

more connected. Again, it is a relationship that goes back to World War I, when U.S. troops, the first group that arrived in the expeditionary force in World War I, actually fought under an Australian general, John Monash. Obviously, that carried through during World War II, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

In Vietnam, they were our ally, one of the few that actually fought with our country during that conflict; and, obviously, in the Middle East, Australian troops have been part of, again, operations, to this day, between the two countries in terms of the fight against ISIS and others.

When we were in Australia, again, the situation that I think is most urgent and something I really think all of us need to pay attention to is that the environment in the Indo-Pacific region is changing dramatically.

We now have a leader in the country of China, Xi Jinping, who has declared himself President for life and who has openly and brazenly basically signaled that he is prepared to disregard all international rules-based order, which has really been the foundation of that region since the end of World War II, whether it is maritime law, where, again, they are building islands totally in violation of maritime law, or whether it is a claim of the Nine-Dash Line, which is a territorial claim far out into the South China Sea and the East China Sea.

Again, what is happening there is egregious. It is harmful in terms of safe passage and open lanes of maritime traffic in the region. They obviously are engaged in an unprecedented military buildup, again, developing missile technologies that put surface ships of both countries and others in the region at great risk.

So we have a lot of work to do.

Rare earth minerals, which, again, China dominates. They have a virtual monopoly. Everything from our cellphones to aerospace and maritime equipment require the use of that.

Western Australia, in particular, has deep deposits of rare earth minerals, and it is time for our two countries to work together to create a different supply chain that does not rely totally on the country of China to make that happen.

What we also heard was that the best way that our country can move forward is to really, I think, point to what makes us most attractive in the world today, which is our embrace of democracy, free speech, openness, and generosity.

Again, those are policies which we heard loud and clear from our colleagues in the Australian Parliament that they are looking to America, which has been the leader since the end of World War II, to promote, that type of international rules-based order.

That is really the question of the day for this administration, which is in a go-it-alone trade war with China. Again, they have got the symptom

right, which is that China's behavior is egregious and malign, particularly in terms of the trade practices that they engage in, but the question is: How do you push back? How do you execute a policy that should be multilateral, collaborative with our allies, to make sure that the World Trade Organization actually has real teeth in terms of enforcing egregious violations that China has been engaged in in terms of intellectual property and government involvement in terms of trying to capture different markets like solar panels and many, many others?

So, again, I just want to say to our friends in Australia that they are welcome in this country. We look forward to, again, a very rich and strong alliance moving forward. The coequal branch of our government in Congress is part of that message and part of that policy.

Again, we look forward to many years of productive work together based on common values as well as common interests and, obviously, the embrace of democracy for the region and for the rest of the world.

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 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Chaplain Major General Steven Schaick, U.S. Air Force, The Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we ask forgiveness for all the times we forget things that bear remembering. Sometimes we forget that when Sam Johnson's F-4 was shot down and 7 years of torture ensued, he credits prayer, holy scripture, and Your undeniable presence for his survival, release, and his becoming a U.S. Congressman. And sometimes we forget that when Tech Sergeant Bell was raped by a man she once considered a friend, leaving her with hopelessness and thoughts of suicide, You, O Lord, raised her up to become one of our most amazing noncommissioned officers.

Lord, Your fingerprints are seen on every sortie, every mission, and on the precious lives of every airman, past and present. And so today we can say "happy birthday" with humble gratitude.

We pray Your continued blessing on our United States Air Force, which

today celebrates its 72nd birthday. We pray also Your blessings upon these Halls of Congress and on our United States of America.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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 CHAPLAIN MAJOR GENERAL STEVEN SCHAICK

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today is a great day. It is the birthday of the United States Air Force and for those of us who serve. I rise today to recognize not only that birthday of the Air Force but to have the great and distinct honor of having Chief of Chaplains Steve Schaick, as we have just heard, to be here. I have the privilege of also calling him my boss because I am in the Air Force as well. He is a chaplain, and he is the top of my chain. He is there for a reason. He exemplifies what a chaplain means and how they serve in our Air Force.

Throughout our country's history, men and women have awaited and answered the call of duty, accomplishing each mission with valor. Today, we acknowledge the men and women who have taken to the skies to defend our country as members of the United States Air Force.

As a chaplain in that United States Air Force Reserves, I have had the privilege to minister and work with airmen since 2002. Their courage and integrity both at home and abroad are unmatched, and Chaplain Steven Schaick is a testament to that courage and integrity.

Chaplain Schaick is a native of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1976, serving for 4 years as an F-15 integrated avionics component specialist. He is endorsed by the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and was commissioned in the Air Force Reserves as a chaplain candidate in 1985 and into the Active Duty chaplaincy in 1988.

Chaplain Schaick has served three different major commands as a staff

chaplain, followed by a special duty assignment to Arlington National Cemetery. He now serves as the Chief of Chaplains of the United States Air Force.

