

HONORING ALBERT HENDERSON

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional veteran in my hometown of Fresno, California, Albert Henderson.

In this photo, Albert Henderson and I are here at the veterans home in Fresno, a wonderful facility that provides a continuum of care for those men and women who served our Nation over the years.

Albert has an incredible story. He is one of the last living survivors of the USS *Bismarck Sea*, which sank 75 years ago this month during a World War II battle on the island of Iwo Jima. We all know of that historic battle that took place on Iwo Jima.

His is a story of survival, and it is a remarkable one.

He joined the Navy as a cook at the age of 17. After learning of the attack on Pearl Harbor, like many Americans who decided to selflessly do everything they could to protect our country, he began his military journey on the USS *Bismarck Sea* as a chef second class, where he often speaks of the difficulties of preparing food for such a large group of folks.

As the ship made its way to the Philippines in 1944, its fate was sealed when it was struck by two Japanese kamikaze pilots.

In the kitchen at the time of the attack, Albert made it topside only to discover that all the life rafts and preservers were taken by other members of the crew.

He spent more than 4 hours struggling to stay afloat in the choppy waters of the Pacific Ocean, praying for God's help to survive after being rescued by a passing U.S. Navy motorboat.

For his services and injuries, Albert was awarded the Purple Heart and the Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to join me in recognizing an American hero for this remarkable moment in history for a remarkable man over 75 years ago.

Albert, we thank you for your sacrifice and your courage to our Nation. God bless.

FACING CORONAVIRUS CHALLENGES

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the challenges facing our country and the world with the recent outbreak of the coronavirus.

This disease presents a serious threat that I think requires a proactive approach in a bipartisan fashion.

Unfortunately, the mechanisms put in place by the previous administration, the Obama administration, to deal with pandemics like this have been dismantled over the last year. They were put in place to deal with the Ebola crisis and the SARS crisis years ago and to ensure that in the future, if possible pandemics occurred, we would be prepared.

In 2018, the President fired the entire pandemic response team. In the President's 2021 budget request, he proposed cutting over \$700 million to the Centers for Disease Control. Hopefully, this proposal will be dead on arrival. In the face of this crisis, this is simply unacceptable.

We need to be on guard. The social and economic impacts of this pandemic could be devastating globally, but the public health crisis affects all Americans.

We have just had the first case, in the last 24 hours, in northern California that, it is believed, the cause, the origin, is from here in our country, not coming from China.

We require a robust response. The Congress and the President need to work together in a bipartisan fashion to ensure the well-being, public health, and safety of the American people.

Hopefully, the President of the United States' press conference yesterday reflects the administration's intent to work together. We need to.

I am committed to joining my colleagues to ensure that we have an effective strategy in place to protect all Americans' health and safety from this potentially deadly pandemic virus, otherwise known as coronavirus.

We need to be on guard. We need to do everything we can to protect the American people.

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 40 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

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As we meditate on all the blessings of life, we especially pray for the blessing of peace in our lives and in our world.

The current spread of the coronavirus has already caused broad repercussions in financial markets, international trade and travel, and the healthcare industry worldwide. We ask Your blessings on those men and women whose life work is the health of the world's population and whose efforts to stem the spread of this disease have endangered their own well-being. Give them insight and protection in the days and weeks to come.

May Your special blessings be upon the Members of this assembly, in the

important, sometimes difficult work they do. Give them wisdom and charity, that they might work together for the common good.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GONZALEZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, a year ago, this House passed the bipartisan H.R. 8 to establish universal background checks to protect our communities from terrifying, paralyzing gun violence. In the 365 days since, MITCH MCCONNELL has done exactly what the gun industry has asked him to do: nothing.

Meanwhile, a gunman killed five people yesterday in Milwaukee, and two teenagers were killed 5 miles from where we stand over the weekend.

Meanwhile, millions live with the physical and emotional scars caused by guns.