

"In short, the Constitution not only survived the evolution of this great Nation but permitted the American people to exercise the greatest level of individual liberty in history.

"Further, it has been the 'shining light on the hill' that has provided the inspiration for peoples all over the Earth to seek liberty and freedom for themselves.

"Is that not a miracle?"

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the people of Hong Kong.

Last month, I had the opportunity to hear directly from leaders in Hong Kong dedicated to both religious tolerance and to democracy, as promised in the "one country, two systems" agreement.

The people of Hong Kong wave American flags during their protests as a symbol of the freedoms that they desire.

Now is the time for Congress to support the people of Hong Kong and pass Representative CHRIS SMITH's bill, the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act. This measure states without question that the United States Government supports the people of Hong Kong and their right to freedom of expression and democratic governance guaranteed under their 50-year arrangement agreed to in 1997 by China and the United Kingdom.

STOP IGNORING RED LINES IN IDLIB, SYRIA

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today again to bring attention to the travesty happening in Idlib province, Syria.

Since mid-August, the brutal dictator Assad, his protector Putin, and Iranian coconspirators have repeatedly bombed Idlib and the surrounding region. Their aerial slaughter and shelling have displaced all but 2 percent to 3 percent of the population. They have bombed hospitals, even killing a former kindergarten student of the Wisdom House School, a school supported by constituents in my home of Arkansas, supported before the school was closed due to bombing.

After nearly 10 years of death and destruction, some say this conflict is drawing to a close. When we look back on this calamitous conflict, we and our allies in Europe will hang our heads in shame for ignoring red lines that gave a green light to Assad's slaughter of his own civilians by the hundreds of thousands.

HONORING BOB SHELL

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend Bob Shell, who passed away last month at the age of 88.

In 1950, Bob joined The Baldwin Company for a job scheduled to last 9

months and ended up staying for almost 70 years. Bob started in the field as a payroll clerk and worked his way up in the company, eventually becoming president, chairman, and chairman emeritus. The company's name was changed when Bob became president and CEO to Baldwin & Shell Construction Company, the name it holds today.

Bob is one of the five charter members of the Arkansas Construction Hall of Fame. He was named Arkansas Business Executive of the Year in 1990 and was featured by Arkansas Business as one of 10 business icons for our State in 2016.

During his time with the company, he had been involved in more than 2,700 projects, including hospitals, offices, schools, churches, and industrial plants.

I admired this good and decent man. He was a role model and a friend to many across our State of Arkansas, and I extend my respect, affection, and prayers to his friends, family, and loved ones.

HONORING NICHOLAS BURRELL

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize an amazing young man from my district, Nicholas Burrell from Benton, Arkansas.

Nicholas started as a Cub Scout in third grade and, at age 14, became the youngest Eagle Scout in Troop 99 in Benton. He is also a cancer survivor.

Nicholas was diagnosed with cancer of the brain and spine when he was 11. He has had multiple tumors and underwent 26 rounds of chemotherapy but was always back to participating in projects with the Boy Scouts just a few months after his last treatment.

For his Eagle project, he built a free outdoor pantry called the Blessing Box at Salem United Methodist Church, where Troop 99 holds its meetings.

Nicholas is currently a ninth-grader at Bryant Junior High School, and his cancer has been in remission since 2017.

Nicholas' strength and perseverance are a testament and witness to us all. I wish him much continued success as he grows and makes Arkansas proud.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, on September 15, we began National Hispanic Heritage Month, one that celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans of Hispanic descent.

I recently learned the story of a former Kansas City resident, the late Hector Berretto, Sr., who served as a voice for his local Hispanic community. Hector founded the Kansas City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and, later, the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, to counter disadvantages of Hispanic business owners in the Kansas City area and around the country.

The Hispanic population in the United States contributes enormously to our country, both culturally and economically. Most of the Hispanic individuals I have had the pleasure of knowing, many of them patients of mine, have been remarkably dedicated to faith and family and preserving their own culture centered around faith and family.

Many of my OB patients were Hispanic women, often accompanied by their loving mothers, grandmothers, sisters, and aunts concerned for the health of their family member and the baby. Every visit was a family event of great importance to the family.

