

got our good news that a location was finally chosen.

Our new community-based outpatient clinic will be at 3804 West 15th Street in Plano, Texas. The new Collin County VA Clinic will make a huge difference for veterans because they will finally be able to receive high-quality care closer to home. It is a huge win for north Texas, and I couldn't be happier for our community and our hometown heroes.

It was the right thing to do, and our hard work is paying off. We are looking forward to the clinic finally opening its doors in the spring. I want to thank all the folks who have helped make the local VA clinic a reality.

I especially want to thank our veterans because they are the reason this is happening. They deserve this clinic. They deserve our support. Rest assured, I will continue to be a champion for our veterans to see that we take good care of them. God bless our veterans. I salute them all.

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#### WE SHOULD STOP TRYING TO RUN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the same people that got us into a very unnecessary war in Iraq are now clamoring for military action in Syria. These same people that have opposed us getting out of Afghanistan, even though our troops have been there more than three times longer than World War II, now demand action in Syria. These same people seem to want us to be at war in almost every country in the Middle East, even though things are worse now than when we started fighting there many years ago.

Surely we have learned a very costly lesson after spending trillions of U.S. taxpayer dollars and losing thousands of American lives, that we cannot run the Middle East. President Eisenhower certainly knew the horrors of war. He brought us home from Korea and kept us out of all the conflicts and little wars during his time in office.

He did not have to prove that he was tough or that he was a great military leader. Too many of our leaders or would-be leaders seem to be falling all over themselves trying to show that they are tougher than anyone else.

With our national debt now totaling more than \$18 trillion, we simply cannot afford to intervene in every hotspot or conflict all around the world. This is not isolationism, this is common sense.

We should have trade and tourism with other countries and cultural and educational exchanges, but we should not be eager to go to war or send troops or drones or bombs in mainly to prove that we are great world leaders.

We have too many officials and candidates who want to be seen as new Winston Churchills. They try to turn every two-bit dictator into new Hitlers.

President Eisenhower, in his most famous speech near the end of his Presidency, warned us against the military-industrial complex. Now some people say we have a security-industrial complex as well.

Most of the threats against us have been greatly exaggerated by people and companies which make big money from all of our foreign interventions.

If we would stop trying to run the Middle East, we could make our own country stronger from both a financial and security standpoint. While our intentions have been honorable, our foreign policies in the Middle East have created much hatred and resentment for us.

It was not an American bomb that went astray killing 131 people at the wedding in Yemen a few days ago, but all the reports said it was a U.S.-led coalition. So we are getting the blame.

The air attack on the Doctors Without Borders hospital in Afghanistan that killed 22 in what the Pentagon described as inadvertent was another public relations disaster for the U.S.

We need to stop trying to run the whole world. We have enough problems of our own right here at home, yet many of our leaders seem to feel more important if they are concentrating on foreign issues.

It is not the fault of the American people, but it is the fault of our liberal elitist foreign policy establishment that there is so much hatred for America in the Middle East.

This liberal elitist establishment wanted us to go to war in Syria 2 or 3 years ago, but the public outcry from ordinary American citizens was so strong against it that their plans had to be abandoned.

Now these same interventionists have figured out a way to accomplish their goal by resurrecting a Russia that no longer exists. Even the disgraced General Petraeus said at a hearing last week that Putin's foreign reserves are less than \$200 billion. With his economy at home in shambles, in part, due to low prices for oil and natural gas, he cannot afford to run Syria for long, even if it were possible to do so.

If Putin wants to pursue this folly, we certainly should not try to do the same, as if it were a competitive advantage to take over a failed state. It would be especially foolish to try to take over a messed-up place like the Syria of today. Businessmen compete to take over very profitable businesses. They generally don't fight over businesses that are going under.

While the neoconservatives hate to admit it, both Assad in Syria and the leadership in Iran are allies in the fight against ISIS. ISIS has strength for two main reasons: One, resentment for our interventions in the Middle East; and, two, billions of dollars' worth of U.S. equipment abandoned by security forces that we spent billions to train who cut and run at the first sign of danger. We should not send more young

Americans to fight and die for people who are not willing to fight for themselves.

Dr. Daniel Larison, a contributing editor of the American Conservative magazine, wrote a few days ago that "the U.S. keeps stumbling ahead with a war in Syria that it doesn't need to be fighting. All of this comes ultimately from our political leaders' inability to recognize that there are many conflicts that the U.S. should avoid all together." Eisenhower recognized this. We desperately need a leader like him again.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, columnist Pat Buchanan summed it up best: "If America's elites continue to assert their right to intervene in the internal affairs of nations . . . then we are headed for endless conflict."

He said: "There was a time, not so long ago . . . when Americans accepted a diversity of regimes abroad. Indeed, a belief in nonintervention abroad was once the very cornerstone of American foreign policy."

