

America, we have, instead, the majority party conducting baseless impeachment hearings.

I conclude again by calling on NANCY PELOSI and the majority party to do the things the American people actually want Congress to do.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

FUND THE MILITARY

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, there are 8 days until our military funding runs out. Instead of funding the military, the House is kicking the can down the road. Instead of bringing stability to our servicemembers, House Democratic leadership is focused on a partisan impeachment process.

Our men and women in uniform deserve better than this. They deserve to have their mission, training, weapons, and equipment properly funded.

However, next week, when we reach the funding deadline, we will likely vote on a continuing resolution, a CR. A CR is not a thoughtful approach to support our servicemembers. A CR maintains current spending levels for the military and continues this cycle of uncertainty for our servicemembers.

While better than a shutdown, there are real-world consequences to simply passing a CR:

The Air Force is short 2,100 pilots. A CR does not provide the Air Force with new funding to train new pilots to fill these positions.

A CR prevents the Army from building 4,000 housing units for its members.

A CR forces the Navy to cancel ship maintenance periods and undermines critical training programs.

This is a dangerous funding cycle that jeopardizes our servicemembers' safety and their ability to protect our country.

Once again, our Federal spending process is broken, and it has gotten us into this mess. Let's stop the partisan politics. Let's focus on supporting our military. And let's work to fix the broken spending process here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, we must never allow our servicemembers and their mission to be put at risk again.

RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF THE WISCONSIN FARM BUREAU

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 100 years of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau. For a century, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau has supported farmers in Wisconsin.

Agriculture is a Wisconsin tradition. Generations of Wisconsinites have dedicated their life to farming and feeding our State and the world. From milk to cheese, from sweet corn to soybeans, from cranberries to whey, our proud, hardworking Wisconsin farmers are there.

I thank the Wisconsin Farm Bureau for helping Wisconsin become and remain America's dairyland.

Happy 100 years.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM ON FIFTH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Wisconsin women's hockey team on winning their fifth national championship in program history.

They beat the Minnesota Gophers 2-0 to win their first national championship in 8 years. Kristen Campbell did not give up a goal, and it was her 11th shutout of the season. To make the victory better, we beat our rival, Minnesota.

The Badgers' women's hockey team is visiting my office and the White House to celebrate this success.

Congrats to the University of Wisconsin women's hockey team for their hard-earned victory. The Badger State is proud of them. On, Wisconsin.

HONORING CHIEF OF STAFF RYAN THOMPSON

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

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, what are the best things an American can do for his or her country?

Public service, military service, community service.

What does a true public servant look like?

Someone who possesses exemplary character, integrity, and inspires confidence. Someone who has the network of relationships on both sides to be both respected and effective.

How do you honor a man who gave 20 years to the United States Government and the House of Representatives, the United States Marine Corps Infantry, and dedicated his free time to bringing Democrats and Republicans together in the name of charity?

Ryan Thompson, my trusted chief of staff and dear friend, who sits here with me, joins us on the House floor for the final time today.

He has accompanied me and our former boss to the floor countless times and always helped us look and do our best. Today is different, though, because this is his moment.

Mr. Speaker, there are proud members of the United States Marine Corps and there are proud graduates of Texas A&M University—Texas Aggies.

Occasionally, God blesses the world by combining both of those things in one person. Such is the case with Ryan Thompson.

Ryan is a proud, sixth-generation Texan of the Aggie variety, who serves

as a past president of the Texas State Society. A true philanthropist, Ryan has dedicated thousands of hours over the past decade to organizing the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Baseball Game, which raises millions of dollars for local charities each year.

Furthermore, Ryan founded and leads the Congressional Sports for Charity Foundation, which was created to ensure that the Congressional Baseball Game and other congressional charity events live on for decades to come.

Ryan wisely understands that the game is not only essential to the many charities it helps but serves another cause in need, the Congress itself.

Today, on behalf of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Washington, D.C.; the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation; and the Washington Literacy Council, which honored him with the Champion for Literacy Award—not to mention a grateful institution and Nation—thank you and happy trails to Ryan Scott Thompson.

Like a Texas live oak, he is strong from the roots up.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Apprenticeship Week. This year is the fifth anniversary for the celebration that aims to connect job seekers with businesses and educators in our communities to highlight the wealth of apprenticeship opportunities that are available.

For too long, it has been implied that the only respectable or worthwhile option available to achieve a successful career is spending 4 or more years on a campus to earn a college degree. Yet, the more than 7 million unfilled jobs in America today suggest workers don't have the necessary skills to fill these jobs.

We need to defy this misconception, invest in skills-based education, and fix our Nation's growing skills gap by providing students and job seekers with the skills and hands-on experience they need to improve their own lives.

As co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, I am proud to push for accessible career and technical education alongside my good friend and colleague, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN.

Career and technical education, or CTE, goes hand in hand with apprenticeships. Equipping learners of all ages with real-world experience in fields like STEM, nursing, information technology, cyber technology, agriculture, and more can bring us one step closer to closing our Nation's skills gap. In the past several years, we have

seen a rapid expansion in skills-based education like on-the-job learning, earn-while-you-learn programs, and apprenticeships.

