

and Imy and have acted as guardians of another child.

A stable and permanent family is perhaps the most important thing in a child's developing life. Every day, we rely on people like Ellyn to unite families and improve lives. I applaud Ellyn for all of her hard work and for her fighting for families in the 13th District of Illinois.

ANTICS OF THE IRANIAN NAVY

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, this should come as no surprise, but the world's champion crybaby, the Islamic Republic of Iran, threw another hissy fit this week.

Their navy tried to hijack a British tanker with a Royal Navy escort. They admitted they were breaking international law because they demanded the ship drive itself into their waters to be boarded.

The Royal Navy frigate fired back with a salvo from a radio. They said: "Back off."

The Iranian babies put their boats at full speed, roaring back to Iran to cry on the Ayatollah's shoulder for their humiliation.

This has happened over and over. And I am very familiar with this region. I deployed there in the Navy for 6 months, from May of 1994 to November of 1994.

I was based on a small island called Masirah right off the shore of the United Arab Emirates. We would fly what is called a gulf transit 1,000 feet all around the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf to exercise our freedom of navigation.

This is not the first time these things have happened. The last attack happened right there where the baby is crying. Two months before that, off the map down there, four American tankers, at idle, sitting in dead water waiting to unload their cargo, were attacked by Iranian boats, damaged.

In the middle of the Persian Gulf, international airspace, right there near the Gulf of Oman, one of our airplanes was blown out of the sky by the Iranians.

That was an act of war.

Ours was an American military aircraft operating legally in international airspace over international waters.

The question is: Why are the insane Iranians becoming more insane? And that is because the Mullahs who have run their country now for 50 years know they are dying. And, like a dying animal, they are going to fight for their last breath of power.

They are dying because of America, the American energy revolution, started primarily and thriving in Texas and the Permian Basin.

Oil is their only source of money in the entire country of Iran. They have nothing else.

The Permian Basin, by itself, next year will produce more oil than every

country in the world except for Saudi Arabia.

We have many more shale plains across America: Barnett, Eagle Ford, Bakken, Marcellus—over and over and over.

□ 1045

They know we are putting them in the dumpsters of history. Uncle Sam is forcing the mullahs and the leaders of the military to learn new languages, new words to explain their demise, words like "good-bye," "ta-ta," "adieu," "adios," and "sayonara" to go with "khodahafez," which, in Farsi, means "good-bye."

I want to salute the people of Iran. The dark times are going to end quickly. You will be free from oppression from the leaders in your own country.

I would like to give a salute to the mullahs and the Iranian Navy and the military. Good-bye. Adios.

And that's just the way it is.

LET'S NOT RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle announced they will soon bring to the floor the Raise the Wage Act, a bill to increase the Federal minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$15 an hour.

While supporters of this legislation have good intentions, the repercussions would spell disaster for our economy, for small businesses, and the very same low-wage workers who they intend to help. Nonpartisan estimates of the Raise the Wage Act expect it could cause up to 3.7 million people across the country to lose their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, that is almost as many people as in the entire State of Oklahoma, the entire State of Oklahoma unemployed.

Cities that have already imposed a \$15 minimum wage have been the first to see the negative effects of this initiative. Recently, the University of Washington conducted a study on the efficacy of Seattle's newly mandated \$15 minimum wage, and the results were very clear. Costs to low-wage workers in Seattle outweighed the benefits by 3-to-1, and the average low-wage worker lost \$125 a month.

While most of the discussion regarding the Federal minimum wage is focused on major metropolitan cities, what about the rural areas across the country where the cost of living is much lower? This bill would effectively eliminate small, rural businesses and skyrocket costs for goods and services.

Finally, let's look at who is currently making minimum wage in the U.S. Half are under the age of 25, and almost a quarter of them are teenagers. A \$15 minimum wage would threaten the job prospects of young folks who are looking to enter the

workforce for the first time, hoping to gain the skills needed to move ahead in a real career.

Over 80 percent of economists agree that a \$15 minimum wage would have a negative impact on youth employment.

Look, I cannot support a bill that is guaranteed to shutter business and lay off workers around the country. I hope that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will reconsider this attempt to backtrack on the economic success of recent years and, instead, support bipartisan policies that will help all workers get ahead.

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 49 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. PETERS) at noon.

PRAYER

Dr. George S. Dillard, III, Peachtree City Christian Church, Peachtree City, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Our Father, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the Great I Am, the maker of Heaven and Earth, let it be known today that You are God and that Your servants do all things at the command and leading of Your Word through Jesus the Christ, the son of the living God.

Hear me, Lord, hear me so that these people will know that You, Lord, are God and that You call them to turn their hearts to You.

Drive out the divisive ones, rebuke those who destroy the innocent, and remove those who delight in lies. Give wisdom, strength, and courage to those who seek unity, protect the innocent, and love the truth.

