

Democratic predecessors, is so unwilling to defend the interests of the United States and our allies against Russia. All that is clear is that, by embracing our adversaries and denigrating our allies, President Trump is inviting grave and historic consequences for the United States.

Mr. Speaker, today, I simply call on President Trump to unequivocally affirm the United States' commitment to our European allies and to condemn Russian aggression, meddling, and malign influence.

#### THE STALWART REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago this August, Russian tanks rolled across the border into the independent nation of Georgia. After 5 days of bloody fighting, with thousands of innocent Georgians displaced from their homes, the conflict ended with the Russians promising to pull back its forces.

I happened to be in Georgia 1 week after the Russian invasion and saw the tanks on the high ground and the destruction that the Russians made of Tbilisi. It is 10 years since that invasion and Moscow and its troops still occupy one-third of sovereign territory of the Republic of Georgia.

The Kremlin claims these Russian troops are in Georgia as peacekeepers. Are you kidding me? It is an invasion. They are a heavily armed battle group waiting to provoke Georgia into another fight. They have committed horrific human rights abuses against the Georgian people, often harassing civilians and denying Georgians the ability to move about their country freely.

The continued presence of Russian troops on Georgian soil presents a major violation of international law. America's response at the time was to condemn and issue sanctions against the Russians, but the Obama administration removed the punishing sanctions against Russia as part of its foolish reset with the Kremlin.

We now know this demonstration of weakness only encouraged further aggression from Russia, and it invaded a neighbor state in 2014. This time it seized and annexed Crimea from Ukraine, another independent sovereign state that Russia had sworn to respect. Then Russian tanks moved on and invaded eastern Ukraine and occupied part of that territory.

After 10 years of illegal occupation of Georgian territory, we need to do more to help our Georgian friends resist the Russian bear. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Georgia emerged as the beacon of hope in the region and hope for democracy. Georgia's faithful commitment to a strong democracy with free and fair elections serves as a shining example for other countries in Eastern Europe. Russia hoped to break

this beacon of hope 10 years ago, but Georgia has remained defiant.

As co-chair of the Congressional Georgia Caucus, I have long seen that major vulnerabilities remain that Russia could exploit. Georgia is a small country. It cannot afford to compete with the might of the Russian bear. That is why I have introduced the Georgia Support Act along with my caucus co-chair, Representative CONNOLLY from Virginia.

Through this important bill, we hope to significantly enhance Georgia's ability to combat and deter Putin's wicked activities. With our assistance, America can provide Georgia specific advantages that can make any new attempt by Russia a costly endeavor.

Also, with modern warfare extending to cyberspace, we can improve coordination to identify Russia's cyber attacks and build safeguards within. This means building up Georgia's ability to combat disinformation and propaganda from Russia.

As we have seen, Moscow is all over the world trying to undermine democracies by invading their elections, including our own. Working with Georgian partners, we can show Russia has been caught.

Additionally, this bill calls on President Trump to impose sanctions for serious human rights abuses in that occupied territory of Georgia. Not only will it help our Georgian friends on the front line of Russian aggression, but it sends a message to the Kremlin that America will and must stand up against that bad behavior and defend the international rule of law.

Czar Putin must be shown that his dream of rebuilding the Russian empire is not going to happen. We must show our freedom-loving friends around the globe that America will stand with them. The Georgian people have shown they will fight for freedom, even against overwhelming odds.

While the Kremlin believes that it has prevented Georgia's aspirations of joining the important organization of NATO by seizing territory, we can send a signal that that victory is hollow. Georgia is still on the path to greater integration with the West. Georgia must remain, with our help, free and prosperous. Russia will find itself isolated and full of regret for ever following Putin's foolish ambition of aggression in the region.

And that is just the way it is.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of South African President Nelson Mandela on what would have been his 100th birthday.

President Mandela, or "Mandiba" as he was affectionately called, was a rev-

olutionary and transformative leader, who forever changed the world through his steadfast dedication to freedom, equality, and human rights.

After spending 27 years in prison, Nelson Mandela became the first Black South African to be elected President in what was also the first free, multiracial, democratic election in South African history.

While President Mandela used his administration to dismantle apartheid, combat institutional racism, and begin the process of racial reconciliation in his country, his efforts also taught the world the power of one man having the fortitude to sacrifice his own ideals for a cause greater than himself.

To me, Nelson Mandela is more than a world-renowned hero. I had the distinct honor and privilege of calling him a friend. His leadership of the international antiapartheid movement encouraged me to take action here in the United States, where I served as the Los Angeles chair of the Free South Africa Movement, organized countless antiapartheid rallies in Los Angeles, led a sit-in at the South African Consulate General's office in Los Angeles, and was even arrested during a protest at the Embassy of South Africa in Washington, D.C. I was also a board member of and worked nationally with TransAfrica, one of the most prominent antiapartheid advocacy groups in the United States.

As a member of the California State Assembly at that time, I fought for the passage of Assembly Bill 134, which forced California to divest \$12 billion in State pension funds tied to the apartheid regime in South Africa.

