

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.

EXTRAORDINARY MILITARY LEADERSHIP

(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. Madam Speaker, I was grateful to participate in a congressional delegation last week to Japan, the Republic of Korea, Guam, and Hawaii. We visited troops on the front line who are defending American families and promoting peace through strength.

In the shadow of North Korea's latest missile launch over Japan, it was reassuring to meet with leadership of the highest competence and integrity.

We were inspired by the leadership from Vice Admiral Phil Sawyer, Commander U.S. 7th Fleet; General Vincent Brooks, Commander, U.S. Forces Korea; Lieutenant General Tom Bergeson, Commander, 7th Air Force; Lieutenant General Tom Vandal, Commanding General, 8th Army; Rear Admiral Shoshana Chatfield, Commander, Joint Region Marianas; Lieutenant General Bryan Fenton, Deputy Commander, U.S. Pacific Command; Admiral Scott Swift, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; General Terrence O'Shaughnessy, Commander, Pacific Air Forces; General Robert Brown, Commander, U.S. Army Pacific.

The delegation was professionally coordinated by Captain Scott Farr and Lieutenant Commander Victoria Marum. Many thanks to staff Craig Collier and Brian Garrett for accompanying the delegation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. Our prayers are with those in Mexico City, Puerto Rico, and all in the path of Hurricane Maria.

THE MEDIA BIAS BEAT GOES ON

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the media bias beat goes on.

Last week on PBS, columnist Mark Shields criticized Senate sponsors of the new healthcare bill. He said that no Republican Senators have credentials for working on healthcare, and added that Senator CASSIDY got to the Senate a year ago and is not exactly a long-term legislator.

In two clicks online, Mark Shields could have learned that BILL CASSIDY and his wife are both doctors who have provided healthcare for people around the world. Those are called credentials. Senator CASSIDY also served in the State senate, three terms in the U.S. House, and is now in his third year in

the United States Senate. He is obviously an experienced legislator.

Where is the balance? Where is the truth? And the liberal national media wonder why their credibility with the American people is at a record low.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today during National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

Madam Speaker, our Nation's veterans are 22 percent more likely to commit suicide than their nonveteran peers. This trend is troubling, and we all must work to reverse it.

The Department of Veterans Affairs started a new campaign this month called Be There. The campaign emphasizes small actions, such as calling an old friend, checking on a neighbor, or inviting a colleague to go for a walk. These small gestures may have a real impact on someone who is struggling or feeling alone.

Suicide rates are especially high in rural areas, where veterans may experience isolation or limited access to VA care—often for mental health concerns. That is why I introduced the VETS Act, which seeks to build on the VA's existing telemedicine program. It allows veterans to receive mental healthcare from anywhere. This will give our veterans greater access to the care they so desperately need.

Madam Speaker, our servicemen and -women answered the call of duty. When they return home, it is our turn to be there for them.

COMMENDING THE MOSER GROUP AND WINGATE UNIVERSITY ON HURRICANE ASSISTANCE EFFORTS

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of The Moser Group and Wingate University for their extraordinary organizational and grassroots efforts to help victims of Hurricanes Irma in Florida and Harvey in Texas. This week, these two organizations will load two 18-wheeler trucks to deliver supplies directly to the affected areas.

Commitment to charity and compassion for victims of national disasters is truly what makes America great.

In North Carolina, we know all too well about the consequences of hurricanes: 98,000 homes and 19,000 businesses were destroyed by Hurricane Matthew, from which we are still recovering.

Organizations like The Moser Group and Wingate University are key to re-

covery efforts across the country. They are to be commended. Madam Speaker, God bless them as they continue to help people in need.

HOW THE FIRST AMENDMENT WORKS

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

Mr. TROTT. Madam Speaker, over the weekend, I spent a little time watching football. I am happy to say that my Michigan Wolverines won their game; sad to say that the Detroit Lions lost to the Falcons, but, hopefully, they will have a good season.

There was also quite a bit of controversy this weekend about who was standing and sitting for our National Anthem at sporting events. We do not need to concern ourselves with this issue, and the reason is because the First Amendment works.

Here is how the First Amendment works: A little over a year ago, a quarterback in the NFL chose not to stand for the National Anthem. I personally disagree with that statement, but it was his choice under the First Amendment. The fans booed. The fans could have clapped; they could have booed. Many fans booed. The owners listened, and now that quarterback is not employed in the NFL.

That is how the First Amendment works. What we should concern ourselves with is how soon 3 million people in Puerto Rico are going to get water and electricity, why millions of Americans are uncertain regarding their healthcare, and what we are going to do about North Korea.

Madam Speaker, that is what we need to focus on in this House. That is what we were sent to do.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1504

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARTON) at 3 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2061) to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2061

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.), the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-346), and the Ambassador James R. Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-172) were the products of broad, bipartisan consensus regarding the promotion of human rights, transparency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and the importance of refugee protection.

(2) Fundamental human rights and humanitarian conditions inside North Korea remain deplorable, North Korean refugees remain acutely vulnerable, and the congressional findings included in the Acts listed in paragraph (1) remain substantially accurate today.

