

**"Hey, I'm president! I'm president!
Can you believe it?"**

— Donald Trump, President of the United States



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais

President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump applaud as they attend a dinner with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull aboard the USS Intrepid, a decommissioned aircraft carrier docked in the Hudson River in New York.

Trump returns to NYC fresh off health vote win

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump turned his first trip home as president into a victory lap on Thursday, returning to the city that has largely opposed him while celebrating House passage of legislation undoing much his predecessor's health law.

Trump only received 18 percent of the vote in New York in November's presidential election. Multiple modest protests were held across the city during his visit, some visible from the presidential motorcade as it roared past Wall Street and Manhattan's famed skyscrapers.

His visit was shorter than first expected so that he could commemorate the House vote with a Rose Garden event, the White House eager for the appearance of a victory after an uneven first 100 days in office. Slated to be in Manhattan only a few hours, Trump was not expected to visit his home at Trump Tower and pushed back his first-time meeting with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull by several hours.

"We have a fantastic relationship, but I love Australia," said Trump after a brief meeting with Turnbull. He then downplayed the contentious call he had with Turnbull in January, dismissing the reports of tension as "fake news."

The leaders were slated to speak aboard the USS Intrepid, a decommissioned aircraft carrier, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of a World War II battle that reinforced the ties between the U.S. and Australia. Both countries' warships and fighter planes engaged the Japanese from May 4-8, 1942, forcing the Japanese navy to retreat for the first time in the war.

His triumphant appearance aboard the World War II carrier was scheduled just hours after jubilant Republicans bused in from Capitol Hill to the White House for the victory lap, an unusually early celebration for the passage of a bill through just one house of Congress. The legislation, which was met with sharp Democratic opposition, squeaked through the House and faces an uncertain fate in the Senate.

Trump said he was "so confident" that the measure would pass the Senate and vowed that premiums and deductibles would come down.

"People are suffering so badly with the ravages of Obamacare," Trump said.

At one point the president turned to the representatives behind him and, suggesting the victory was especially impressive for a novice politician, exclaimed: "Hey, I'm president! I'm president! Can you believe it?!"

House leaders came through with the votes to give Trump a major political win more than a month after Republicans' first attempt to pass a health care bill went down in a humiliating defeat.

Known as the American Healthcare Act, the bill has yet to receive a price tag from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office and is opposed by a number of physician and

Protesters line up for a chance to boo

NEW YORK (AP) — A few hundred protesters lined up Thursday along Manhattan's West Side Highway to jeer Donald Trump's motorcade as he made his first trip home to New York since becoming president of the United States.

Trump sped by just before 7 p.m. on his way to attend a dinner with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull aboard the USS Intrepid, a decommissioned aircraft carrier that is now a museum.

The crowd booed and chanted "New York hates you!" over drums and tambourines.

Some Trump supporters were also on hand to cheer him on.

health care groups, including the American Medical Association, amid concerns it could strip millions of Americans of their coverage, including those with pre-existing medical conditions.

Trump and Turnbull were expected to discuss North Korea's missile testing and security and economic issues, as well as Turnbull's deal with Obama for the United States to resettle up to 1,250 mostly Muslim refugees from Africa, the Mideast and Asia who are housed in immigration camps on the Pacific island nations of Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

The agreement was a source of friction when Trump and Turnbull spoke by telephone shortly after Trump took office Jan. 20. The conversation made headlines, and Trump later tweeted about the "dumb deal." But Vice President Mike Pence assured Turnbull during a visit to Australia last month that the Trump administration will honor the deal, but "that doesn't mean we admire the agreement."

Manhattan is where Trump made a name by transforming himself from real-estate developer into a celebrity businessman and now president. During the campaign, Trump would fly thousands of miles back to New York to sleep in his own bed, leaving the impression that he would make frequent trips home after he became president. But he hasn't set foot in the city since leaving on Jan. 19 for Washington to be inaugurated into office the following day. But now deeply unpopular in his hometown, Trump said in an interview last week that he so far has avoided returning to the city because the trips are expensive for the government and would inconvenience New Yorkers.

Trump's wife, Melania, and son Barron live at Trump Tower most of the time while the 11-year-old finishes the school year.

The president was not expected to spend the night there, instead slated to sleep at his golf club an hour away in Bedminster, New Jersey.

Hear the rustle of grass? Not so much now in parks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The call of the wild is getting harder to hear.

Peaceful, natural sounds—bird songs, rushing rivers and rustling grass—are sometimes being drowned out by noise from people in many of America's protected parks and wilderness areas, a new study finds.

Scientists measured sound levels at 492 places—from city parks to remote federal wilderness. They calculated that in nearly two-thirds of the Lower 48's parks, the noise can at times be twice the natural background level because of airplanes, cars, logging, mining and oil and gas drilling.

That increase can harm wildlife, making it harder for them to find food or mates, and make it harder for people to hear those natural sounds, the researchers said.



National Park Service via AP
A National Park Service staffer sets up an acoustic recording station in the temperate old-growth Hoh rainforest of Olympic National Park, Wash.

Colorado State University biologist George Wittemyer said people hear only half the sounds that they would in natural silence.

"They're being drowned out," said Wittemyer, a co-author of the research.

In about 1 in five public lands, there's a tenfold increase in noise pollution, according to the study in Thursday's journal *Science*.

"It's something that's sort of happening slowly," Wittemyer said.

Except for city parks, though, the researchers are not talking about sound levels that people would consider unusually loud. Even the tenfold increases they write about are often the equivalent of changing from the quiet of a rural area to a still pretty silent library.

But that difference masks a lot of sounds that are crucial, especially to birds seeking mates and animals trying to hunt or avoid being hunted, Wittemyer said. And it does make a difference for peace of mind for people, he said.

"Being able to hear the birds, the waterfalls, the animals running through the

grasslands ... the wind going through the grass," Wittemyer said. "Those are really valuable and important sounds for humans to hear and help in their rejuvenation and their self-reflection."

For study lead author Rachel Buxton, a Colorado State conservation biology researcher, it can be personal. She points to a Thanksgiving weekend hike last year with her husband in the La Garita Wilderness in southern Colorado.

"We went to escape the crowds. We went to be totally isolated and have a real wilderness experience," Buxton recalled. "As we're hiking, aircraft goes overhead. You're walking along and you can hear the jet coming for ages."

But there are still some places where you can get away from it all, including Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado.



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