In 1990, I chaired the committee in Los Angeles that brought over 90,000 people together in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum to welcome Nelson Mandela into the United States, and I also traveled with the official U.S. delegation to South Africa in 1994 to attend his inauguration as President of South Africa.

In 1998, I was honored to welcome President Mandela to the United States once again, this time to receive the United States Congressional Gold Medal.

In honor of his 95th birthday in 2013, I organized an event here in Washington, D.C., called the Celebration of the Life, Legacy and Values of Nelson R. Mandela in Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol Visitor Center. The celebration was attended by my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, leaders from both the United States House and Senate, and representatives of national and international civil rights and humanitarian groups.

As we reflect on Nelson Mandela's memory today, let us remember what he once said: "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

Few embody this quote better than Nelson Mandela himself, and it is my

sincere hope that my own career in public service can live up to his extraordinary example.

#### 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 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

Chaplain John L. Vernon, Jr., High Point Police Department, High Point, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we stand in Your presence today, thankful for this great Nation we call home.

I pray for each of these men and women who have been chosen to serve their fellow citizens in this vital task of governing. I pray also for those who serve alongside them as members of their staff, and all their families.

I pray that today You will give these Members godly wisdom. Give them courage to do what is right in the best interest of our Nation and its people. Give them the humility that truly exemplifies servant leadership. May they each desire to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You.

I pray also for those who protect us: members of our military in various parts of the world and first responders all across our Nation. Protect them as they protect us.

All these things I pray in Jesus' name.

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 Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BIGGS 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 CHAPLAIN JOHN L. VERNON, JR.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the House's guest chaplain for the day, John Vernon, who comes to us from High Point, North Carolina.

John is an ordained minister in the Wesleyan Church and currently serves as chairman of the board of directors of the Wesleyan Christian Academy.

Beyond the Wesleyan Church, John also serves as lead chaplain for the High Point Police Department, where he has served faithfully for 18 years. Within the last year, John has taken on the role of lead chaplain for the High Point Fire Department.

John and his wife, Kim, will celebrate 37 years of marriage together this year. They have two sons, Travis and Kyle, and two wonderful daughters-in-law, Stephanie and Hillary. We are glad to have Kim, Kyle, and Hillary joining us in the gallery.

Among John and Kim's greatest joys in their lives is spending time with their three granddaughters, Sadie, Millie, and Nora.

I want to thank Chaplain Vernon for his service and for opening the House in prayer this morning. We are honored and privileged that he and his family call High Point home.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### TAX CUTS PRODUCE BOOM IN JOBS

(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, the latest results are in from the Republican tax cuts, with Trump deregulation, producing jobs: \$2,059 average tax cut for a typical family of four; \$2,000 new per child tax credit, double the old amount.

Sixteen regulations rolled back through the Congressional Review Act process, the most in history. Ninety percent of Americans are receiving bigger paychecks under the new withholding tables.

A 3.4 percent increase in real disposable income in the first quarter of 2018; a record high level of U.S. exports of goods and services, over \$200 billion; 3.7 million jobs created since November 2016; 1.3 million jobs created since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act became law; 6.6 million job openings as of May 2018, meaning more jobs than job seekers. Sixty-five percent of Americans now say it is a good time to find a quality job.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### MANDELA DAY

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late, great President Nelson Mandela, whose 100th birthday we celebrate today.

Like many of my colleagues, I was first inspired by Mr. Mandela in the early 1970s. I was arrested in Berkeley, California, protesting apartheid, when our brave brothers and sisters in the labor movement refused to unload ships from South Africa that arrived at Oakland's port.

I remember very vividly when the African National Congress was designated a terrorist organization by the United States Government. It was illegal to meet with the freedom fighters in the United States, but many of us did anyway in safe places around the world.

I was so happy when we finally passed legislation, which I led, to lift President Mandela and the ANC off the terrorist watch list on his 90 birthday 10 years ago.

As an election observer, I will never forget the lines of people waiting to vote for Nelson Mandela as the first Black President of South Africa.

Madiba's impact was not limited to South Africa. He sparked social justice movements that reached around the world and reminded us of the power of the vote. As President Obama noted yesterday, he said Madiba "came to embody the universal aspirations of dispossessed people all around the world, their hopes for a better life."

President Mandela taught us many lessons, lessons in reconciliation, perseverance, and public service. Above all, he taught us that the fight for justice was never finished. His legacy will live forever.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE 2018 FARM BILL

(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. Mr. Speaker, soon, the House will vote to go to conference with the Senate on the 2018 farm bill. As vice chair of the House Agriculture Committee, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of moving this important process forward.

As chairman of the Nutrition Subcommittee, I am proud of the provisions we have included to give many Americans the skills needed to obtain a family-sustaining job and ultimate food security.

Food insecurity exists for so many in America today, and the workforce and job training provisions in the bill represent a significant opportunity to help millions of Americans find employment.

The Agriculture Committee has done its work. In fact, the Nutrition Subcommittee hosted 21 hearings on SNAP