

declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 42 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:

Eternal Father, sovereign God, enable us this day to see each other as You see us. Though we be broken or belligerent, contentious or callous, demanding or discouraged, nonetheless, You regard us with unconditional love.

In Your sight, we, Your children, are Your creation, the apple of Your eye. We may at times be lost, but not unloved, careless, yet held in Your embrace, mortal, and yet made righteous in You.

With Your eyes may we live into the love You have shown us; with Your words, may we speak with the grace You have given us; and in Your spirit, may we meet others with the same mercy You have offered us.

And as we follow where You lead us, serving in this time and this place, may we bear witness to the holiness to which You have called each of us.

In Your steadfast loving-kindness we receive in Your name, we offer these prayers.

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 gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TAYLOR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TAYLOR 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.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT JOHN DANNEKER

(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 honor the life of Sergeant John Danneker of Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Sergeant Danneker served as a waist gunner for the 565th Bombardment Squadron, 389th Bombardment Group during World War II.

On June 20, 1944, his bomber crashed into the Baltic Sea off the coast of Denmark. Sergeant Danneker was initially declared nonrecoverable after investigations into the crash were unable to locate the crewmen.

In 2019, Danish divers alerted the Royal Danish Navy of a World War II-era aircraft wreckage in the general area of where Sergeant Danneker's aircraft went down.

From May 2024 to June 2024, the Royal Danish Navy, the Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, and their partners were able to recover the remains from the aircraft.

On December 10, 2024, Sergeant Danneker was positively identified through DNA analysis.

Last week, on August 26, Sergeant Danneker was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Mr. Speaker, we must never stop searching for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. I am grateful to all involved for bringing Sergeant Danneker home.

#### SUCCESS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP FOR PEACE

(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, the success by President Donald Trump for peace and prosperity in the Middle East is being implemented by American patriot Ambassador Tom Barrack as I witnessed firsthand last week in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

Our bipartisan, bicameral delegation, led by Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN, visited with inspiring leaders like King Abdullah in Amman, President Ahmed al-Sharaa in Damascus, and President Joseph Aoun in Beirut.

Jordan is appreciated as a prosperous, longtime American ally. Syria is advancing to include all communities and religions into a unified nation. With dictator Assad fleeing to Moscow, President Trump promotes "give Syria a chance." Lebanon is fulfilling its pledge to disarm Hezbollah by year-end. Ambassador Barrack is successfully isolating Iran as Iran chants "death to Israel, death to America."

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump, murdering Ukrainian civilians with rocket attacks as he conducts lovely conversations.

#### HONORING THE TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD

(Mr. PFLUGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with immense pride to honor San Angelo, Texas, native and commander of the 449th Aviation Support Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Jordan Boyd, as well as two extraordinary National Guard units: the 108th Assault Helicopter Battalion in Austin and the 149th General Support Helicopter Battalion in San Antonio.

These units are extraordinary. On the morning of July Fourth, as floodwaters devastated central and west Texas, these two units immediately jumped into action and have not stopped since. Knowing many of the stranded children were present at that time, these crews pushed themselves to every imaginable limit, flying through adverse weather to reach Camp Mystic and the entire Guadalupe River. Their daring efforts saved 366 lives that day and reunited hundreds of families.

Mr. Speaker, I thank not just the pilots but also the maintainers and support personnel and all of the people in the Texas National Guard that have shown immense heroism over the past few months. I can't thank them enough for their heroic efforts.

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, August 29, 2025.

Speaker MIKE JOHNSON,  
Washington, DC.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: I am providing official notice of my intent to withdraw from the House Homeland Security Committee, effective immediately.

Over the course of my nine years in Congress, I have been a dedicated servant to We the People through the House Homeland Security Committee, fighting for the America First agenda, enforcement of American law, and security of American sovereignty. My Republican colleagues have chosen an alternate path for the Committee that I helped to build, a path more in alignment with the less conservative factions of our Conference, factions whose core principles are quite variant from my own conservative perspective on key issues like amnesty, ICE operations, and opposition to the surveillance state.

Therefore, recognizing that I would be in opposition to the core principles and agenda of the newly elected Chairman, I withdraw my presence from the House Homeland Security Committee.

Respectfully,

CLAY HIGGINS,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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

□ 1606

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WIED) at 4 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN ARMS REGULATIONS LICENSING REFORM ACT

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4215) to require the Secretary of State to promulgate expedited and fixed timelines for the decision-making process to license the export of certain defense articles and defense services, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4215

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "International Traffic in Arms Regulations Licensing Reform Act".

