

report confirms, America's Socialists and their fake news media allies are experts and have no peers.

Regardless, America must reject their big lies or succumb to the danger that lurks and horrific damage that results.

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on National Medal of Honor Day to recognize the recipients of our Nation's highest military distinction for acts above and beyond the call of duty.

Twenty-five Medal of Honor recipients hail from Arkansas. Their stories of self-sacrifice are not forgotten.

Today, we pay tribute to those individuals for their meticulous service, sacrifice, and heroism.

I would like to also recognize and thank Arkansas Boy Scout Donald J. Fitzgerald for his outstanding work to preserve the legacy of Medal of Honor recipients and their stories.

Over the last 3 years, Donald has visited the graves of over 160 Medal of Honor recipients, documenting several Medal of Honor recipients' stories and lives.

He chose to share with the world what he learned, and wrote a book about his travels titled, "Our Missions of Honor".

I applaud Donald for his initiative, his efforts, and dedication to all Medal of Honor recipients past and present.

We pray that their efforts may be long remembered by our citizens.

GULF WAR MEMORIAL

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two fellow Arkansans, Jeff Kurczek and Brenten Byrd, for their valiant efforts to memorialize the bravery and legacy of veterans who served in Operation Desert Storm.

Operation Desert Storm was one of the most successful operations in American military history. Over 700,000 Americans were deployed overseas to liberate Kuwait from Saddam Hussein's invasion. 383 Americans lost their lives in that conflict, including four Arkansans.

Last month, former Vice President Dick Cheney and others took part in the dedication of the future site for the National Operation Desert Storm Memorial located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Jeff, a Sherwood, Arkansas, accountant, served our country for the duration of the Gulf war and acts as the organization's treasurer and CFO.

Brent lives in Elm Springs, Arkansas, where he works with the Veteran's Affairs Department on the mental well-being of our veterans. He served honorably in the U.S. Marines and later in the U.S. Army during Desert Storm. He now acts as the organization's communications director.

I thank them for their service to our Nation and commend their good work and efforts to honor the brave men and women who took part in Operation Desert Storm.

VAN BUREN COUNTY WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of the committed professionals at Van Buren County and their determination to improve that community's health and well-being.

The Van Buren County Wellness Committee, founded by former County Judge Roger Hooper in 2017, seeks to create a bridge between local health resources, information, and initiatives to improve the health and well-being of the residents.

At present, three grant-funded health-awareness kiosks have been installed across the county featuring asset mapping of community health resources and county health initiatives.

These kiosks allow residents to find the best doctors and healthcare services within their communities, connecting individuals with the services they need, from food insecurity to mental health support and recovery.

I would like to extend a hand of gratitude and congratulations to Roger and the entire Van Buren County Wellness Committee for their worthwhile investment in the health of our citizens in that county.

WE MUST STAND WITH OUR FRIENDS IN ISRAEL

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this past week, President Trump and Secretary Pompeo took a bold step to affirm Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. I support this administration and our long-time friend and ally, Israel, in this fight to protect their homeland.

I have stood on the mountains of the Golan where Abraham and his nephew Lot parted ways some 4,000 years ago. I could hear the cannons and the missiles and the tanks just miles away in war-stricken Syria. We learned how, in a matter of hours during the Yom Kippur war of 1974, Syrian forces overran the Golan, jeopardizing both Israeli and American security.

This small range of mountains, less than 125 miles from Jerusalem, serves as a buffer from Israel and its many foes who desire nothing more than to wipe them off of the face of the Earth.

From the 3rd millennium B.C., the occupants of the Golan Heights have included the Amorites, Arameans, Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, the Israelites again, Alexander the Great, and the Roman Empire. In later centuries, Christians crusaded, Mongols ruled, and the Ottomans conquered the land.

Starting in 1885, Jewish families bought and lived on the land in the Golan Heights, and stayed there until

1920, when riots drove them out. For the next 40 years, the boundaries of this area were debated and defined by the French and the British.

We all know the State of Israel was born in 1948, and the Golan was mutually shared with neighboring countries. This, however, led to constant raids and civil unrest in the region and debate over a scarce item in the area, water.

Finally, in the 1960s, Syria ignored previous water agreements and attempted to divert water from Israel. This led to the armed War over Water, which was won by Israel in 1967, and pushed the Syrians out of the Golan, leaving Israel in control once again.

This is where most leftist naysayers will begin their history, as if Israel had no claim to the land in the first place or as if it never had been contested.

This matters for America for a variety of reasons. Set aside the fact that Israel is our most loyal and strategically vital ally in the Middle East. Let's look at Russia. Americans are rightly concerned about the cyber and geopolitical moves of that adversarial nation. The Golan, however, is an example of where those on the left are turning a blind eye.

Since the time of Peter the Great and Catherine the Great, Russia has sought a warm-water port in the Mediterranean and to stake their claim to land south of the Black Sea. Not only does Syria provide them both, it also presents an opportunity for Russia and their ally Iran, as the leaders have said, to wipe Israel off the map.

We cannot let this happen. We mustn't let this happen. We must continue to stand up to thugs like Putin and Assad, and with our friends in Israel.

THERE WAS NO COLLUSION

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, no collusion, no collusion, no collusion.

That is right. After 2 years, Mr. Speaker, let me say that again: there is no collusion.

After 2 years and a cost of more than \$25 million, that is \$50,000 a day spent on this witch hunt of taxpayer money, there was no collusion.

And indeed, there was no pot of gold at the end of the media's rainbow; nothing besides fool's gold yet again.

Mr. Speaker, how can you spend \$50,000 a day on an investigation?

As I think back, I may have been the first person in the Chamber to call this investigation for what it was: a witch hunt.

Now, I am not a lawyer, but Kansas common sense would suggest if there was no collusion, no corrupt intent by the President, and no crime committed, there would be absolutely no case for an obstruction of justice charge. But I am sure Kansas common sense is the last thing on the minds of some Members of Congress.

So now, during every waking hour for 675 straight days, Democrats and the media have had a field day smearing the President, his friends, and his family.

They have hired 19 lawyers, 40 FBI agents, and issued nearly 3,000 subpoenas, all of which have further confirmed what we already knew before the investigation started: there was no collusion.

□ 1215

Importantly, Mueller confirmed that no one with the Trump campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian Government. Additionally, we found out through this investigation the Russians made many attempts to offer to help the Trump campaign, and time and time again, the Trump team stood up and rejected Russia.

I want the media, which spent thousands of hours painting a picture of collusion and conspiracy, to cover these Mueller findings that show the President stood firm against the Russian's multiple attempts. And I ask the Democrats, who misled the public for months, to come forward and speak the truth.

Instead, what does the biased media and Democrats say in response to Mueller's verdict? Absolutely nothing. You could almost hear a pin drop as I walked through the Capitol today. It is so quiet. No Democrats are here today for morning-hour debate. What does that say?

As I stand on the House floor today, I have one question for this Chamber and for this Nation: Can we please move on and work with our President, rather than against him, and focus on policy rather than fantasy?

NEBRASKA FLOODING AND SEVERE WEATHER

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the harsh weather and flooding experienced throughout the State of Nebraska over the past few weeks.

On Wednesday, March 13, a large storm, known as a bomb cyclone, hit our State of Nebraska and much of the Midwest. It brought with it blizzard conditions, high wind, and large amounts of rain, followed by highly destructive flooding, which continues in some areas today.

As I spent the past week touring damage and recovery efforts, one theme was clear: Nebraskans don't scare from a challenge, nor do they stand by as their friends and neighbors suffer. Entire communities have come together to fill sand bags, open shelters, and rescue neighbors in need. Ranchers across the State have battled to clear pastures, reunify herds, and reach newborn calves.

I appreciate President Trump moving quickly to approve a Federal disaster declaration requested by Governor Ricketts and supported by the entire Nebraska congressional delegation. Governor Ricketts has estimated the cost of rebuilding infrastructure de-

stroyed by the storm at more than \$400 million, and the Nebraska Farm Bureau estimates the toll from lost crop and livestock production could top even \$1 billion.

The recovery will not be easy, but the hard work and dedication of Nebraskans across the State will be on full display as we recover, rebuild, and renew what was lost in these tragic events.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOWENTHAL) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Send us Your spirit. Enlighten the hearts of those who are faithful and tireless in securing equal justice under the law. Fulfill the hopes of those who long for peace and security for their children. Guide and protect all elected officials and all who choose to serve this Nation and local communities through public service.

May Your will be done in and through those who pray for divine guidance and who trust in Your providence, even in the midst of conflicting opinions, philosophical differences, and the threat of violence.

Unite Your people and keep them focused on essentials that reflect Your kingdom. May the fires of Your love, and human freedom, renew the face of the Earth.

And may all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:45 p.m. today.

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

□ 1645

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOWENTHAL) at 4 o'clock and 45 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 votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

VENEZUELA ARMS RESTRICTION ACT

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 920) to restrict the transfer of defense articles, defense services, and crime control articles to any element of the security forces of Venezuela that is under the authority of a government of Venezuela that is not recognized as the legitimate government of Venezuela by the Government of the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 920

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 "Venezuela Arms Restriction Act".

SEC. 2. RESTRICTION ON EXPORT OF COVERED ARTICLES AND SERVICES TO CERTAIN SECURITY FORCES OF VENEZUELA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, covered articles or services may not be exported from the United States to any element of the security forces of Venezuela that is under the authority of a government of Venezuela that is not recognized as the legitimate government of Venezuela by the Government of the United States.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the heads of other departments and agencies as appropriate, shall—

(1) determine, using such information that is available to the Secretary of State, whether any covered article or service has been