

One day, they approached their target from an altitude of 25,000 feet and noticed an absence of antiaircraft activity in the skies, so they dropped down to 17,000 feet. The formation circled three times to drop their bombs more accurately when a small flare used to follow bombs to their targets ignited in their bomb bay, filling the aircraft with thick, sooty smoke that covered all the windows.

Fearing they were hit by ground fire, the crew grabbed their parachutes and prepared to abandon their plane over enemy territory. Before jumping out, the crew made one last check to see if the pilots were able to make it out safely. They yelled through the intercom to see if they were coming but received no reply. Just as they were ready to bail out, copilot Funderburk yelled out, "Wait."

The smoke was so thick that the pilots were worried about crashing into the other planes in the formation and were too busy flying the plane and clearing the smoke to worry about bailing out. The pilots were able to clear the smoke and fly the airplane and crew safely back to their home base.

The final mission took Pinky deep into enemy territory into Horschung, Austria, where French prisoners of war had recently been liberated from a POW camp. Pinky's crew reconfigured their B-17 bomber to carry 31 prisoners of war back to Paris and their homeland.

Mr. Speaker, for these heroic duties and his selfless service, Pinky Funderburk honors all South Carolinians, and I am proud to recognize him today for receiving the prestigious French Legion of Honor.

CAHOKIA MOUNDS

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, southern Illinois is home to one of America's great civilizations in history, many years before this was the United States of America. Its center was at Cahokia, and it was once the largest civilization in today's United States. By 1200 A.D., the community numbered 10,000 to 20,000 strong.

What remains today are the Cahokia Mounds, a 2,200-acre site with more than 70 earth mounds, upon which many of their buildings once stood. This treasure is visited by schools, families, and history buffs, everyone who wants to see this wonderful part of history. It is a critical part of history.

That is why I introduced a bill to make Cahokia Mounds a national park. My bill would help preserve this amazing piece of history for generations to come.

I thank Congressmen CLAY, SHIMKUS, and DAVIS for cosponsoring this bill. This legislation preserves the mounds in their districts, as well.

I also thank the State and local leaders who support our efforts in Illinois,

and I thank the HeartLands Conservancy for its hard work and for being guardians of our history.

I thank my staff for working so hard with other issues that are going on but understanding how important this issue is to future generations, to the opportunity for our children and grandchildren to understand the history of this area in the world. I am proud to be part of these efforts to preserve our past well into the future.

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 11 o'clock and 13 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. LANGEVIN) at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Mark Getman, Temple Emanu-El of Canarsie, Brooklyn, New York, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly One, our protector and redeemer, guardian of life and liberty, we ask for Your continued blessings as we open this session of the House of Representatives.

May our Nation and its leaders be blessed with Your protection as they continue their work for their constituents across these United States.

God, continue to send Your light to all elected officials across this land, guiding them with Your good counsel and providing them with wisdom and forbearance.

May our Nation and its citizens always work towards world peace and harmony as part and party representing this great Nation.

God of peace and prosperity, bless this House of Representatives and all those who lead, serve, and defend our Nation as they continue to serve with honor, and remember those who have died in defense of our ideals and values.

May the One who makes peace in the universe make peace for all of us, for all the United States, for all the world.

God bless America.

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 Florida (Mr. DUNN)

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

Mr. DUNN 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 RABBI MARK GETMAN

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

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Rabbi Mark Getman of Temple Emanu-El of Canarsie, Brooklyn, and thank him for leading us in prayer this morning on the House floor.

I was proud to invite Rabbi Getman to give the opening prayer today, and I am even more proud to call him a constituent of New York's Fourth Congressional District.

Rabbi Getman is a military veteran, a cancer survivor, a community leader, and a man of deep faith. He embodies the strength, leadership, and patriotism that we look for in every American.

I can't express how grateful I am to Rabbi Getman for making the trip down to Washington today to represent our community and to deliver a message of harmony and compassion. I believe that is a message that our country needs to hear, perhaps now more than ever.

Rabbi Getman graciously reminded us today that we are a country united under God, in our pursuit of prosperity and peace for all people, and he reminded us that this shared purpose is more powerful, more important than any political division we may have, and I couldn't agree more.

As a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am beyond appreciative that Rabbi Getman paid such a touching tribute to the brave men and women who wear our uniform today and to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our great Nation. As a veteran himself, I know that Rabbi Getman understands that sacrifice better than most.

I want to thank Rabbi Getman once more for his service to our community and to our country and, above all, for taking the time to be here with us today and delivering a much-needed message of unity.

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.

ANNIVERSARY OF DEATHS OF CAPITOL POLICE OFFICERS JACOB CHESTNUT AND JOHN GIBSON

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day in the history of the House. Some 21 years ago, a deranged individual came through the door that we now call the Memorial Door and took the lives of two of our officers.

I rise to pay tribute to my constituent Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson from the State of Virginia. Both of them were shot and killed defending this Capitol 21 years ago today, July 24, 1998.

A lone gunman burst through what we now call the Memorial Door and attacked this sacred home of American democracy. These brave officers, whom we remember today, placed themselves in the line of fire and gave their lives to protect Members, staff, and visitors in the building that morning.

