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USMCA

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this morning I want to applaud the efforts of my colleagues across the aisle on their efforts and the United States trade team for getting closer to approving the USMCA trade agreement. I remain very optimistic that we can get this passed in Congress and that we can get this done this fall.

It is time to deliver the USMCA agreement for Kansas. We have waited over a year, and it is now time to pass this agreement. This agreement will mean thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars of increased exports for Kansas.

Today I want to remind the Speaker of the importance of the USMCA deal and to please bring it to the floor where we can vote on it and deliver for America.

CHINA TRADE WAR

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I want to applaud the administration's effort on the China trade war. I want to applaud President Trump and his trade team led by Ambassador Bob Lighthizer for all their hard work. It seems like just yesterday they signed an agreement with Japan. But they didn't rest on their laurels and have quickly moved on to the significance of a Chinese trade agreement.

There seems to be more good news coming out of the White House every day, and we continue to encourage the White House and the Chinese leadership to develop this agreement and allow more agriculture products into China. We look forward to future engagements with our Chinese counterparts in the near future as well and continue to hope that we can work toward a strong agreement yet this fall.

ABU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI MISSION

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to stop and congratulate President Trump and the intelligence officers and the U.S. Special Forces who risked their lives in a daring raid this weekend where the leader of ISIS died by detonating a suicide vest killing himself and, very sadly, his three children after he was cornered in a tunnel.

Mr. Speaker, I have to stop and ask the question: What type of a person would sacrifice his own children?

ISIS is among the most depraved organizations in history. They have committed genocidal mass murder and enslaved, tortured, and beheaded innocent civilians.

Americans can all be encouraged by President Trump's Syria policy. He has destroyed ISIS, and he has kept American troops out of harm's way. President Trump continues to support the Kurds in eastern Syria where he sent a military convoy on Saturday.

President Trump is keeping his promises: leading American foreign policy abroad through strength and showing our enemies there is nowhere for them to hide.

RURAL ENERGY

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this morning I want to stop and say thanks to Mother Nature for all the blessings she has given Kansas, in particular the fact that we are an energy rich State. She has given us oil, natural gas, ethanol, wind, and solar production.

We want to stop and applaud the efforts of what the USDA and the Department of Energy formally did last week as they began working together to facilitate energy-related investments in America's rural communities to encourage investments in our new and improved rural energy production and infrastructure.

Additional focus on cybersecurity and grid improvements to secure our rural energy networks are also happening. This work builds upon President Trump's energy task force on agriculture and rural prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the President so much for making rural America stronger today.

ABU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI IS NO MORE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the tremendous news we all received over the weekend that the world's most wanted terrorist and leader of ISIS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was killed in a U.S.-led raid in northern Syria.

As the self-proclaimed leader of the Islamic State, al-Baghdadi was directly involved in countless atrocities and demonstrated complete disregard for human rights and human life. Genocide, sex slavery, organized rape, mass executions via crucifixion, stoning, burning in cages or flogging—all-Baghdadi's brutality knew no limits.

The world is unquestionably a better place without this purveyor of evil inhabiting it at this time.

I commend U.S. Joint Special Operations Command's 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta, also known as Delta Force, for the flawless execution of their mission—and without any U.S. casualties.

I also commend President Trump and his administration for authorizing this raid and bringing one of the most dangerous men in the world to justice. They are doing good work in the Syria situation. This will go down as a significant achievement in the war against terror.

In the immediate aftermath of the announcement becoming public, most rational people from both sides of the aisle celebrated this accomplishment—but not all.

Mr. Speaker, you may have seen the headlines from the Washington Post: "Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, an austere religious scholar at the helm of Islamic State dies at 48."

Even in this age of questionable reporting, this headline and others like it

are reprehensible. In fact, his last cowardly action on Earth was to detonate a suicide vest as he was being hunted down by some of our specialized military dogs as well as our personnel. Great work. In doing so, with his suicide vest, he also took the lives of three of his own children.

U.S. Special Operations Forces didn't kill just a noble religious scholar as was headlined. They actually killed a deranged, radicalized madman who was directly responsible for the brutal murders of countless people: Americans and his own country people from that part of the world as well.

While the headline has since been changed by the Washington Post, they should be ashamed of themselves. We don't mourn the loss of terrorists in the United States of America.

Now, this victory doesn't mean the war against terror is won by any means, but it should send a loud, clear, and unmistakable message to the rest of the world that the United States will root out evil wherever it is and wherever it hides. Our enemies are not safe, and they never will be.