Lead us to be a people who seek freedom, liberty, and justice for all.

And let all of God's people say 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 Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LOEBSACK 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 DR. GEORGE S.
DILLARD, III

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. FERGUSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. George Dillard, whose leadership and guidance have made him a valuable member of our Peachtree City community in the Third District of Georgia.

This is the second time that Dr. Dillard has joined me here in the Nation's Capitol to pray for the Members of the House of Representatives, and we are extremely grateful that he did just that.

George has been a vitally important part of the Third District for over 25 years since he and his family moved to Peachtree City to serve at the Peachtree City Christian Church, where he still serves to this day.

George has been married to his wife, Renee, since 1988. They have three children and one grandchild. George and his family live in Peachtree City, Georgia.

I commend Dr. Dillard for his commitment to our community and Nation. There is not a week that goes by where George isn't a visible and welcoming part of the Fayette County community.

The grace and love he has shown to his parishioners and his neighbors throughout his 24 years in Peachtree City are unparalleled, and I am truly honored to have Dr. Dillard here with me today as he prays for our Nation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

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

RECOGNIZING PRIDE CAMP

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa Safe Schools' second annual Pride Camp. This week-long event invites LGBTQ youth and allies from across Iowa to participate in a summer camp where they have the opportunity to learn new skills, connect with their peers, share their experiences, and grow as individuals while also having fun.

This year, over 100 LGBTQ youth from across the State will be attending Pride Camp, despite this only being the camp's second year. This truly goes to show the importance of programs like Pride Camp, and I am proud that Iowa

is a leader in the fight for acceptance and equality for everyone.

I want to extend my sincerest thanks to Iowa Safe Schools for creating this wonderful opportunity and for all of their efforts advocating for Iowa's LGBTQ youth. Their work in developing a safe and inclusive summer camp is making a difference in the lives of so many young Iowans, and I am honored to recognize them here today.

ADOPTING NDAA AMENDMENTS ON
NATO CONTRIBUTIONS AND
ISRAEL

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, two amendments I offered to the NDAA were adopted.

The first addresses shared responsibility for the world's security. The United States is the most powerful nation on the planet and so must remain, but our allies must pull their weight on global security efforts. It is not just Americans who benefit from peace, after all.

For instance, is it fair for economic powerhouse Germany to spend only 1.35 percent of its overall GDP toward NATO defense in the coming years? I don't think so. We should at least examine the contributions of Germany and all of our other allies.

My amendment simply requires the Department of Defense to report the annual defense spending of each of our NATO and non-NATO allies.

My second amendment affirms the critical importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship. Since its founding over 50 years ago, Israel has been an important strategic partner. Given the significant challenges our Nation currently faces in the Middle East, the U.S.-Israel relationship remains vital.

I thank Armed Services Committee Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member THORBERRY for working with me on these amendments.

COMPENSATING 9/11 FIRST
RESPONDERS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001, as millions of Americans watched in horror, our country was attacked. Thousands of people courageously stepped up, left their homes and families, and answered the call to respond to a nation in need.

Among them were dozens of western New Yorkers, including John Asklar of the Niagara Falls Fire Department who injured his leg in the rubble and continues to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder; Jennifer Czarnecki, who is reminded every day of her five assignments to Ground Zero with the New York State Police following a

breast cancer diagnosis in 2015; and my friend Dave State, who bravely faced cancer last year as a result of his 9/11 service with the New York State National Guard.

For them and others, the pain and consequences of this attack are as real today as they were 18 years ago. We must act urgently to make the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund permanent. These men, women, and families were there for our country in our time of need. Now, we must be there for them in their time of need.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VERA
DULANEY

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Vera Dulaney who passed away July 5.

Last November, I was able to recognize Vera on the floor for her retirement and how much she meant to our community. For more than 30 years, she served the community through her position as Scotts Bluff County clerk and election commissioner, as well as in various other volunteer capacities.

Throughout her public service, Vera's diligent work maintained the integrity of our local elections and assisted the effective and efficient operation of Scotts Bluff County. Her outstanding efforts across the community were recently acknowledged when she was presented the Community Volunteer Award for Public Service.

Vera was well-known in our community for her years of official service, humble demeanor, and dedication to family. Her smile always lit up the room. Her devotion to the Nebraska Cornhuskers and Chicago Cubs was only surpassed by her devotion to her family and our community as a whole.

Throughout her long and prosperous life, she touched countless others. Now in passing, we celebrate her life and keep her family and friends in our prayers.

PROVIDING SUPPORT TO
CHILDREN IN POVERTY

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, my district in Rochester, New York, has the second-highest rate of childhood poverty in America.

Children in poverty face overwhelming barriers to academic success because it is impossible for them to learn when they are hungry or suffering from family trauma. These barriers are exacerbated in the summer when children lose access to educational opportunities, causing them to fall further and further behind academically.

Low-income children lose 2 or more months of reading achievement every