It is my honor to sponsor him to be the guest chaplain of the United States House of Representatives on this, the Air Force's birthday, September 18, 2019. Again, it is my pleasure to have Chaplain Schaick with us today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HONORING BUFFALO FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, this week, I was pleased to announce the city of Buffalo Fire Department has been awarded a Federal grant of more than \$8.9 million by the Department of Homeland Security's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program. With this critical support, the Buffalo Fire Department will be able to hire 50 additional firefighters.

The purpose of this grant is to make certain that local fire departments are able to respond quickly to emergencies and at all hours.

Buffalo is home to an incredible team of firefighters who work to protect our community from fires and other emergencies. Just 1 month ago, the department received a separate grant of \$322,000 for equipment and training. This Federal grant funding will go a long way in strengthening the city's fire department and adding more dedicated personnel who work tirelessly to keep our community safe.

TIME IS NOW TO AX WIDOW'S TAX

(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, yesterday, the conferees of the National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, were announced, and I am deeply grateful to serve another year on this committee for fiscal year 2020.

I will continue to promote peace through strength and work to champion repeal of the widow's tax. Our surviving spouses have waited long enough.

As of this week, my bill, the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, has 376 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle. In fact, it has the highest number of cosponsors of any bill in the current Congress.

In a time of constant disagreement, I am thankful to come together and for

the bipartisan support this bill has received. I am disappointed it did not receive a standalone vote, but I will fight to keep it in the NDAA. It is now time to ax the widow's tax.

I am dedicated to supporting our servicemembers, veterans, and military families. I look forward to working with the entire NDAA conference committee and President Donald Trump to advance this bipartisan legislation.

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

VAPING IS QUICKLY BECOMING A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

(Ms. BROWNLEY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, recently, it was reported that a seventh person has died from a vaping-related illness in the United States.

In response, the CDC recently announced that it has activated its emergency operations center to investigate what is quickly becoming a public health crisis. It is becoming abundantly clear that e-cigarettes are causing harmful health impacts among both teens, approximately 2.4 million students, and adults who use them.

While more research is needed, I believe this public health emergency requires swift action by Congress to prevent the marketing of these products to young people. That is why I have introduced the Stop Vaping Ads Act, which will close the loophole in current law and would ban e-cigarette advertisements on broadcast media.

I invite my colleagues to join me in support of this commonsense bill that will help curb the onslaught of harmful and dangerous e-cigarette ads.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN SEAN DUFFY

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, on September 23, Congress will lose one of its most dedicated Members as SEAN DUFFY retires from the House.

I will miss his unwavering commitment to conservative principles and the way that he never backed down from a fight. In fact, he welcomed them. But he also engaged in a battle of ideas, and he never made it personal.

It is because of this attitude that freedom and liberty will be sustained a little longer, and I wish we had more like him. I also respected his legislative accomplishments, particularly his commitment to protecting our State-based system of insurance regulation, just one of his many passions during his time as chairman and ranking member of the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, SEAN will be remembered by me as a friend, a loving father, a dedicated husband, and a humble public servant. I, for one, hope this is not the last we hear or see of Congressman SEAN DUFFY.

HONORING RONNIE LUPE

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

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Ronnie Lupe, former chairman of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, who passed away last month at the age of 89.

During his time as a public servant, Mr. Lupe fought for Tribal sovereignty and worked extensively on water rights issues. Mr. Lupe's efforts aided the passage of the White Mountain Apache Water Rights Quantification Act of 2009 and established a reservation-wide clean drinking water system.

For his service to his Tribe, he was recognized by former Arizona Governor Jack Williams on the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs in 1968.

A veteran, Mr. Lupe was a member of the United States Marine Corps during the Korean war.

Arizona lost an awesome voice for Native American advancement. I feel truly humbled to have known him. Pat and I are keeping our thoughts with Ronnie's family and the entire White Mountain Apache Tribe in our prayers as they mourn his passing.

RECOGNIZING SPRING LAKE'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the village of Spring Lake on its 150th birthday.

This past weekend, friends and residents of the small village in west Michigan gathered together to celebrate and share memories of the community's rich and storied history.

The village of Spring Lake first began as a lumber town in 1838 when Captain Benjamin Hopkins and his family arrived from Canada. Soon after, other settlers arrived and constructed additional sawmills, leading to the village officially incorporating in 1869. As the village developed, railroads, resorts, and telephone lines all helped the village grow into a bustling community.

Today, the village is situated on the beautiful shores of both Spring Lake and the Grand River right next to Lake Michigan, offering endless recreational opportunities and a wide variety of shops and services.

While the village has changed much throughout the last 150 years, one thing has remained constant, the close-knit and welcoming community continues to make the village a special place to live and raise a family.