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#### HONORING CAPTAIN MATTHEW D. ROLAND

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American hero: U.S. Air Force Captain Matthew D. Roland from Lexington, Kentucky. Captain Roland gave his life in service to his country when he was killed in Afghanistan on August 26, 2015.

Captain Roland graduated in 2006 from Lexington Catholic High School, where he was a member of the National Honor Society and ran cross country. He was recognized as a born leader, motivated and dedicated to all that he did, demonstrated by his achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in high school. He earned an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, where he graduated in 2010.

Captain Roland was an officer in the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron. He deployed 3 times in his 5 years of service, serving in many locations around the world. The tragic loss of this brave, young man, a patriot to his country, is felt by all who knew him.

Along with a grateful Nation, I honor his legacy, embrace his family, and to Captain Roland say thank you for your ultimate sacrifice for American freedom.

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#### 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: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We give You thanks that You have given to us the goals of justice and the designs of freedom, and that these are our heritage as Americans.

Bless the Members of the people's House with the understanding that it is their work to develop the strategies and the plans for achieving those goals, and the trust to know that Your spirit is with them in their work.

Grace this assembly with the resolve to be faithful in its tasks, responsible in its actions, and fervent in its desire to serve a nation which, so many hope, will live beyond any current difficulties into an ever greater realization of both justice and freedom.

May all that is done today 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 his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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.

#### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of my intention to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas the attacks in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11, 2012, took the lives of U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens, Foreign Service Officer Sean Smith, and former Navy SEALs Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty;

Whereas the events leading up to and in the immediate aftermath of the attacks on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi were rightfully and thor-

oughly examined to honor the memory of the victims and to improve the safety of the men and women serving our country overseas;

Whereas the independent Accountability Review Board convened by the U.S. State Department investigated the events in Benghazi and found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas five committees in the U.S. House of Representatives investigated the events in Benghazi and found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas four committees in the U.S. Senate investigated the events in Benghazi and found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas in each fiscal year, more than \$4 billion is appropriated to run the Congress, with untold amounts of this taxpayer money expended by nine Congressional committees to investigate the events in Benghazi, none of which produced any evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas after the exhaustive, thorough, and costly investigations by nine Congressional committees and the independent Accountability Review Board found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing, Republican leaders in the House insisted on using taxpayer dollars to fund a new, duplicative "Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi," (hereafter the Select Committee) to re-examine the matter;

Whereas this taxpayer-funded committee was given broad powers to pursue its investigations, including an unlimited, taxpayer-funded budget and granting the Chairman the legal authority to subpoena documents and compel testimony without any debate or a vote;

Whereas the ongoing Republican-led investigation into the events in Benghazi is now one of the longest running and least productive investigations in Congressional history;

Whereas a widely-quoted statement made on September 29th, 2015 by Representative KEVIN MCCARTHY, the Republican Leader of the House of Representatives, has called into question the integrity of the proceedings of the Select Committee and the House of Representatives as a whole;

Whereas this statement by Representative MCCARTHY demonstrates that the Select Committee established by Republican leaders in the House of Representatives was created to influence public opinion of a presidential candidate;

Whereas the Select Committee has been in existence for 17 months but has held only three hearings;

Whereas the Select Committee abandoned its plans to obtain public testimony from Defense Department and Intelligence Community leaders;

Whereas the Select Committee excluded Democratic Members from interviews of witnesses who provided exculpatory information related to this investigation;

Whereas information obtained by the Select Committee has been selectively

and inaccurately leaked to influence the electoral standing of a candidate for public office;

Whereas such actions represent an abuse of power that demonstrates the partisan nature of the Select Committee;

Whereas the Select Committee has spent more than \$4.5 million in taxpayer funds to date to advance its partisan efforts;

Whereas this amount does not include the costs of the independent Accountability Review Board; the hearings and reports by nine Congressional committees; the time, money, and resources consumed by Federal agencies to comply with Select Committee requests; or the opportunity cost of not spending this money elsewhere, such as improving security for our diplomatic officers abroad;

Whereas it is an outrage that more than \$4.5 million in taxpayer funds have been used by Republicans in the House of Representatives, not to run the government, but to interfere inappropriately with an election for president of the United States;

Whereas the use of taxpayer dollars by the House of Representatives for campaign purposes is a violation of the Rules of the House and Federal law;

*Resolved*, That: (1) this misuse of the official resources of the House of Representatives for political purposes undermines the integrity of the proceedings of the House and brings discredit to the House; (2) the integrity of the proceedings of the House can be fully restored only by the dissolution of the Select Committee; and (3) the Select Committee shall be dismantled and is hereby directed to make public within thirty days transcripts of all unclassified interviews and depositions it has conducted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from New York will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### CALIFORNIA'S WATER CRISIS

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