

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.

Meanwhile, the gun industry is wrapped with immunity that shields their profits and puts more guns on our streets.

Madam Speaker, there is a secret that President Trump and Mr. MCCONNELL are hiding—you are subsidizing this industry:

Billions in medical costs, covered by your tax dollars;

Billions in lost wages, covered by your tax dollars;

Eighty-seven percent of the costs incurred after a bullet pierces a person's skin, covered by you.

We are propping up an industry that profits off of our pain.

Enough.

PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

(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, last week, I was grateful to participate with the delegation for the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, co-chaired by Congressman ALCEE HASTINGS and Senator ROGER WICKER, in Vienna, Austria. We attended the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 19th Winter Meeting.

The delegation engaged with OSCE officials and parliamentary members from 57 nations. Ambassador Jim Gilmore and his wife, Roxane, were effective assuring allies and potential adversaries of American commitment for peace through strength.

It was especially meaningful to meet with the courageous Ukrainian delegation, led by Mykyta Poturaiev, which appreciates President Trump's providing Javelin missiles to stop Russian aggression.

Bulgaria was well-represented, with a delegation led by Desislava Atanasova. Today, America celebrates Bulgarian National Day with Ambassador Tihomir Stoychev at the Library of Congress across the street in Washington.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

RECOGNIZING MILLER MIDDLE SCHOOL'S EIGHTH GRADE CLASS

(Mrs. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, today I am here on behalf of the people of Nevada's Third Congressional District, and I rise to recognize the Miller Middle School eighth grade class, with whom I met earlier this week on their trip to Washington—and the timing couldn't be better since it is Public Schools Week.

We talked about topics from STEM education to encouraging creativity in the classroom. They had some terrific

questions, but one really stuck out. One student asked me: Is investing in public education really worth it?

It is a tough question, a fair question, especially coming from a Clark County student. But the answer for me is overwhelmingly, undoubtedly yes. I just had to look around that room and see each of those students, whether they came from different backgrounds, having access to education.

And the answer is not just about investing, but it is about if we invest in public education as the national priority that it should be. In a time when public schools are being called upon to help kids beyond the classroom, investment in education should be our national priority.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL GUION "GUY" BLUFORD

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

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Westlake, Ohio, resident Colonel Guion "Guy" Bluford, who received the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal last week.

Guy became the first African American astronaut to travel into space in 1983. He earned the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal, the highest noncombat decoration for service awarded by the State, for his commitment and dedication throughout his historic career in aviation.

Before joining NASA, Bluford flew over 144 combat missions with the United States Air Force in South Vietnam. He later went on to earn his master's and doctorate degree with aerospace engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

We are proud and eternally grateful for Bluford's military service and dedication to space exploration. As NASA looks to expand mankind's horizons in space, his life achievements and aviation accomplishments serve as an inspiration to future generations.

AMERICANS SHOULD KNOW HOW MUCH OUR HEALTHCARE IS GOING TO COST

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

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a fully bipartisan healthcare bill, the Know the Price Act. It says something very simple that I am confident we will agree on: Americans should know how much our healthcare is going to cost before we receive it.

Many Americans aren't aware that, when we go to a healthcare provider, there is often a gag clause, a gag clause in the contracts between providers and insurers that blocks us from seeing the cost and quality of the care we are about to receive. My bill eliminates

these gag clauses so that we have the power and the freedom to make informed decisions about our healthcare.

The bill would also allow employers to access deidentified claims data, consistent with the Privacy Act, so that they have the information they need to choose the healthcare plans that are actually best for their employees.

Mr. Speaker, this is commonsense legislation that will offer families and businesses in New Jersey and all across our country more choice in their healthcare at lower prices.

MEASURES TO COMBAT ROBOCALLS COMING FROM ABROAD

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an ongoing issue that has affected nearly every American: the barrage of annoying and deceptive robocalls.

These seemingly endless automated phone calls disrupt our daily lives; they constitute a serious form of harassment and expose millions of Americans to dangerous financial scams.

That is why I introduced a bipartisan bill, alongside my colleagues, Representatives LACY CLAY and DAN BISHOP, called the Foreign Robocall Elimination Act. Our bill takes on robocalls that originate overseas by directing the FCC to convene an inter-agency task force to develop effective measures to combat robocalls coming from abroad.

No matter which side of the aisle we find ourselves on, we should all be able to agree: It is time for these illegal robocalls to be stopped once and for all.

KEEP US SAFE FROM CORONAVIRUS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve a coordinated, fully funded response to keep us safe from the coronavirus. But instead of taking the situation seriously, the President has mounted a confusing and chaotic response.

He designated MIKE PENCE to lead the public health response, MIKE PENCE, a man whose terrible public health policies as Governor of Indiana allowed the worst HIV epidemic in the State's history to take root in 2015.

The President's budget earlier this month slashed almost \$700 million from the CDC. He has left vacant critical positions responsible for managing pandemics, and now he has proposed raiding funds that were appropriated by Congress for other life-threatening public health emergencies.

To be blunt, the President's response has been a disaster.

The American people deserve better, and that is why the House will advance