Workforce development programs are successful only if they are adaptable to the changing needs of employers. The notice of proposed rulemaking by the Department of Labor issued this past June recognizes this through the proposed establishment of industry-recognized apprenticeships programs, or IRAPS. IRAPS cut through the bureaucratic red tape to put businesses and employees at the center of the conversation.

The proposed flexibility in the notice of proposed rulemaking will allow businesses the ability to quickly meet labor market needs. These changes will help foster continued innovation that recognizes the dignity of all work and provides another tool for apprentices to move into meaningful work in the rapidly evolving 21st century economy.

We can ensure IRAPS create as many career opportunities as possible by encouraging employer innovation and allowing students and families the freedom to choose the path that is best for them. That is the power of work. That is the power of CTE. And that is the power of apprenticeships, putting employers and students in the driver's seat of their own professional futures.

CONGRATULATING STEVE JOHNSON ON RECEIVING IMTA'S FOUNDERS AWARD

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Steve Johnson, for receiving the prestigious Indiana Motor Truck Association's Founders Award.

The IMTA's Founders Award is an honor bestowed to those who embody the spirit of the association's founders and have made outstanding contributions to the association and the Indiana trucking industry. Steve is only the ninth individual to have received this award in the past 14 years.

Always one to give back, Steve proudly serves his Nation in uniform and remains involved in his local church, charitable foundations, and children's hospitals in Indiana.

I congratulate my good friend, Steve Johnson.

CONGRATULATING THREE HIGH SCHOOLS ON SPECIAL OLYMPICS RECOGNITION

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate three high schools located in Indiana's Sixth District on their achievement of becoming a National Banner Unified Champion School.

Columbus East High School, Muncie Central High School, and South Ripley High School were recognized by the Special Olympics for their servant hearts and commitments to inclusion. These three high schools achieved the status of a Unified Champion School after meeting 10 national standards of excellence set by the Special Olympics.

As institutions dedicated to inclusion, collaboration, and engagement, we are proud of Columbus East, Muncie Central, and South Ripley. We congratulate the students and faculty for this significant achievement.

RECOGNIZING BATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AND IVY TECH'S PARTNERSHIP

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Batesville High School for their tremendous achievement of having one-half of the 2020 graduating class earn college credits. Through their innovative programs with Ivy Tech Community College, Batesville will see 50 percent of their graduating seniors walk across the stage with an entire year's worth of college credits.

The Ivy Tech program gives Hoosiers the opportunity to take 16 college courses at no cost, enabling them to obtain a bachelor's degree in just 3 years after they go to college.

I thank Batesville High School faculty and staff for continuing to provide innovative educational programs that set our students up for success.

RECOGNIZING RUSHVILLE CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL FFA PROGRAM

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Rushville Future Farmers of America chapter for being one of six chapters across the country to participate in the Turn the Bag Blue and Gold program.

The Turn the Bag Blue and Gold program is a partnership between FFA and Mycogen Seeds that gives students the opportunity to visit with farmers and polish their professional skills while raising money for their communities. This program will allow students to sell directly to local farmers, providing industry experience and a wonderful educational opportunity. A percentage of these sales will go directly to the Rushville FFA chapter.

Congratulations to Rushville FFA.

CONGRATULATING INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Indiana National Guard for the stationing of the 127th Cyber Protection Battalion at Muscatatuck. As the seventh largest Army National Guard contingent in the Nation, the Indiana National Guard continues to make our Nation's defenses better.

The Hoosier State is proud to be home to cyber force structures such as the Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex, the Defensive Cyber Operations Element, and Cyber Protection Team 172. We are honored to have such a distinctive battalion.

Indiana's Sixth District boasts the Department of Defense's only live, full-scale cyber range, and I join the Army National Guard in congratulating our distinguished Hoosiers in uniform on this outstanding achievement.

CONGRATULATING BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA VOLUNTEER BETH CURTISS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Beth Curtiss of Shelbyville, Indiana. Beth was awarded the 2019 Crossroads of America Silver Beaver Award, in association with the Boy

Scouts of America. This award is the highest honor the Crossroads of America Council may bestow on a volunteer.

Beth has volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America for over 15 years. This is the fifth time Beth has been recognized for her outstanding service.

I am pleased to congratulate Beth, and I thank her for investing in our communities.

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 38 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

Ms. Verna Teller, Southern Tiwa, Pueblo of Isleta, New Mexico, offered the following prayer:

O, Creator and Great Mother, having asked and received Your permission to invoke Your blessings today to all directions—to the east, north, west, south, and the center—we thank You for the life You give to all Your children: the two-legged ones, the four-legged, those who live in the waters, and those who watch over us from the skies above.

Sacred pollen, sacred Earth Mother, sacred water that manifest Your desires, O Creator and Great Mother, we thank them for the nourishment they give us equally, with no regard to race, color, or creed.

Creator and Great Mother, bless those standing before You who carry a sacred trust to all of us who inhabit Turtle Island, our homeland. And I pray today that You will give them the wisdom and the courage to carry out their sacred trust with the same equality that we receive from the Sun and rain.

"Hurrd kem," thank you.

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 California (Mr. PETERS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PETERS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows: