

the East Coast into the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, ready access to North American markets, ready access to South American market, what an opportunistic location for Mexico. Yet, they struggle so far behind most nations, or so many nations in the world. Dozens and dozens, 60 or so, are before them because drug cartels have such a powerful part in Mexico itself.

So there are many Americans, especially friends of mine across the aisle here, who think it is an absolute outrage to talk about building a wall between the United States and Mexico. There are some Mexican officials that think it is an outrage to talk about building a wall between the United States and Mexico.

Now, some of those Mexican officials think it is an outrage because they haven't thought through the magnificence that may arise in Mexico once we have secured the border between Mexico and the United States and we can slow the drug trafficking to a trickle. So the drug cartels will not be looking at billions of U.S. dollars; they will be looking at thousands; and if they are extremely powerful, maybe millions. But if we get that down to thousands, then the Mexican people will be able to have control without corruption, without massive pockets of corruption, without a drug cartel that can buy soldiers, buy police, buy chiefs of police, and buy mayors. Again, thank God it is only a small part of Mexico, but it keeps Mexico suppressed from the great economic power that it could be. And the potential is all there.

You build a wall, then you shut down the drug cartels. And when they only have thousands of dollars to bribe police instead of millions or billions of dollars, then law and order will prevail and the drug cartels will not, and we will have the most extraordinary neighbor to our south all because we followed the example in Mending Wall, and we had a wall between us that we kept up, we took care of, we shut down, helped Mexico shut down the drug cartels by being a good neighbor, enforcing the border, and the standard of living in Mexico spirals upwards through the sky. The power Mexico would have as a nation in any international organization will be extraordinary, and the United States will reach an unparalleled relationship as a neighbor. That is worth building a wall for.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### OPPOSING WAIVER FOR GENERAL MATTIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GALLEGRO. Mr. Speaker, I am a marine, just like James Mattis. While I was a grunt and he was a general, we both fought in Iraq. He is a man of social integrity and patriotism.

War shows the character of military leaders. Marines who served under Mattis in Iraq speak in glowing terms about his strength, intelligence, and ability.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise this evening to oppose legislation that would allow General Mattis to serve as our 26th Secretary of Defense. This might seem contradictory. It might appear partisan or unpatriotic. In fact, the opposite is true.

My position is entirely straightforward, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to something as basic as civilian control of the military, I believe exceptions should be granted for extraordinary circumstances, not extraordinary people.

For more than half a century, recently retired military leaders have been barred from assuming the top post at the Pentagon. The Members of Congress who enshrined this prohibition in law had fresh memories of the Second World War. They are wary of a decorated general slipping off his uniform and immediately stepping into a civilian role. They were apprehensive about installing a Secretary of Defense who could be perceived as partial to one service over others. They are also worried about whether the reputation of our military as a nonpartisan institution would suffer if its most respected leaders could transition directly into political positions.

The last time a recently retired military man, the great George Marshall, was permitted to lead the Pentagon, America was facing the prospect of a humiliating defeat in the Korean war. Even then, congressional leaders specified that his waiver was a one-time exception to the rule.

While our country must confront an array of threats today, none of our national security challenges remotely compares to a massive ground war in the Far East.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that many of my colleagues are eager to grant this waiver because they greeted the announcement of Mattis' appointment with a sigh of relief, a sigh of relief because it meant Donald Trump had picked someone who is known to be competent and patriotic, and someone who doesn't have a cozy relationship with the Russian Government.

That is an understandable reaction, and we are all extremely confident that General Mattis will do a much better job than General Flynn or some of the other alternatives.

We shouldn't let Trump's bad behavior and poor judgment compel Congress to lower the bar. If anything, we should raise the bar for Trump, not make exceptions just because we are glad he didn't go with someone like Flynn.

Mr. Speaker, a simple set of rules and norms form the fabric of American democracy. Since the founding of the Republic, leaders of every party and political persuasion have upheld this basic framework. For generations, American leaders have placed principle before party.

With remarkably few exceptions, Presidents from George Washington to Barack Obama have valued our institutions and our democracy more than private gain or personal advancement. Now, Mr. Speaker, we have a President-elect who doesn't think the rules should apply to him. We have a President-elect who is brazenly breaking norms left and right. We have a President-elect who promises to make America great again, but is dividing the country as never before.

Here in the United States, we believe every American is entitled to equal justice under the law. But Donald Trump believes that a different set of rules should apply to him than apply to President Obama or President Bush or any of the other men who have held our highest office.

Unlike his predecessors, Donald Trump has stubbornly refused to release his tax returns. Unlike his predecessors, Donald Trump has irresponsibly meddled in our foreign relations throughout the transition. Unlike his predecessors, Trump has done nothing to diminish massive conflicts of interest stemming from his complex business dealings overseas.

