

Mr. Speaker, today we salute Andrea Smith Brown for her service not only in uniform but also her continued devotion to others by showing what it means to serve, heal, and keep moving forward.

RECOGNIZING DR. JIM HOTZ

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jim Hotz, a Georgia resident who has dedicated 47 years to providing medical care to those in rural communities.

When Dr. Hotz began practicing in Leesburg, Georgia, he was not only the only doctor in the county but the first they had seen in nearly 40 years.

Shocked to see so many people suffering from diseases no longer considered to be a widespread threat, such as tuberculosis, Dr. Hotz made it his mission to remedy the lack of accessible medical care that plagued rural Georgia. From snake bites to cervical cancer, Dr. Hotz treated thousands of patients who otherwise would have been forced to commute across counties for treatment, a trip that could cost them their lives.

In addition to nearly 50 years of medical service, Dr. Hotz founded Albany Area Primary Health Care to assist rural communities in obtaining accessible healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Hotz represents the best of compassion and community service, and it is an honor to recognize him and his many accomplishments.

THANKING PRESIDENT TRUMP FOR SAVING THE WORLD

(Mr. FINE of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank President Trump for saving the world. For those who don't recognize it, we have been at war with Iran for the last 46 years, or more likely and more accurately, Iran has been at war with us.

In 1979, they took American citizens hostage and paraded them out on the news day after day after day until President Reagan secured their release.

In 1983, a suicide bomb in Beirut, paid for by the Iranians, killed 63 people, including 17 Americans. In 1983, later that year, we all know they blew up our barracks with our marines, killing 241 people. Between 2003 and 2011, more than 600 American soldiers were killed by Iranian proxies.

Then obviously on October 7, 2023, 1,200 people were killed by Hamas, but Hamas is a proxy and largely paid for by Iran. Within that 1,200 people, 48 were Americans.

It leads me to ask this simple question: What if they had had a nuclear weapon?

For decades, American Presidents have said Iran can never have a nuclear weapon. It is a lot of talk but not a lot of action. Over and over and over again, Iran moved forward, building their bunkers deeper, building their sites more widespread, putting the world further at risk.

When Donald Trump talks, he doesn't just talk. When he says he is going to do something, he does it.

Over the weekend, we saw this President do what has been necessary for decades: To make sure the largest sponsor of terrorism in the world does not have the power to kill us all.

Make no mistake, just imagine if they had a nuclear weapon on 9/11. Imagine if they had a nuclear weapon on October 7.

When our enemies tell us they want to kill us, we should believe them. When they say, "death to Israel," when they say, "death to America," and when they say they want to wipe us off the map, they mean it. They mean it because we live in a world where we do not all share the same values. We live in a world where there is good and evil in our civilization.

In the Judeo-Christian civilization of the United States and the West, we believe in life. We believe in prosperity. We do not believe in martyrdom. We do not celebrate death. That is not what we believe. There are those that do, and we put ourselves in great peril when we fail to recognize that.

Donald Trump recognized it. Our brave American soldiers who flew 40 hours round trip to deliver a message that under this President and under the Congress that is here and under this leadership, we will never allow Iran to have those nuclear weapons.

The days ahead will be scary because Iran has said that they will respond. They should make no mistake: They mess with America at their own peril.

The last thing I will say is this, and I say this to those on my side. It is one thing when I call out the anti-Semitism of those who do not stand in my party, who do not agree with me, who do not call themselves conservatives, but I am an equal opportunist. It is easy to call it out on the other side. You must do it on your own.

To those on my side who hate Jews and hate Israel so much that they are willing to jeopardize the security of the United States, know this: You are in the minority, you will lose, and I and President Trump are going to fight you every step of the way.

SELLING OR TRANSFERRING FEDERAL LANDS

(Mr. LAMALFA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, lately there has been one heck of a lot of misinformation—which would be the kind term—flat-out lies about the land that is held in control by the Federal Government and proposals to perhaps sell a part of it.

What are we looking at here? There are really a lot of people on the left talking about an idea, a concept that hasn't even been completely fleshed out over on the Senate side, as part of the big, beautiful bill.

If you have listened to their talking points, you would think we are selling

off Yosemite and bulldozing national parks, which, of course, is nonsense. No one is proposing that. They know it but they keep saying it anyway.

Groups are putting out deliberately misleading maps, showing entire national forests and mountain ranges being at risk, even though the bill explicitly protects any land with a designation such as national parks, monuments, recreation areas, wilderness, and more.

It also excludes land with valid existing rights, which means grazing leases and mining claims stay in place, and backcountry roads and trails will be protected.

I am disappointed with some of the people that I tend to hang with generally on falling to that category, as well.

What is actually being considered are isolated, orphaned parcels near existing development. These are parcels the Federal Government doesn't maintain and usually has no use for. A lot of times the Federal land is held in checkerboard patterns.

Let me refer to the map here a little bit. You see this bright orange in the Western States, west of the Rockies, that is dominated as federally controlled land. The East much less so. That is probably why folks in the Eastern part of the country don't think this is a big deal. They think we will just let the Federal Government control more and more of these lands.

Let's look at Nevada here. It is almost solid orange, as well as Utah. My district in northern California is dominated by Federal land.

Is that good or is that bad?

Well, when we continue to have million-acre fires, hundreds of thousands of acres of fires, whichever year it is occurring, it is a pretty bad deal, as well.

