

enables these groups to document abuses by the regime and to keep the hope of democracy alive in an increasingly authoritarian country.

Venezuela is one of the most dangerous places in Latin America and the Caribbean to be a human rights defender. The Maduro regime is currently being investigated for crimes against humanity by the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Organization of American States has similarly denounced the regime's abuses. These men and women on the ground in Venezuela put their lives on the line to expose the regime's failings, and they need our support.

On the media front, the regime has arrested and abused journalists, both Venezuelan journalists and foreign journalists, operating in the country, including a prominent American journalist. Harassment from the government has led most independent radio, TV, and print outlets to close. Social media has, at times, been blocked, including during the recent uprisings against Maduro. USAID programs are critical to overcome government censorship and propaganda.

On the democracy front, Maduro was reelected in May of 2018 in a snap election that failed to meet minimum international standards and was widely condemned as illegitimate. The sooner that civil society and international actors can weigh in on how to improve the National Electoral Council and reform the electoral system more broadly, the sooner free and fair Presidential elections can be held.

This is the goal of the Guaido government. It is also the goal of the Lima Group which is composed of Latin American countries and Canada and which is seeking a just solution to the crisis in Venezuela. It is a goal that merits continued American support.

I am proud that my colleagues voted for this amendment. It is a vote for the people of Venezuela who have suffered so much under this terrible regime.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICIA FINDER-STONE

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

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable woman and a remarkable Wisconsinite, Patricia Finder-Stone. She was simply incredible: a wife, a mother, a grandmother, an educator, a veteran, and a community activist. Her life serves as an example of what it really means to be passionately involved in a community and committed to giving back.

During the Korean war, she left her nursing job in Chicago to serve her country in the Air Force where she proudly served at the Northeast Air Command in Greenland, and upon leaving the military, she married her husband, Mark, and raised their four children in northeast Wisconsin.

Pat then returned to school and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin Green Bay and her master's from UW-Madison, graduating both times with honors.

She practiced nursing throughout her life and spread her passion for nursing to others by teaching at schools around Wisconsin including Bellin College of Nursing and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. She was well known and incredibly involved in the healthcare community and was a proud recipient of both the American Cancer Society's St. George National Award and the NWTC Teacher of the Year Award.

Beyond her nursing career, Pat was an active community volunteer, sharing her time and talents to serve on the boards of multiple health advocacy groups in northeast Wisconsin.

She worked with both Democrat and Republican leadership in Wisconsin on a number of health policy issues, including educating the public on the negative effects of tobacco and improving care for the aging population.

She served as the president of the League of Women Voters of Greater Green Bay and sat on the state board of the League of Women Voters.

Pat's extraordinary life of service to her family, community, and country reminds us all of the importance of community engagement and civic responsibility. Pat's passing will be mourned for many across northeast Wisconsin, and her impact on our community will not soon be forgotten. But my hope is her life stands as a reminder of how important it is to be involved and how lucky we all are to be Americans.

There are a lot of people when you are a Member of Congress who come into your office. Some are angry with you, some are happy with you, but some really find a way past the political moment and find a way to touch your heart, and Pat was one of those people. My prayers and condolences go out to her family and to all the lives she has touched.

RECOGNIZING GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gun Violence Awareness Month and call upon the Senate to protect the lives of innocent Americans by passing commonsense gun reform measures that have already passed the House.

This past February, in my district in Aurora, Illinois, five innocent people were killed and six police officers injured when a person who shouldn't legally have had a gun opened fire in a workplace, trying to kill as many people as he could. And earlier this month, we witnessed another horrific shooting in Virginia Beach where 12 more innocent lives were taken.

These tragedies have become too common in America. The victims are

our family members, our friends, and our neighbors.

The House has already passed legislation that would, in fact, cure a fraction of this epidemic of gun violence, but the Senate refuses to act.

Commonsense gun reform is supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans, and Congress has a responsibility to protect innocent lives. Every American deserves the right to live their lives free from the fear of violence and without worry that their next trip to work, to school, or their place of worship may be their last.

Thoughts and prayers are not enough. We cannot wait for the next tragedy. The Senate must act now.

FUNDING FOR WAR AND THE WAR POWERS ACT

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we spent many hours in this Chamber talking about the amendments to the appropriations bill, this combination of several appropriations bills, that we will pass later this week.

What I would like to take a minute to talk about is an amendment I didn't offer because we got the material in the base text.

Our Constitution creates a tension between Article I and Article II when it comes to the power to wage war: the Commander in Chief on the one hand versus the authority of Congress to declare war on the other.

Thomas Jefferson determined that it was necessary to get the approval of Congress before he deployed Marines to the shores of Tripoli, our first non-declared war, our first intervention in the Middle East, and a precedent that should have been followed by subsequent Presidents.

But in fact, since the days of Jefferson, on many occasions, Presidents just sent our troops in without seeking authority from Congress. That is why in 1973, in the wake of the Vietnam war, this Congress passed the War Powers Act, also known as the War Powers Resolution. It provides that the President cannot deploy for more than 60 or 90 days without an authorization to use military force.

Now, that act of 1973 is not everything it should be because it did not encompass the idea of bombing without deploying troops for periods of 60 or 90 days. It is unclear, perhaps. It is in need of revision, perhaps, but it is the only legal restraint on a President committing us to war without any approval from this Congress.

But every Attorney General since the 1970s has advised Presidents that the War Powers Act isn't actually binding on them, that a President can send unlimited troops into battle for an unlimited period for any purpose. This is not what should be, and yet many constitutional scholars agree with these provisions, with this interpretation. That is

why the provision that we have in this appropriations bill is so important.

I want to commend the subcommittee and the full committee for including in the base text the provision that says no funds shall be used in contravention of the War Powers Act. This is a provision I originally proposed as an amendment on this floor in 2011. We lost the first time, but we ultimately prevailed, and now it is part of the base text. This adds the power of the purse to enforce the War Powers Act.

I am pleased to report that Attorney General Mukasey, a Republican Attorney General, a strong advocate for Presidential power, testified before the Foreign Affairs Committee that he believes and would advise the President that they need not follow the War Powers Act but that they dare not spend a penny in contravention of the War Powers Act if this provision is included in the relevant appropriations bill. So I commend the committee for including this and assuring that any reasonable Attorney General will tell any President they must adhere to that critical 1973 act.

CRYPTOCURRENCY

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, in the remaining few seconds, let me deal with another subject. Mark Zuckerberg has announced that he's going to introduce a cryptocurrency, or his plans to do so.

The effect would be to undermine our economy by reducing the importance of the U.S. dollar in international transactions and to undermine our national security by making it easier for drug dealers, terrorists, and sanctions evaders to do businesses without using the U.S. dollar.

I look forward to addressing this House further and to working in the Financial Services Committee. But it certainly concerns me that a man who has benefited like no other from the protection of the U.S. national security efforts and from the U.S. economy would undermine both in an effort to make even more billions.

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 10 o'clock and 28 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ESPAILLAT) at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Ryan Hodges, Rocky Face Baptist Church, Hiddenite, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, in Jesus' name, I want to thank You for today. Thank You for salvation.

The Bible says, in 1 Timothy 2:1-2: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men; for kings and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

Thank You for the Members of this House, the men and women of this Congress, and for their families. I pray for their work, their wisdom, and their walk.

I pray that You would forgive us our sins as individuals and as a nation. I am truly grateful that Jesus said: "... and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

Please help us to glorify You this day with our lives. Thank You for America. In Jesus' name, 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. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 60. Joint Resolution requesting the Secretary of the Interior to authorize unique and one-time arrangements for displays on the National Mall and the Washington Monument during the period beginning on July 16, 2019 and ending on July 20, 2019.

WELCOMING PASTOR RYAN HODGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize today's guest chaplain, Pastor Ryan Hodges of Rocky Face Baptist Church in Hiddenite, North Carolina.

In 2005, Pastor Hodges earned his theology degree from Cherry Grove Baptist Bible College in Wilkesboro. He has since served in four churches in our State, wherever God has called him to use his gift of preaching and zeal for

souls. He is also a loving husband and father.

Mr. Speaker, the surest way to make a positive change in our country is to follow God's will for our lives, which is itself a lifetime's work.

North Carolina's Fifth District is blessed to have a faithful servant in Pastor Hodges, dedicated to helping others recognize God's love and plan for them. We are blessed to have his prayers and service today, as is everyone that God places in his life.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATIONS TO POET ELIZABETH ACEVEDO

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, the Carnegie Medal, the prestigious award that annually recognizes authors focused on literature for children or young adults, has been widely coveted since its establishment in 1936.

Surprisingly, the medal has never been awarded to a woman of color in its 83-year existence—that is, until Dominican-American poet Elizabeth Acevedo's win for "The Poet X," a critically acclaimed piece of literature named after its main character, Xiomara Batista.

"The Poet X" artfully illustrates the journey of X, a shy Dominican girl of African descent who joins her school's poetry club in Harlem, a place I represent and know well.

Elizabeth's brave exploration of societal structures in "The Poet X" is remarkable. Her childhood upbringing and tribulations gave Elizabeth unique authority and intimacy of X's journey. The resulting poem will inspire young voices who follow her footsteps.

Congratulations to Elizabeth for her monumental accomplishment.

WUNDERBAR TOGETHER INITIATIVE WITH GERMANY

(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 to recognize and reaffirm the friendship between the United States and Germany.

I am proud to co-chair the German-American Caucus with Congressman BILL KEATING, and today we introduced a resolution to reaffirm the history of the United States and Germany under the Wunderbar Together initiative.

Our countries are linked by heritage, common values, and shared interests.