Yet, instead of applying a check on this pattern of reckless behavior, House Republicans have rolled over time and time again.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans won't stand up to a President entering office with just a 37 percent approval rating because it is precisely that 37 percent of the public that scares them. In fact, that 37 percent has terrified them for 8 long years. It scared them into turning a blind eye to the racist birther conspiracy theories. It scared them into shutting down the Federal Government. That 37 percent even scared them into risking a debt limit default which would have immediately triggered an unprecedented economic meltdown.

Mr. Speaker, we need a President like Barack Obama who looks out for 100 percent of the American people. We need a President like Barack Obama who abides by 100 percent of the rules. We need a House majority that is willing to uphold its constitutional obligations 100 percent of the time.

Moving forward in this Congress, the power to check Donald Trump is in Republican hands and depends on Republican votes, but they have been too scared, too cowed, and too unwilling to do what these tough times demand.

If we, the Members of this great body, won't stand up for the norms that have sustained this Republic for 238 years, then who will?

General Mattis is a patriot, but now is the time for all of us in this Chamber to reiterate a basic truth in a democracy—rules matter. They shouldn't be discarded at the first sign of difficulty. They shouldn't be undercut by waivers. Important precedents must be upheld in good times and bad.

This is America, Mr. Speaker, not some banana republic where the incoming strongman gets to rewrite the rule

book. Our principles are enduring. Our values are timeless. For more than two centuries, our commitment to the rule of law has been unshakable. That is why we should reject this waiver. That is why we must hold Donald Trump to the same high standards as all of the 43 Presidents who came before him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana) at 8 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.

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#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. CON. RES. 3, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 84, PROVIDING FOR EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-4) on the resolution (H. Res. 48) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 3) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2017 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2018 through 2026, and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 84) to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RUTHERFORD (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and for the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

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#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 29 minutes

p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, January 13, 2017, at 9 a.m.

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#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

167. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Revisions to Inspection Application Requirements [Docket No.: AMS-SC-16-0063] received January 10, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

168. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule — Regulatory Capital Rules: Implementation of Capital Requirements for Global Systemically Important Bank Holding Companies [Docket No.: R-1535] (RIN: 7100 AE-49) received January 10, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

169. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Fossil Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's "Strategic Petroleum Reserve Annual Report for Calendar Year 2014", in accordance with Sec. 165 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6245); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

170. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that effective November 27, 2016, the following qualified for Danger Pay: Philippines: Mindanao Regions with Mindanao; Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao; Zamboanga Peninsula; Northern Mindanao; Davao Region; Soccksargen Caraga at 25 percent; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

171. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that effective November 27, 2016, the following posts no longer qualified for Danger Pay: N'Djamena, Chad; Nairobi, Kenya; Abuja, Nigeria; and Khartoum, Sudan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

172. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Update to Incorporate FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 Requirements [NRC-2016-0171] (RIN: 3150-AJ84) received January 10, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

173. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR); Fair Opportunity Complaints on GSA Contracts [Change 81; GSAR Case 2015-G513; Docket No.: 2016-0021; Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 3090-AJ79) received January 10, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

174. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Management Response for the period of April 1, 2016, through September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5, Public Law 95-452, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

175. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act Annual Report to Congress for 2016, pursuant to 52 U.S.C. 20307(b); Public Law 99-410, Sec. 105 (as amended by Public Law 111-84, Sec. 587(2)); (123 Stat. 2333); to the Committee on House Administration.

176. A letter from the Division Chief, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final order — Onshore Oil and Gas Operations; Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases; Onshore Oil and Gas Order Number 1, Approval of Operations [WO-300-L13100000.PP0000] (RIN: 1004-AE37) received January 10, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

177. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's seventh annual report regarding compliance of federal departments and agencies with providing relevant information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 922 note; Public Law 103-159, Sec. 103(e)(1)(E) (as added by Public Law 110-180, Sec. 101(a)); (121 Stat. 2561); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

178. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Requirements for Affidavits or Declarations of Use, Continued Use, or Excusable Nonuse in Trademark Cases [Docket No.: PTO-T-2016-0002] (RIN: 0651-AD07) received January 10, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

179. A letter from the Chair, NASA Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, transmitting the NASA Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel's Annual Report for 2016 to Congress and to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

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#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 48. Resolution providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 3) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2017 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2018 through 2026, and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 84) to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces (Rept. 115-094). Referred to the House Calendar.

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#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota:

H.R. 462. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to include guidance documents in the congressional review process of agency