

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 THORNBERRY 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 Askar 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

summer. By the fifth grade, children without summer learning opportunities are 2 years behind their peers.

Students need a safe, stable place to learn over the summer. That is why I am so proud to have introduced legislation to help close the achievement gap and reduce food insecurity.

The Summer Meals and Learning Act will help fund summer reading programs at schools that already serve as summer meal sites, providing the support and stability at-risk youth need to grow and thrive. Every child deserves the opportunity to achieve their goals. It is my hope that this legislation will help students stay on the path to success.

IMPROVING MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the members of the House Armed Services Committee for their hard work on this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

Malmstrom Air Force Base is home to the 341st Missile Wing, which maintains and operates one-third of the U.S. ICBM force. Servicemembers at Malmstrom protect our country, but the base can do more to keep America safe and secure. With some work, the base's runway can, once again, host flying missions.

I especially thank and recognize Mr. TURNER from Ohio. We worked on a measure that could reform the basing process to focus on improving existing facilities like Malmstrom instead of building new ones.

This bill begins the process of including Malmstrom in future Air Force basing decisions to host aircraft, potentially increasing the number of men and women serving there.

I appreciate the Montana Defense Alliance for its advocacy on behalf of Great Falls and all the servicemembers at Malmstrom and elsewhere who keep our country safe.

CONGRATULATING ROYAL OAK CITY MANAGER DON JOHNSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my constituent and Royal Oak city manager, Don Johnson, on his retirement after 14 years with the great city of Royal Oak.

Don started as city manager right at the height of the Great Recession. To hear him tell it, the city was flat broke. Royal Oak was facing huge revenue shortfalls, and Michigan families were hurting.

In the years since, he has helped Royal Oak turn around and become one

of the most desirable places to live and visit. Royal Oak saw a jump of \$10 million in revenue in 10 years, truly an outstanding accomplishment for the people of Royal Oak and a testament to Don's hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Don for his years of service and wish him the very best in his next chapter.

PROTECTING MILITARY WIDOWS

(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, Congress should strive for Democrats and Republicans in Washington to truly work together. When the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act reached 365 bipartisan cosponsors, I was grateful to share the good news. That is a remarkable more than 80 percent of Congress.

House Democrats had the ability to bring the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act to the floor tomorrow to repeal the widow's tax. Instead, Democratic leadership has diverted a vote by tacking it onto a flawed and hyperpartisan bill without notice late at night, which they know will not receive support on both sides of the aisle.

This is heartbreaking for the 65,000 military widows in America. However, it is not too late to do the right thing and keep this as a standalone bipartisan bill.

I encourage our colleagues across the aisle to put H.R. 553 on the Consensus Calendar. Together, we can give servicemembers and their families the recognition they deserve.

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

USE FAMILY FARMS AS SUPPLIERS FOR ARMED FORCES

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

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for voting to include my amendment to the NDAA that will allow our armed services to aid small farmers across the country.

Two weeks ago, the USDA released its congressional district-specific data for the "Census of Agriculture" and reported that in my district, New York's 19th Congressional District, 96 percent of the farms there are small family farms.

During our most recent in-district work period, I visited small farms back home in Rensselaer and Montgomery Counties and learned more about their work with organizations to help veterans gain the skills needed to transition to jobs in agriculture.

Today, the House passed my amendment that requires a report from certain Defense agencies on programs, policies, and practices relating to

small farms, farms owned by new and beginning farmers, veteran farmers, and minority farmers in order to better understand how much the Armed Forces are working with small farms to supply commissaries and feed service-members.

With this data, Congress and Defense agencies can work together to expand opportunity for our small family farmers.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for standing with me on this very important issue.

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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, July 11, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The 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 July 11, 2019, at 11:00 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1811.
With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 962, BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I urge the Speaker to immediately schedule this important bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not recognized for debate.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LEVIN of Michigan). Pursuant to House Resolution 476 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2500.

Will the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS) kindly take the chair.