(3) The United States, which has the largest international refugee resettlement program in the world, has resettled 212 North Koreans since the enactment of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004.

(4) In addition to the longstanding commitment of the United States to refugee and human rights advocacy, the United States is home to the largest Korean population outside of northeast Asia, and many people in the Korean-American community have family ties to North Korea.

(5) Notwithstanding high-level advocacy by the United States, South Korea, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, China has forcibly repatriated tens of thousands of North Koreans.

(6) Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega served 25 years in the House of Representatives, including as the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, was a leader in strengthening the relationship between the American and Korean peoples, authored multiple resolutions regarding issues on the Korean Peninsula, was a champion of human rights, and stated, in support of the Ambassador James R. Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012, that “just as Ambassador Lilley and Congressman Solarz worked hard to protect the human rights of the North Korean people, we must remain vigilant in helping the people of North Korea who struggle daily to escape the oppression and tyranny of the North Korean regime”.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to seek cooperation from all foreign governments to allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees access to process North Korean refugees overseas for resettlement and to allow United States officials ac-

cess to process refugees for resettlement in the United States (if that is the destination country of the refugees’ choosing);

(2) the Secretary of State, through persistent diplomacy by senior officials, including United States ambassadors to Asia-Pacific countries, and in close cooperation with United States ally South Korea, should make every effort to promote the protection of North Korean refugees and defectors; and

(3) because North Koreans fleeing into China face a well-founded fear of persecution upon their forcible repatriation, the United States should urge China to—

(A) immediately halt the forcible repatriation of North Koreans;

(B) allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees unimpeded access to North Koreans inside China to determine whether such North Koreans require protection as refugees; and

(C) fulfill its obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, and the Agreement on the Upgrading of the UNHCR Mission in the People’s Republic of China to UNHCR Branch Office in the People’s Republic of China (signed December 1, 1995).

(b) CONTINUING SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It remains the sense of Congress, as specified in section 3(3) of the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-346; 22 U.S.C. 7801 note), that “the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues should be a full-time position within the Department of State in order to properly promote and coordinate North Korean human rights and humanitarian issues, and to participate in policy planning and implementation with respect to refugee issues, as intended by the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-333; 22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.)”.

SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2004.

(a) HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS.—Paragraph (1) of section 102(b) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7812(b)) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(b) PROMOTING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.—Section 104 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—
(A) by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting “\$3,000,000”; and

(B) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(c) REPORT BY SPECIAL ENVOY ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS.—Subsection (d) of section 107 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(d) REPORT ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Section 201 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7831) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(e) ASSISTANCE PROVIDED OUTSIDE OF NORTH KOREA.—Paragraph (1) of section 203(c) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7833(c)) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Section 305 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7845) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

SEC. 5. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND DEMOCRACY IN NORTH KOREA.

The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a) of section 103 (22 U.S.C. 7813)—

(A) by striking “radio broadcasting” and inserting “broadcasting, including news rebroadcasting,”; and

(B) by striking “increase broadcasts” and inserting “increase such broadcasts, including news rebroadcasts,”; and

(2) in subsection (a) of section 104 (22 U.S.C. 7814)—

(A) by striking “The President” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President”;

(B) by inserting “, USB drives, micro SD cards, audio players, video players, cell phones, wi-fi, wireless internet, webpages, internet, wireless telecommunications, and other electronic media that share information” before the period at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(2) DISTRIBUTION.—In accordance with the sense of Congress described in section 103, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, is authorized to distribute or provide grants to distribute information receiving devices, electronically readable devices, and other informational sources into North Korea, including devices and informational sources specified in paragraph (1). To carry out this paragraph, the President is authorized to issue directions to facilitate the free-flow of information into North Korea.

“(3) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.—In accordance with the authorization described in paragraphs (1) and (2) to increase the availability and distribution of sources of information inside North Korea, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, is authorized to establish a grant program to make grants to eligible entities to develop or distribute (or both) new products or methods to allow North Koreans easier access to outside information. Such program may involve public-private partnerships.

“(4) CULTURE.—In accordance with the sense of Congress described in section 103, the Broadcasting Board of Governors may broadcast American, Korean, and other popular music, television, movies, and popular cultural references as part of its programming.

“(5) RIGHTS AND LAWS.—In accordance with the sense of Congress described in section 103, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall broadcast to North Korea in the Korean language information on rights, laws, and freedoms afforded through the North Korean Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, and any other applicable treaties or international agreements to which North Korea is bound.

“(6) BROADCASTING REPORT.—Not later than—

“(A) 180 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Broadcasting Board of Governors, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that sets forth a detailed plan for improving broadcasting content for the purpose of reaching additional audiences and increasing consumption of uncensored news and information using all available and reasonable means; and

“(B) one year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph and annually thereafter for each of the next five years, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Broadcasting Board of Governors, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effectiveness of actions taken pursuant to this section, including data reflecting audience and listenership,