We celebrate this evil's removal from the Earth embodied by al-Baghdadi. Anyone who is willing to commit these types of atrocities should understand one thing: We will not rest as a Nation and as a military until they are wiped out from the face of the Earth.

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 12 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 (Ms. KELLY of Illinois) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Derek W.H. Thomas, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your guiding hand upon our Nation for almost 2½ centuries.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

Today, I humbly ask that You would bless our Congressional leaders. Grant them the wisdom of Solomon to address the complex issues of government, ensuring that the legitimate needs of our citizens are faithfully represented. At a moment of tension and division, I ask that Your will might be done, ensuring the preservation of liberty and justice for all.

I especially pray for those who protect our Nation and today may be in

harm's way. Set Your angels to guard their every step. I thank You for those who make it their life's ambition to protect the lives of the weak and helpless. May this House ensure that righteousness exalts this Nation.

All this I ask in Jesus' mighty name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania 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. DEREK W.H. THOMAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the Reverend Dr. Derek William Henry Thomas is the senior pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, South Carolina, and the Chancellor's Professor of Systematic and Pastoral Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary.

A native of Wales in the United Kingdom, Dr. Thomas completed his ministerial training at Reformed Theological Seminary and received his Ph.D. from the University of Wales, Lampeter. He served as a pastor for 17 years in Belfast, Northern Ireland, before returning to the United States to serve as the minister of teaching at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Mississippi. He was called to his present position in 2013. He has written or edited 25 books becoming editorial director for the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals and the editor of its e-zine, Reformation 21.

He and his wife, Rosemary, have been married for 43 years, have two adult children, and are naturalized citizens of the United States.

The First Presbyterian Church was the first church organized in the capital of South Carolina and will celebrate its semisestercentennial next year. It is the largest congregation in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod with 3,000 members.

The historic First Presbyterian Churchyard was established in 1798 with Federal legislators interred along with Ann Pamela Cunningham who

founded the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association in 1853 saving President George Washington's home from collapse. Also interred are President Woodrow Wilson's parents, Reverend Joseph and Jessie Wilson.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTH CAROLINA COURAGE

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the North Carolina Courage for their second straight National Women's Soccer League Championship and their third title in the past 4 years.

Their four-goal win was the largest margin of victory in NWSL history.

The Triangle area that I represent in North Carolina has truly embraced this team with a record-setting crowd attending Sunday's match.

Now, this was really a team effort, but I do want to give a special shout-out to Coach Paul Riley, MVP Debinha Miri, and the retiring great—Heather O'Reilly. I must also mention the four members from the Courage who also led us to victory in the 2019 Women's World Cup: Crystal Dunn, Sam Mewis, Abby Dahlkemper, and Jessica McDonald.

Thank you for making North Carolina proud. And congratulations again to the North Carolina Courage.

SALUTING OUR TROOPS FOR ELIMINATING ABU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today, thanks to the relentless efforts of our military's special operations servicemembers, ISIS leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, is dead and our world is a safer place. Saturday night's victory over this violent enemy is due to our troops' selfless sacrifices and superior work with our Nation's intelligence operatives.

President Trump has shown that under his command there is no safe place for terrorists, and I thank him and our troops for helping keep our country free and safe.

Providing national security is the number one job of the Federal Government. Now it is time the House of Representatives puts our troops first by passing the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2020 to support our military's continued success and ensure the safest possible outcome in all its missions.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. PATRICIA SKINNER

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

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great education leader in my district, Dr. Patricia Skinner of Gaston College. She has been president of Gaston College for 25 years, nearly half of the college's existence.

Over the last two decades, the college has seen tremendous progress. Dr. Skinner facilitated the opening of two new campuses in addition to the construction of 11 new academic and administrative buildings and recently opened the Center for Advanced Manufacturing at the Dallas campus.

She has done a fantastic and phenomenal job, and we wish her great success in her retirement. Spending more time with her two daughters and her grandchildren will put her through the paces as we well know.

We wish Dr. Skinner well in her retirement.

NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS DAY

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and the sacrifice of our Nation's first responders.

In Pennsylvania and around the entire country, police officers, firefighters, EMTs, and other emergency personnel are willing to put their lives on the line each and every day that they report to duty. On today, National First Responders Day, we thank these men and women and their families for serving our communities.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am committed to ensuring that first responders are well-equipped to do the job that we have entrusted them to do. This month it was my privilege to announce that FEMA, through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, has awarded nearly \$3 million to local fire companies and first responders in the 13th District of Pennsylvania. These funds will help them to acquire much-needed equipment and training.

When there is an emergency, we know that our first responders will be there, and Congress needs to be there for them too.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 2:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1430

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.