

Stated against:

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 342.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to vote today. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 339, the Motion to Recommit on H.R. 4371; NAY on Roll Call No. 340, H.R. 4371; YEA on Roll Call No. 341, the Motion to Recommit on H.R. 3632; and NAY on Roll Call No. 342, H.R. 3632.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the chamber today. Had I recorded my vote, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 340, H.R. 4371, and NAY on Roll Call No. 342, H.R. 3632.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF SERGEANT EDGAR BRIAN TORRES-TOVAR AND SERGEANT WILLIAM NATHANIEL HOWARD

(Mr. NUNN of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Madam Speaker, today, the Iowa delegation, myself, along with Representative HINSON, Representative MILLER-MEEKS, and Representative FEENSTRA, and other members of the floor, including those who have served in uniform and those who support those in uniform, rise today to honor two brave Iowans, Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, of Des Moines, Iowa, and Sergeant William Nathaniel Howard, of Marshalltown, Iowa, who this week gave their lives in service of our country.

On December 13, while serving with the Iowa National Guard in Syria, Edgar and Nate were killed by an ISIS terrorist attack. Three other guardsmen were wounded, and a U.S. interpreter was also killed.

This was the first combat loss of American troops in Syria in over 5 years, and every American grieves alongside the families of the fallen.

Edgar was just 25 years old. He was the first in his family to answer the call to service. He was full of energy, known for putting service before self, and just months from coming home.

Nate was 29. He was a man of faith, a loving husband, and a guardsman with over a decade of service. He led by example—first in, last out, never leave a brother behind.

They were young men. They could have chosen easier paths, but instead they chose service to our Nation. They stood their post when it mattered most. They carried the weight of our Nation's safety on their shoulders, and they did so with courage, humility, and honor.

In return, we, the U.S. House of Representatives, give them our gratitude, not just in words, but in remembrance of the solemn promise that justice will be served.

Out of grief, we renew our resolve. Out of loss, we strengthen our unity.

Out of sacrifice, we carry forward hope, hope grounded in the values that Edgar and Nate lived every day: service before self, faith in something greater, and a love of country.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the House of Representatives to now observe a moment of silence in honor of Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar and Sergeant William Nathaniel Howard.

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HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

□ 1710

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 61, DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 5(C) OF THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION, TO REMOVE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES WITH PRESIDENTIALLY DESIGNATED TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE; AND H. CON. RES. 64, REMOVAL OF THE USE OF UNITED STATES FORCES FOR HOSTILITIES WITHIN OR AGAINST VENEZUELA

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider H. Con. Res. 61 and H. Con. Res. 64 in the House if called up by the chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, or his designee; that each such concurrent resolution be considered as read; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on each such concurrent resolution to adoption without intervening motion, except for: 1, with respect to H. Con. Res. 61, 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs or their respective designees; and 2, with respect to H. Con. Res. 64, 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by Representative MAST of Florida, Representative MEEKS of New York, and Representative MCGOVERN of Massachusetts, or their respective designees.

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

There was no objection.

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NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recog-

nize a special tradition that took place this past Saturday, December 13: National Wreaths Across America Day.

Every year in December, thousands of volunteers set out in a coordinated wreath-laying ceremony across America and the world. This year's theme was inspired by the last words of Captain Joshua Byers: "Keep moving forward."

Captain Joshua Byers was company commander of Fox Troop in Iraq in 2003 when an IED struck his Humvee. As smoke filled the air, Josh gave his driver one final command: Keep moving forward.

Though Josh didn't make it home, this command saved lives and became the battle cry for his unit and family.

It is only fitting that the theme for 2025 should reflect the same spirit: a call to action for volunteers and supporters in the communities that they serve.

Madam Speaker, I thank the many organizers, volunteers, and participants who make Wreaths Across America possible. Their dedication ensures that hundreds of thousands of veterans are remembered with dignity and respect.

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HONORING JEFF KIRWAN

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

Mr. SORESEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeff Kirwan, a trusted voice and a guide for farmers, both as the president of the Mercer County Farm Bureau and a member of the Illinois Farm Bureau, for many years.

When I was a new Member of Congress, Jeff brought me to his farm and offered his help to guide me on my way. We talked about the state of agriculture and what a fighter for our farm families should look like right here.

Guided by his education in agronomy and many years at GROWMARK, Jeff became one of the first in our region to use precision agriculture in the early 1990s.

This month, after a decade at the Illinois Farm Bureau table, Jeff is retiring.

I thank Jeff for his kindness, for his wisdom, and for inviting me on his tractor. Jeff should enjoy his retirement. I look forward to seeing what life has ahead for him and his family.

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CONGRATULATING STEVE KAHL

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

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Steve Kahl on his retirement from the North Dakota Public Service Commission after 46 years. I had the honor of working with Steve for 12 of those years.

When he began his career, staff typed on automatic typewriters, carbon copies were filed by hand, and all correspondence traveled by mail.

Steve witnessed the first computer arriving at the North Dakota Capitol. It took up nearly an entire wall.

As Steve would tell you himself, he had hair, a mustache, and a full beard when he started.

Over the decades, Steve helped guide the commission through enormous change, modernizing regulation for auctioneers, grain licensing, trucking, and telecom. He helped develop one of the first GIS programs in the country and modernized the commission's permitting processes.

I am a better public servant because of Steve's influence. North Dakota is stronger because of his steady leadership and commitment to getting things right.

I congratulate Steve and thank him for the legacy that he has left behind. Steve should enjoy his retirement. He has earned it.

FREE ENTRANCE TO NATIONAL PARKS

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

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the Trump administration's decision to eliminate Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Juneteenth from its list of free entrance days for our national parks.

This is a continuation of this administration's efforts to undermine and erase Black history. Already this year, the administration has ordered several National Park Service sites to remove materials related to slavery.

We must make our national parks more accessible, and there is no better way to do that than increasing free admission days in celebration of national holidays that include and recognize the legacy of Dr. King and to commemorate the story of emancipation.

If eliminating these days was not enough, the President took the unprecedented step to add his own birthday to the list of free admission days to our national parks.

His disrespect for some of the most important stories in American history has no bounds and speaks volumes to the content of his character.

Our country's national parks are commonly referred to as America's best idea, and this is a very bad idea.

ONE YEAR IN OFFICE

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

Mr. SHREVE. Madam Speaker, just a year ago, I was sworn in in this Chamber to represent the good people of Indiana's Sixth District.

Since then, I have traveled the district from Columbus to Rushville, Con-

nersville to Winchester, listening to Hoosiers. They are generous with their time, candid with their opinions, and not shy about telling you when you are wrong.

My office has handled some 50,000 constituent inquiries. We have helped over 450 Hoosiers with the IRS, the VA, and the Postal Service. We have recovered about \$5 million for hardworking families. That was their money. We were just the middlemen.

This year, six of my bills passed the House, including the Build the Wall Act, which was signed into law by President Trump. It repurposes unspent COVID funds to complete construction of our southern border wall, and it didn't cost taxpayers an additional dime.

I have focused on legislation that cuts red tape, unleashes American energy, lowers costs, and brings costs down for Hoosiers. Washington makes this harder than it should be. I will keep working at it.

Next year, I will keep traveling our district, listening first, and doing my level best to bring some Hoosier common sense here to Washington.

□ 1720

HONORING SERVICE DEFENSE FELLOW VIVIANA LOWE

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of a very special person, our defense fellow, U.S. Marine captain and JAG Viviana Lowe, whose tenure with our office is sadly coming to a close.

Viviana is here with us today. Viviana has been an enormously instrumental member of our office this last year, leading us to more than 35 policy wins in the NDAA that will have lasting impact on the services for decades to come.

Through her leadership of the Servicewomen and Women Veterans Caucus and especially with the WITs, Viviana has ensured that our military is a place where our servicewomen all feel valued and supported.

Her dedication to the academy nomination process and inspiring the next generation of servicemembers has been a gift not only to our office but to our entire community and will pay back in dividends that we don't yet appreciate.

As she leaves our office and heads back to the Pentagon to join the Marine's Judge Advocate Division, we know that our Nation is fortunate to have a fierce warrior and public servant like Viviana at the helm.

We will miss Viviana and her amazing energy and spirit.

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM UNSCIENTIFIC MEDICAL PROCEDURES

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Do No Harm in Medicaid Act, which protects children from unscientific sex-rejecting procedures.

Dangerous and irreversible sex-change interventions for children should have no place in our medical system. These life-altering procedures, performed on minors who are still developing, carry serious risks, including infertility, sexual dysfunction, psychiatric complications, and long-term regret.

Subjecting healthy, developing children, many of whom may be suffering from mental health issues, to damaging and harmful procedures without a clear, proven medical purpose is simply wrong.

Additionally, comprehensive studies reveal profound uncertainty about the alleged benefits of these interventions. In fact, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a report finding that the so-called gender-affirming model of care for gender-distressed children lacks sufficient scientific and ethical justification.

Prohibiting Federal Medicaid funding of sex-rejecting procedures for minors is essential to protect our Nation's children, not exposing them to unproven and irreversible medical interventions.

We must be guided by sound science, medical ethics, and our responsibility to do no harm, not the radical left's agenda.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

ANTI-SEMITISM

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

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, over the weekend, the world watched in horror as Jews celebrating the start of Hanukkah were murdered on the shores of Sydney, Australia.

It is dizzying, and it is unfathomable. Devastatingly, it has become more common in our world today. It doesn't matter whether it is in Australia, the United States, or Israel, the killing of Jewish people for practicing their faith is unconscionable, and it must stop.

Today we mourn the 15 lives lost at Bondi Beach. We grieve with their families and their loved ones, and we share the pain felt by the entire Jewish community around the world.

Hanukkah is a celebration of light, a proof point that even in dark times, Jewish communities can find the joy. However, these are not easy days. With freedom and lives on the line, we need change, and we need the violence to stop. As co-chair of the anti-Semitism task force, I will always speak out to use my voice to uproot anti-Semitism wherever it festers.

To the Jewish community in Michigan and beyond: I see you, I hear you,