Now numbering over 55 million individuals, the Hispanic American population is projected to combine for an estimated buying power of \$1.7 trillion in 2020. Hispanics are more likely than average Americans to open a business. Now with over 3.2 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States, millions more American workers have jobs, thanks to these industrious entrepreneurs.

I am grateful for this opportunity to reflect on the unique contributions of the Hispanic American community to our great Nation and to Kansas. I look forward to continuing working with communities of all backgrounds in pursuit of our shared goal of a free and equal America, an America where anyone can live the American Dream if they are willing to work hard enough.

DEMOCRATS WILL DO ANYTHING TO STOP PRESIDENT TRUMP

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, rather than focusing on bipartisan trade agreements, Congress is being put on pause for a charade, a charade that hopes to undo the will of American voters.

Democrats aren't sure what they are doing in the Judiciary Committee today. You might hear that it is an impeachment inquiry, a meeting about rules for impeachment, or, perhaps, a group therapy session.

We know Democrats are more interested in tearing down the President than in building up America. They will do anything to stop President Trump at any cost.

Democrats want to throw the brakes on a thriving economy. They want to turn back the clock on record-low unemployment in Hispanic and African American communities, tax cuts for families and small businesses, and more, all in the name of bitter politics after a loss. They, the Democrats, embody the term "poor loser."

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were to abandon their tired and baseless attacks on the President, we could move forward in a bipartisan way to pass the USMCA trade deal, secure our borders, and reform our very broken immigration system. We can work on lowering the costs of prescription drugs and healthcare.

Americans desperately need Congress to deliver these solutions. Unfortunately, House Democrats have chosen

political divisiveness over the American people, party over country, and hate over hope and possibility.

Republicans stand ready and waiting for Democrats to finish their infighting and impeachment circus. We stand ready to work with them to pass USMCA and further our economic prosperity. But until they are done playing political games with impeachment, we, and the American people, will be forced to wait, and all America is the loser.

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 15 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. PETERS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Brother Peter Tabichi, Order of Saint Francis, Keriko Mixed Day Secondary School, Pwani Village, Kenya, offered the following prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace,

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

We pray for peace in the world.

We pray that our hands and hearts be stretched out in compassion and in the service of others.

You remind us, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else."

Lord, make us an instrument of Your peace.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, 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 Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ONLY CONGRESS CAN AUTHORIZE WAR AGAINST IRAN

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, President Trump said that the U.S. is "locked and loaded" and ready to launch an attack against Iran in retaliation for attacks on Saudi oil facilities that Houthi rebels in Yemen have claimed responsibility for.

Let's be clear, Mr. Speaker, this Congress has not—and let me emphasize, has not—authorized any kind of military operation against Iran. Nevertheless, the President is beating the drums of war to distract Americans from the truth.

What happened in Saudi Arabia is a logical outcome of failing to negotiate an end to Yemen's civil war. It is a logical outcome of the President's blind support for Saudi Arabia against the will of Congress.

It is time for cooler heads to prevail. It is time to end U.S. support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen. It is time to end the failed maximum pressure campaign against Iran. It is time to remind this President that the Constitution gives Congress the right to declare war, not him.

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, September 16, 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, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on September 16, 2019, at 5:48 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies the Congress of his intent to enter into a trade agreement regarding tariff barriers with Japan.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,

Clerk of the House.

INITIATING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN ON A UNITED STATES-JAPAN TRADE AGREEMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-63)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

On October 16, 2018, my Administration notified the Congress that I intended to initiate trade negotiations with Japan on a United States-Japan Trade Agreement. As stated in that notification and subsequent consultations with the Congress, my Administration proposed pursuing negotiations with Japan in stages. I am pleased to report that my Administration has reached an initial trade agreement regarding tariff barriers (the "agreement") with Japan and I intend to enter into the agreement in the coming weeks.

Accordingly, pursuant to section 103(a)(2) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-26, Title I) (the "Act"), I hereby notify the Congress that I intend to enter into a trade agreement regarding tariff barriers with Japan under section 103(a) of the Act.

In addition, I also will be entering into an Executive Agreement with Japan regarding digital trade.

My Administration looks forward to continued collaboration with the Congress on further negotiations with Japan to achieve a comprehensive trade agreement that results in more fair and reciprocal trade between the United States and Japan.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 16, 2019.

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, September 17, 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 September 17, 2019, at 11:25 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con Res. 25.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

RECESS

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