##### SEC. 2. LIST OF COUNTRIES AND END-USERS TO RECEIVE PRIORITY FOR DIRECT COMMERCIAL SALES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall develop and maintain a list of countries and end-users with respect to which expedited decision-making for applications for licenses for the export of defense articles and defense services is vital to the national security of the United States, consistent with the requirements of the Arms Export Control Act and other applicable provisions of law.

(b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the development of the list required by subsection (a), and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate an updated copy of the list.

##### SEC. 3. DECISION-MAKING PROCESS FOR APPLICATIONS FOR DIRECT COMMERCIAL SALES.

Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of State publishes the list required by section 2, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall initiate a rulemaking process to establish an expedited timeline for the decision-making process with respect to applications to export defense articles or defense services under the Arms Export Control Act to countries or end-users identified by such list and

a fixed timeline for decisions for all other applications for such exports. The timelines so established shall provide that, to the maximum extent practicable—

(1) an application to export defense articles or defense services to a listed country or end-user shall be approved, returned, or denied not later than 45 days after the date on which the application is submitted to the Secretary;

(2) an application to export defense articles or defense services to any country or end-user shall be approved, returned, or denied not later than 60 days after the date on which the application is submitted to the Secretary; and

(3) the deadlines described in paragraphs (1) and (2) may be suspended with respect to an application if necessary—

(A) for applicable time periods specified in subsection (b), (c), or (d) of section 36 of such Act, during which Congress may enact a joint resolution prohibiting the approval of such application; or

(B) for such time as may be required to receive a decision from the Secretary of Defense with respect to an application that is subject to approval by the Department of Defense, including technology security and foreign disclosure release determinations.

##### SEC. 4. REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate on a semi-annual basis a report, which may be submitted in classified form, that identifies each application to export defense articles or defense services during the preceding 180-day period with respect to which the time to reach a decision exceeded the applicable deadline described in section 3(1) or 3(2).

(b) MATTER TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by this section shall also include the following information with respect to each application so identified:

(1) The defense articles or defense services included in the application.

(2) The recipient country, end-user, and any corporate entities involved in the application.

(3) Whether the United States has previously exported similar defense articles or defense services to the recipient country or end-user.

(4) A justification for the delay in reaching a decision with respect to the application.

(5) The anticipated timeline for reaching a decision with respect to the application, if still pending as of the date of the submission of the report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAUMGARTNER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced the International Traffic in Arms Regulations

Licensing Reform Act to improve licensing timelines and processes for direct commercial defense sales.

America's foreign defense sales program is notorious for its slow timelines and opaque process. This lack of clarity about how foreign partners are prioritized causes frustration and confusion among our most important partners and allies. This inefficiency and murkiness force our partners to consider turning to other countries to source their capabilities.

The U.S. is currently the partner of choice for foreign arms sales, but that status is in jeopardy due to internal delays and unnecessary bureaucratic red tape.

The direct commercial sales process presents a more efficient, expedient pathway for our allies and partners to purchase U.S. technology. Direct commercial sales are the future of American defense sales. Direct commercial sales skyrocketed last year and are quickly outpacing other forms of defense sales.

If our direct commercial sales program is going to continue to grow, more must be done to streamline direct commercial sales and incentivize even faster timelines.

This legislation would codify President Trump's April 9 executive order to establish a list of priority partners for certain defense sales and would create a timebound process for approving direct commercial sales cases.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support our defense industrial base and support this commonsense bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1610

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4215. This bill would institute clearer timeframes for the licensing decisions made by the State Department for direct sales of defense items by private firms to foreign buyers.

While large systems, such as aircraft, ships, tanks, and missiles, are principally provided via the foreign military sales, or FMS, process, a number of important items, such as small arms, vehicles, radars, and other equipment, are transferred via direct commercial sales.

These items are often vital for our partners and allies to replenish their military stocks and defensive capabilities. While the vast majority of these sales are processed and licensed in an expeditious manner, foreign partners often seek greater speed and clarity regarding the process.

This bill simply institutes reasonable timeframes of up to 60 days for a licensing decision to be made. This does not preordain an outcome. The State Department can still either return such licenses for adjustment or modification due to additional revisions or controls determined necessary or reject the requested license outright.