We used to have a good, strong timber industry in my part of the State, as well as the West, that has been replaced by us having to come hat in hand every year to ask for what is called Secure Rural Schools funding, which is a replacement for what used to go to counties and local schools from timber harvest receipts. That was knocked out years ago due to the spotted owl and environmental stuff that has gone along with that for so many years. What we get then is Federal lands that are held and hardly even managed or touched.

I gave you all the exclusions a moment ago on areas that wouldn't even be part of a proposal, which is still a proposal over on the Senate side, on what Federal lands might be for sale. The Federal Government controls 640 million acres. What is even being talked about over there is a tiny fraction of that. The last number I heard was somewhere around 3 million. I don't know if that will hold up in the bill or not. New proposals are coming on that, but at least we can talk about it. We are talking about the sale of maybe one-half of 1 percent of all this

land dominated and not managed well by the Forest Service, not managed well by BLM, and not managed well by others, the national parks even.

The National Park Service is years and years and billions of dollars behind on their maintenance, and sometimes they want to even buy up more land. We talk about once in a while rejiggering that a little bit or having a reset. Maybe there are some lands that would be appropriate to be sold off. Oh, my gosh. It is the end of the world. No, it isn't.

In my area of northern California, we are tired of it. We are tired of the lands not being managed. They are going up in smoke, burning out wildlife, burning out the watersheds, which means all that ash and then later on erosion ends up in our waterways and in our water supply. It is not a win.

When are we going to have this discussion? I am not sure if it is going to come out over in the Senate in a final bill that we are going to vote on to affirm or not. We should, at least, have an honest discussion about what is going on with the Federal land that the government controls, 640 million acres. We are talking about maybe one-half of 1 percent.

Our counties and our local tax bases are eroded from so much. I mentioned the Secure Rural Schools. There is also another one called PILT. It is called Payments in Lieu of Taxes. That means when there is so much land owned by the Federal Government that the counties don't gain a property tax base from that. We have to come hat in hand, once again, to the Federal Government and say: Would you please send us our PILT money. They take a long time to get it out, or you have to fight to get it into a bill.

The people in the Eastern States or in the urban areas wonder: Why are we sending this money? Why do we care about SRS, or Secure Rural Schools? Why do we care about PILT? That is because you took that stuff away from us a long time ago.

The Founders had no concept that this much land would be federally controlled, yet here we are. We are getting bad results from it on the way it is mismanaged or nonmanaged, all of the above.

With that much being owned or controlled by the Federal Government, it is at least okay to have a conversation once in a while about whether this is appropriate. I think in the sense we are talking about, yes, we want to preserve the wetlands. We want to take care of those lands, but there are lands that are appropriate to talk about any possible situation like this.

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 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

God of mercy and compassion, though the Earth rages with unquenchable hostility, the fog of war blurs the truth on the ground, and all the while, innocents are threatened by the virulent wrath of their oppressors, we can only pray that You will fulfill Your promise of peace.

Whatever side we find ourselves on, make us instruments of that peace. In a world of hatred, may each dare to forgive. When we are overwhelmed with despair and want only to fight our way out, give us reason to trust that Your divine plan will make its way in us. And when our inclination toward conflict overrides our responsibility to seek understanding, grant us Your pardon and redeem our warring ways.

May this be the prayer of all Your people, that no one side feels that it alone bears the burden of making things right. May enemies find within themselves the humility to seek peace and may allies uphold their faith in You to make it happen.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MCCOLLUM 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.

RECOGNIZING ROCK L. BUTLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of students from Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

The team from Rock L. Butler Middle School recently placed fifth in the Nation in this year's Capitol Hill Challenge, a remarkable achievement.

The 16-week financial education competition brings together thousands of student teams from across the country, each tasked with investing a hypothetical \$100,000 in the stock market. The goal: to learn the fundamentals of financial literacy, teamwork, and long-term investing.

Competing against students from every congressional district, the Rock L. Butler team stood out not only for their strong returns but for their discipline, collaboration, and commitment to learning. Their performance reflects the dedication of their teachers and the support of the Wellsboro community.

I had the pleasure of meeting these students during their visit to Washington, and I can confidently say the future is in good hands.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Rock L. Butler Middle School team on this incredible accomplishment.

GRIEVING MARK AND MELISSA HORTMAN

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, 9 days ago, Minnesota suffered the unbearable loss of one of our Nation's finest public servants.

The targeted assassination of Melissa and Mark Hortman casts a long shadow of grief not only over Minnesota but our Nation.

Under her leadership, Speaker Hortman left the State of Minnesota better than she found it. She exemplified our values of hard work, respect, inclusion, and civil engagement.

As we mourn the loss of Melissa and Mark, I join Minnesotans to pray for Senator John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette, as they recover.

As Minnesota's top leader in Human Services, Senator Hoffman shepherded historic investments for the most vulnerable among us: the elderly; those with disabilities, both seen and unseen; and those recovering from addiction.

The grief that Minnesotans have endured in the days since this tragedy has been agonizing. As we come together to heal, may we find comfort in the words of Melissa and Mark's children: Hope and resilience are the enemy of fear.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAMUEL BERLING JACKSON

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness at the loss of a friend from Siskiyou County in northern California. Sam Jackson, known as Samuel Berling Jackson, was a lifelong rancher in Siskiyou County. The legacy of the Jackson family just goes on for generations.