

LAMALFA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMALFA 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.

DEMOCRACY FOR VENEZUELA

(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 people of Venezuela have taken to the streets to demand an end to 20 years of dictatorship and repression. I am grateful that President Donald Trump is supporting the democratic aspirations of the Venezuelan people.

The people of Venezuela deserve to prosper. They are fortunate to hold the world's largest supply of crude oil, but decades of socialist corruption and mismanagement, first under Hugo Chavez and then Nicolas Maduro, have impoverished Venezuela.

Then came the sham 2018 Presidential elections. That is why the National Assembly President Juan Guaido implemented their constitution by declaring himself interim President and called for new elections.

We must continue to support hope in Venezuela. Free and fair elections must be held. The people of Venezuela deserve freedom and democracy.

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

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN LEE

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

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of John Lee, a resident of New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District who passed away on January 25 after waging a courageous battle with cancer.

Mr. Lee immigrated to America in 1987 and worked day and night to build a better life for himself and his family. In 2000, he became a citizen, and like many immigrants, he understood the meaning of civic duty and the importance of a single person's vote better than many of us whose families have been here for generations.

So when he was faced with a cancer diagnosis, his first thought was not to sink into despair. He simply asked: "What's next?"

As his diagnosis progressed, Mr. Lee began to understand the pressing need for legislation to protect people with preexisting conditions, and the question of, "What's next?" was answered.

He spent his remaining time fighting to help make our healthcare system more just and to make America, as he put it, a Nation of us, not of me.

Today, I am truly honored to be joined at the State of the Union by his siblings. Mr. Speaker, John Lee has already helped to shape our understanding of what must be done to make healthcare a human right for all Americans. May his legacy be that we have finally done it.

HONORING DICK TRAMMEL

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of a pillar of my community, an exemplary businessman, dedicated public servant, dear friend, and an all-around great American, Dick Trammel of Rogers, Arkansas.

Most know him as Mr. Northwest Arkansas. No one I know of has loved, served, and promoted northwest Arkansas more than Dick Trammel.

A native of Pocahontas, Arkansas, Dick was recruited to the northwest part of our State by Walmart founder, Sam Walton. Since moving to the area in 1975, he has been the area's most avid cheerleader. Cheerleading came natural for Dick, who was a University of Arkansas cheerleader back in the 1950s.

Nothing of importance in our area has happened in the last 40-plus years that doesn't have Dick Trammel's fingerprints on it. He was the only man to lead the Arkansas State Highway Commission for 4 years. He has been a mainstay in Rotary International, higher education, programs serving our youth, Mercy Hospital Northwest Arkansas, and dozens of other charitable causes.

Dickey Ray, congratulations on a terrific career and a life of serving your fellow man.

CONGRATULATING ACTING SECRETARY DAVID BERNHARDT

(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, I rise today to congratulate Acting Secretary David Bernhardt for being nominated to serve as the next Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

President Trump announced that news on Monday after Acting Secretary Bernhardt has led the Department in a temporary capacity since December. I applaud this decision by the President. He has chosen a nominee that brings a strong background of industry experience and expertise to the table.

Under this administration, I have worked with the Department of the Interior to improve stewardship of our public's lands, to increase water storage, and improve forest management policies in California, as well as the West, and to help prevent more wildfire damage.

I know that will continue under the leadership of Secretary Bernhardt as it has since he has led the Department. I intend to invite him out to my district in California to see firsthand the issues that we face with our forests and public lands, including the ongoing Camp fire cleanup in Paradise, as well as the Carr fire in Redding from last summer, and the conditions that helped create these fires to begin with.

Until then, congratulations, and I urge the Senate to quickly move on the confirmation process.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

(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, I rise today just hours before our 45th President, Donald Trump, will deliver the State of the Union Address.

Members of Congress and guests will fill the Chamber tonight to hear the President speak about a host of issues impacting America: from economic growth to trade deals, and infrastructure investments to immigration reform.

I look forward to hearing about the administration's successes and the plans for the future. I know that we all want to find commonsense, bipartisan solutions to the challenges before us.

Mr. Speaker, many distinguished guests will be here tonight, each with a story to tell and each representing the very best of America.

I will host Mr. Bill Jones, president of Penn United Technologies. Headquartered in Cabot, Pennsylvania in Butler County, Penn United Technologies provides high-quality, high-precision manufacturing solutions in various markets and employs more than 500 individuals.

Since 1971, Penn United Technologies has provided quality products and has established itself as an industry leader. It is an honor to have Mr. Jones here this evening, and I look forward to the President's address.

HONORING MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

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

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I would just like to give thanks to be able to be here at this State of the Union to hear about what our wonderful Nation is doing.

It is such an honor to be here, and to have the opportunity to be present during one of these State of the Unions. But, Mr. Speaker, most importantly, I want to recognize the men and women who are down range today serving this great Nation, and who can't be here and probably will never be afforded the opportunity to stand here in this great House and hear the State of the Union.

Without those men and women in uniform who defend this Nation every day, this Nation cannot exist and because of them, we will always be the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth.

God bless you.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 5, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 5, 2019, at 9:28 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 9.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3003, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Mr. HASTINGS, Florida, Chair

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet tonight in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of purporting to reserve seats prior to the joint session by placement of placards or personal items will not be allowed. Chamber Security may remove these items from the seats. Members may reserve their seats only by physical presence following the security sweep of the Chamber.

All Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in still photography or

audio or video recording in the Chamber. Taking unofficial photographs detracts from the dignity of the proceedings and presents security and privacy challenges for the House.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2035

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS PURSUANT TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 9 TO RE- CEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 8 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint session will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES);

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK);

The gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS);

The gentleman from California (Ms. HILL);

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentleman from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY);

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER);

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER);

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER); and

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);

The Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST);

The Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG);

The Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN);

The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR); and

The Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Hersey Kyota, the Ambassador of the Republic of Palau.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 9 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable Paul D. Irving, announced the President of the United States.

The President of the United States, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The PRESIDENT. Madam Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, the First Lady of the United States, and my fellow Americans:

We meet tonight at a moment of unlimited potential. As we begin a new Congress, I stand here ready to work with you to achieve historic breakthroughs for all Americans.

Millions of our fellow citizens are watching us now, gathered in this great Chamber, hoping that we will govern not as two parties but as one nation.

The agenda I will lay out this evening is not a Republican agenda or