so that if, God forbid, the need arises, firefighters will be able to defend them. It also provides fire alerts, and anyone in the mountain community should have it. It is free for downloading at your phone's app store.

I cannot say enough about the firefighters who have been working in triple-digit heat on 24-hour shifts to bathe the flames or the air crews that dropped a staggering 500,000 gallons of fire retardant in a single day at the height of the conflagration. Their effectiveness can be seen by red borders of fire retardant that separate the blackened ground of the fire on one side from the landscape they saved on the other.

They not only saved these communities and hundreds of homes, they also stopped the fire within just a few miles of the Stanislaus National Forest, a forest that is dying because of Federal environmental restrictions on forest management. The firefighters warned that, if the fire had reached these vast stands of dead trees, the fire would have exploded with atomic force. And that is the fine point of the matter.

I spoke with Mariposa County Supervisor Marshall Long and many of the other firefighters at the Mariposa command center, and the one thing that they stressed time and again is that they need relief from the regulations that are making it almost impossible to create firebreaks, thin the forests, or remove the excess fuels.

These policies, imposed 45 years ago through legislation like the National

Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act, promised to improve the forest environment. After 45 years of experience with these laws, I think we are entitled to ask: Well, how is the forest environment doing? The answer is damning. These laws have made it virtually impossible to keep our forests properly managed, and the result has been severe tree overcrowding.

The Sierra Nevada normally support between 20 and 100 trees per acre, depending upon the topography. The average tree density is now 266 trees per acre. This extreme overcrowding has stressed the trees to the point they can no longer resist drought and beetle infestation and disease. This has caused a massive tree die-off, and we have entire national forests now just waiting to explode with over 100 million dead trees.

The heroic firefighters of the Detwiler fire have kept it out of these hazard zones, but the hazard zones are still there. And consider this: we are only at the very beginning of the fire season that combines fresh brush from last year's rains with millions of dead trees that were too stressed from overcrowding to survive the drought. The firefighters I spoke with on Saturday bitterly complained that they can't even cut firebreaks to isolate these zones because of the same so-called environmental laws.

The House has pending before it the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017 that would allow us to restore good forest management, but we may already have run afoul of what Churchill called history's "terrible, chilling words: too late."

Mr. Speaker, I call for expeditious consideration of the Resilient Federal Forests Act and other legislation aimed at restoring management to our forests in the hope that firefighters can hold these fires at bay until we restore good management to our public lands.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 19 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 William D. Johnson, Jr., Harbour Lake Baptist Church, Goose Creek, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the day that You have bestowed upon us. May our actions glorify You

in all that we do. We humbly request that You, Lord, place Your providential hand of protection upon every Member, their families, and those who guard and protect this Chamber.

O gracious God, remind us daily that while we are here to represent the people, our authority comes from You, for there is no authority except from God, and those who exist are established by God.

May there be renewal of prayer across the United States. God, place a burden upon us that we may seek You before we undertake any endeavor.

God bless the House of Representatives, and God bless these United States of America.

I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

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 gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LOWENTHAL 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.

OUR CHILDREN ARE NOT FOR SALE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, sitting a mere 20 feet away from the man that raped and trafficked her daughter, Jennifer waited anxiously in the courtroom as the judge prepared to announce the sentence.

The amount of pain and turmoil this criminal inflicted on her family could never be undone.

A few years ago, this man pulled up alongside Jennifer's daughter as she walked down the street. He lured the 15-year-old into his car, and he sexually assaulted her. He then took her to a motel and began forcing her to have sex with numerous men for money. He posted an ad about her online offering buyers a chance to "play with innocence." He literally stole her youth, her happiness, and he sold her to the highest bidder.

When Jennifer finally heard the judge's sentence, she wept with tears of joy—180 years in prison for the trafficker, from the right-thinking judge.

Let the word get out to deviants and traffickers and buyers: Our children are not for sale. There is a price to pay for the trafficker who sells our kids.

And that is just the way it is.

TOXIC ALGAL BLOOMS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, according to the national environmental officials, for the first time this year, toxic algal blooms have formed on the shores of Lake Erie.

This toxic accumulation of algae represents a direct threat to the people of western New York, but they also threaten the surrounding Great Lakes communities, representing 20 percent of the world's freshwater drinking supply.

This past year, toxic blooms have been so extreme that they have infiltrated clean drinking water sources, turning once clean waters into toxic swamps. These hazardous blooms threaten the local economy, which is dependent on fishing, recreation, and tourism. Furthermore, they represent a critical danger to wildlife present on Lake Erie.

At a time when the House is considering defunding environmental efforts, I would remind my colleagues of the tremendous progress that we have made to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to clean up our Nation's lakes and rivers. This is no time to turn back.

HONORING EDNA BERNICE HARVEY TURMAN

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Edna Bernice Harvey Turman, who is celebrating her 100th birthday on August 15 of this year.

Edna was born in 1917 and grew up just south of my own hometown, Jonesboro, in a community called Apt with her mother and father, Bill and Molly Harvey.

She began working at Harvey's grocery store, and afterwards she met a man named Raymond Turman. The pair married in 1936 and farmed and raised cattle together.

During World War II, Edna and Raymond farmed for the government and sold soybeans, cotton, creamed milk, and formed butter.

Edna and Raymond had five children: Mary, Barbara, Billy Ray, Garry, and Ronnie. Edna also has 9 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

An active member of her community and county, Edna is very passionate about her church, was a member of the

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and even helped run the voting location in south Craighead County for several years.

Today, besides being a happy grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, Edna still lives on the old homestead and works in her yard. Edna truly is a member of the greatest generation of Americans by which all the following generations are measured, and whether we realize it or not, it was people like Edna who built our communities and continue to shape the America we live in today. I hope you will join me in wishing her a happy 100th birthday.

JCPOA NEGOTIATIONS

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, "irresponsible, reckless, duplicitous," all words used to describe Iran during the JCPOA negotiations.

Soon, if this administration abrogates the JCPOA, those words would apply to us: "irresponsible" for shredding an agreement that makes the world a safer place, "reckless" in giving Iran an excuse to immediately restart the nuclear program, and "duplicitous" in breaking an international agreement for no legitimate reason but to fulfill a campaign promise.

Make no mistake, Iran is still a bad actor. It destabilizes the region. It funds terrorist activities. That is why we voted to increase nonnuclear sanctions on Iran yesterday. But the Iran nuclear agreement is being adhered to, and it is working.

Under this administration, are we, as a nation, no longer as good as our word?

HONORING THE LIFE OF CURRY TOMMY HAYNES

(Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Curry Tommy Haynes, a longtime Georgia resident and brave hero of the Vietnam war, who joined our Heavenly Father on July 16 after a long battle with cancer.

Mr. Haynes was one of the most decorated soldiers in our Nation's history, earning 10 Purple Heart awards for his bravery in combat in the jungles of Vietnam. Mr. Haynes remained an active member of the community after returning from duty by launching the Newton County EMT services, teaching locals to fly and skydive, and serving as a VA counselor to his fellow service-members.

Mr. Speaker, while serving in Vietnam as part of the U.S. Army 173rd Airborne Brigade, Company C of the 503rd Infantry, Mr. Haynes was wounded