Memorial Door, Mr. Speaker, is right outside my office. I go through it almost every day. Every time I pass through it, I look at the memorial plaque and remember these two extraordinary and brave men whose sacrifice will not be forgotten by those who serve in and work in this House, by their brothers and sisters in the Capitol Police force who still stand sentry and watch over it, and by their grateful fellow Americans.

Today, America, let us pay tribute to Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson and give our thanks to all the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police and, indeed, to all law enforcement officers who, every morning, get up and put a badge perhaps on their chest or on their belt or in their wallet and go out to protect us, their neighbors, their friends.

Let us thank all law enforcement officers in communities across this country for their service, their dedication, and their sacrifices, which make the exercise of democracy possible.

HONORING MELINDA WALKER UPON HER RETIREMENT AS CHIEF REPORTER OF DEBATES

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I just spoke about two who served our Capitol and our country. Unhappily, they lost their lives.

I now speak about one who has served our House of Representatives as an institution much more happily, because she has served so well and so faithfully and so long and is now retiring, hopefully, to a very happy retirement.

We could not do our job representing the American people without the tireless and sometimes thankless labors of the men and women who make this House function behind the scenes.

They sit at the desk behind us. They sit at the upper rostrum. They make a difference. And they record what we have to say.

From the Clerk's Office to the Parliamentarian staff, from the C-SPAN crew to the stenographers, the nonpartisan, professional staff who enable the work of the House and its Members are central to the success of our constitutional mission.

The House has relied on the services of shorthand reporters of debates for

almost 200 years, and the verbatim proceedings of House business have been published as the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD since 1873.

We have a young woman who is now taking down my remarks, which may or may not be profound, but somebody will be able to say: “What did Hoyer say?” “What did my Representative say?”

A division of the Office of the Clerk, the Office of Official Reporters is charged with providing nonpartisan, professional stenographic services for the House floor, committees, and leadership.

It has grown from a 5-person shop in the 19th century to a diverse 43-person operation today. They work extraordinarily long hours; they work very hard; and they are extraordinarily competent.

Today, I join all my colleagues in thanking one of those outstanding, wonderful individuals who is retiring as the Chief Reporter of Debates, Melinda Walker.

Melinda is with us on the floor today. Melinda, thank you very much.

And I know, Mr. Speaker, if it weren't out of order, I would mention that her family is in the gallery, but because that is not in order, I won't do that.

Melinda will step down in August, after more than 20 years of service to the House of Representatives.

A proud native of Texas, Melinda came to the House in 1999, after serving as a court reporter for the U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania.

Her career began after graduating from the Stenograph Institute of Texas in 1989, and her work took her around the country and across the world, with positions in the United Kingdom, the Caribbean, and South Africa.

Melinda has reported both House committee hearings and floor proceedings. She has taken down committee testimony from two Chief Justices of the Supreme Court and three Secretaries of State, among many others.

On the floor, Melinda has reported the State of the Union messages for three Presidents, as well as the remarks of numerous foreign dignitaries during joint meetings of Congress.

Upon Melinda's promotion to Chief Reporter in 2015, she led the team of reporters and staff in charge of the production of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Under her watch, the office has been successful in meeting its daily production deadlines, while capturing the intricate parliamentary nuances of House proceedings.

Melinda has contributed a fully revised and updated style and formatting manual, more than 200 pages long, for the Office of Official Reporters. Americans will be advantaged by that work for decades to come.

She has been recognized by the National Court Reporters Association as a Registered Professional Reporter and a

Certified Manager of Reporting Services, and she remains a certified shorthand reporter in her native Texas.

Melinda plans to return to her hometown of San Saba, Texas, and spend more time with her family and faithful dog, Bleu.

Lucky dog to have Melinda back.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Melinda Walker for her many years of distinguished and dedicated service to the House and in wishing her the very best in retirement.

Melinda, we owe you and your colleagues a debt of gratitude. You silently serve and sit and listen to verb after noun after adjective after word after word after word—and you stay awake. It is amazing. And you do it so well, to the advantage of all of us who serve here, but, much more importantly, to the advantage of the people of the United States, who will know what their Representatives say on their behalf and will be, therefore, able, in a democracy, to make a sound judgment as to whether those words are the words they want intoned on this floor on their behalf.

So, Melinda, to you and to all of your colleagues, we say thank you. Godspeed. Be well.

RECOGNIZING EDD SORENSEN OF JACKSON COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a local hero from Jackson County, Florida.

Mr. Edd Sorenson is known internationally for his courageous and skillful ability to rescue and retrieve cave divers. Just this past March, he was called upon in the Dominican Republic to retrieve two bodies that were on the brink of never being recovered due to the dangerous conditions.

His most recent courageous rescue took place in Tennessee, where he was called upon, in the middle of the night, to save the life of a professional cave diver, Josh Bratchley, widely known as the man who saved the Thai soccer team last year from their cave incident.

When Edd is not answering a call for the next cave rescue, you will find him managing his cave diving business in Marianna, Florida, where he is a cave dive instructor.

Edd is a truly remarkable individual. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Edd Sorenson for his heroic and selfless actions that have saved the lives of many and brought closure to families that, otherwise, would never have been possible.

□ 1215

THE PLIGHT OF ETHIOPIAN ISRAELIS IN ISRAEL

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1